



Bringing you interesting events, news & ideas from around the South West



Home ed teens hit the high seas with The Island Trust
(2013 HE crews! - photos courtesy of the Island Trust)

Last year I had the great pleasure of working with [The Island Trust](#) in organising their first sailing weeks for home educators. We booked two voyages in Sept 2013 on board Pegasus, giving 16 young people the chance to learn new skills, meet new friends and have a lot of fun. During their 5 day voyages the young people learnt how to work and live together as a crew whilst sailing and looking after the boat. As well as great memories they came away with the achievement of earning a Competent Crew certificate, the first level in the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) sail cruising syllabus. Skills they covered included how to helm, use the compass, read charts and use basic navigation to plan passages, put sails up and down, tie knots, cook and keep the boat ship shape. Following on from last year's success, we

have decided to do it again! This September however, instead of two separate voyage weeks we have booked one week, two boats; [Pegasus](#) and [Moosk](#). Not only will the young people have the opportunity of adventure and new skills, but they will navigate the seas along side each other, with chance to spend time socialising on each boat whilst moored (and maybe some friendly racing?). As last year, bursaries are available to help with costs for qualifying families. And any young people who sailed last year can build on their RYA levels. Voyages for 2014: 14th - 19th September. Gosport to Plymouth. 16 places are available, but they are already filling up fast. To find out more or book a place, please contact me (Zena) at: info@homeeducationsw.org.uk

Days out and workshops



Ora et Labora, right by the very hub of the Abbey Church Yard is showcasing artisan monastic produce and offering an exhibition on the medieval monastic history of Bath Abbey. They are developing an exciting programme of medieval craft demonstrations, abbey excursions and school history workshops. 'It's a new venture for Bath, bridging the gap between the Roman and Georgian history- there will be medieval artisans at work and medieval food to sample' The focus will be a 'hands-on' multi-sensory approach to history with activities such as candlemaking, brass rubbing and apothecary. Craft activities can be tailor made for all ages (schools groups and adults alike are welcome) as we explore medieval life within the original cloisters of Bath Abbey, complete with experienced teacher support. Childrens' birthday parties are also proving popular- fun, feasting and games with a Medieval Mayhem theme.

Doors open from 15th Feb
www.ora-et-labora.co.uk



Home education events & discounts.

Home Education day 2nd April 2014. Starting from 10.30am all families will take part in a two hour interactive tour around the Aquarium with a member of the experienced Learning team. The tour will be based around the habitats and adaptations of the marine creatures. After this there will be a break for lunch (please provide your own lunch). The afternoon will give everyone a chance to take part in a hands-on science based workshop in the Aqualab.

The cost of this visit will be £7.00 per child with a free adult per family (carers always free). A lunch area & bag storage will also be provided. To book please email amy.pilsbury@national-aquarium.co.uk or call the bookings line on 01752 275233.

Home education group bookings are available at other times upon request.

www.national-aquarium.co.uk



In great home ed style, why not use all this weather we've been having for another learning experience. There are many different [weather stations](#) you can get for your garden or windowsill that provide a good introduction to studying our weather.

Or why not have a go at making your own weather instruments. The OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) have a free DIY weather kit download with all the instructions you need to get started: [OPAL weather kit](#)

Get outdoors: forest schools & nature events.

Central Somerset Outdoor Learning
Partnership
Spring Half term Activities
www.wilderwoods.org

Many activities 17th - 20th Feb including:
Woodland Playscheme 8-12yrs - Hallr Wood
Wild Night Out at Hallr Wood
Youth Conservation Day at Hallr Wood
Youth activities 10-16 yrs at Drayton
Inclusive Woodland Adventure at Drayton

For more info and booking forms:
HALLR WOOD - Deb Millar 07778563611
forestschool@beccott.com
DRAYTON WOODS - Hannah Aitken
01458 252463
hannah@madasafish.com

Exmoor Taster sessions

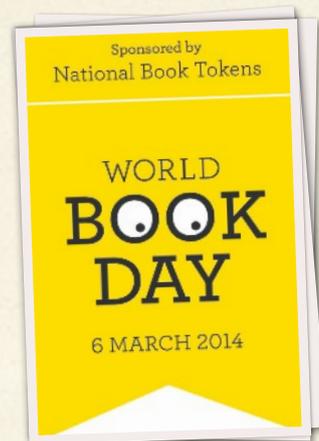
Raising peoples awareness of just how special Exmoor is. Free to attend Feb 21st - Bonfires, baked potatoes & butterflies (suitable for 8 yrs+). Help remove silver birch

trees from moorland and burn them up. Cooking baked potatoes in the fire. Many other varied sessions through the year.
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Core Projects

Core Outdoor Education

Providing many and varied outdoor learning experiences for children, families and adults. Feb 18th & 19th - for home educated children - Ways of life: Creating our own tools & buildings/ shelters exploring cultures from Stone Age to Native American Indians to Amazonian & Aboriginal cultures. Tracking, using our environment to create natural palettes for art work, wild first aid & storytelling.
[Full list of courses through to summer 2014](#)



www.worldbookday.com

Book Tokens for home educators. Contact the WBD Helpline, with your details and number of children you need tokens for. They will be dispatched to you free of charge.
wbd@education.co.uk

More days out...



At-Bristol runs a series of popular Home Educators' Days, full of interactive science activities, workshops and shows exclusively for home educating families. Plus home educators are eligible for Education rates.

Friday 14th March - Spectacular science show
Friday 4th April - Bookings now open for this engineering-themed day! Design and test a speedy dragster car, build a house from the ground up or take an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of At-Bristol.

To book and for more details about this and other events for home educators @Bristol:
www.at-bristol.org.uk/homeeducators

Building a show from scratch!

Shooting Roots is run by and for young people, offering creative and participatory folk workshops at festivals and other events. This half-term you can 'Build a Show from Scratch!' in Crowcombe at [Halsway Manor](#) 17th Feb - 20th Feb. For ages 12 - 25 yrs.

World Water Day - 22nd March 2014



World Water Day is about what you will do in 2014 and beyond to promote sustainable practices in the realm of water and energy.

- Water requires energy and energy requires water
- Supplies are limited and demand is increasing
- Saving energy is saving water. Saving water is saving energy
- The "bottom billion" urgently needs access to both water and sanitation services, and electricity
- Improving water and energy efficiency is imperative as are coordinated, coherent and concerted policies

A [Water Resource Pack](#) can be ordered from the Water Aid website. They also have other resources to download for both primary and secondary age children.

There are many websites that cover the topic of our world water supply and the key issues involved, as listed above.

An interactive site that children might find fun to explore is Discoverwater.org

Free stuff - learning resource packs, downloads...

[The British Postal Museum and Archives](#) offers many resource packs to download, with some available to order online as hard copies, free of charge.

[Open Learn](#) - The home of free learning from The Open University
Order free posters and booklets from your favourite BBC programmes.

[Money Saving Expert](#) (Martin Lewis) - guide for teenagers to learn the fundamentals about handling their money, getting the best deals, and avoiding being ripped off.

College update

Part-time GCSE courses for home educators are starting to become available at some of the local colleges:

[Bicton College](#) - Sept 2014 - 2 year course; Maths & English on Wednesdays
[Bridgwater College](#) - Maths & English GCSE + vocational course (contact Sue Thatcher thatchers@bridgwater.ac.uk)

If you would be interested in similar courses at Yeovil College, please let me know - they are currently gauging interest (info@homeeducationsw.org.uk)

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