



NewsBrief

April 2006

**International Play Association
England, Wales & Northern Ireland
Promoting the Child's Right To Play**



Lifetime in Play Award

New IPA EWNI Executive Committee member Dr Ute Navidi, director of London Play, introduces the children's charity's first ever Lifetime in Play in London Award – whose recipient, of course, does not need an introduction to IPA members.

London Play's own 'Oscar' – the Lifetime in Play in London Award – celebrating the achievements of playworkers in London, was presented to **Janet Dalglish MBE** at a parliamentary reception on 19 April 2006 before an invited audience of friends, playwork professionals, politicians, civil servants and other policy- and opinion-makers. Janet, who turned 87 this year, is of course used to the red-carpet treatment, having received her MBE from the Queen. She said she is delighted to have been chosen for the award celebrating her life in play, and putting the spotlight on an often undervalued children's workforce profession.

Janet has been promoting play for over 60 years. Always resourceful, Janet would take a suitcase "full of rubbish", such as cardboard and scraps of material, to the local primary school bomb site for children to play with – sites which evolved into adventure playgrounds. Throughout her eventful career, Janet has led the

way in campaigning for play opportunities and developing playwork training. Her plethora of achievements include helping to set up the first playwork training centre, Westminster Play Association and the International Play Association. Janet made many friends around the globe and used to attend IPA conferences. She sent a greeting to the IPA Conference in Berlin in 2005 which was read out by the newly elected IPA President Michael Paris.

Her nomination described her as "a play phenomenon":

"Play has had no better advocate. Those of us who fight for a better deal for play and for children owe her so much. Janet talks play, she listens play, she breathes play. This [award] is a fitting recognition."

The event, hosted by Tom Brake MP, one of London Play's Parliamentary Friends, and generously sponsored by Sutcliffe Play, will be addressed, among others, by David Lammy MP, the minister whose portfolio includes play.

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Special

IPA EWNI
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Keith Cranwell

Ted Beattie

Janet Dalglish

Paul Soames

Ute Navidi

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International
Association for the
Child's Right to Play

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The editors are grateful for any submissions for future editions of NewsBrief from IPA EWNI members. If you have news, experiences you wish to share, or articles that would be of interest to other members please write to us as the above address.

We're on the Web!

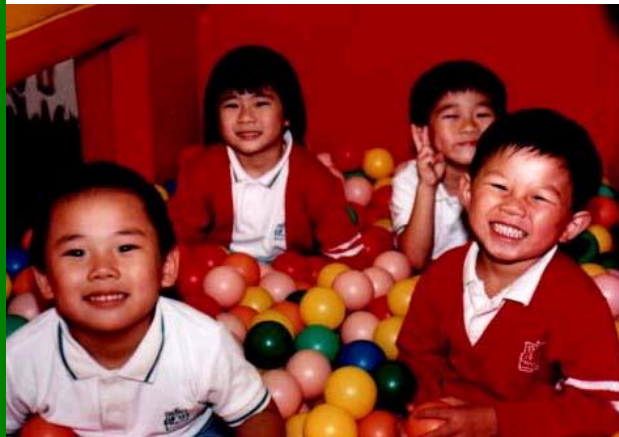
See us at:

www.ipa-ewni.org.uk

Janet still attends play policy meetings, including those of the Executive Committee of the IPA England, Wales and Northern Ireland. After a recent spell of ill health, Janet is determined to be fully fit for the award ceremony and is looking forward to talking about the current state of play.

Of all the distinguished nominees, Janet was selected as the first ever recipient of this award by an independent panel consisting of Caroline Boswell (Children and Young People's Unit, Mayor's Office), Anna Lubelska (then Association of London Government), Peter Carne (Learning through Landscapes), Tony Leach (London Parks and Open Spaces Forum) and Howard Simmons (Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Policy and Regeneration, London Borough of Hounslow).

Visit www.londonplay.org.uk for more information and updates.



About Our Organization...

IPA EWNI is the England, Wales and Northern Ireland branch of the International Play Association. It's aim is to promote the child's right to play as defined in the United Nation's declaration of the right of the child (Article 31).

Further information on IPA in general is available from www.ipaworld.org

David Lammy MP says:

'I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to speak at the first ever 'Lifetime in Play in London Award'. The winner, Janet Dalglish MBE, has worked tirelessly to promote play for over 60 years, and it is a great pleasure for me to be able to join with others in celebrating such a worthy recipient.'

Melian Mansfield, Chair of Trustees, London Play, adds:

"London Play is very pleased to be initiating the Lifetime in Play Award. It provides the first opportunity for public recognition for someone who has given their life to play in the capital. Play is essential for the well-being of every child. Yet those who work with children in the field of play are rarely acknowledged, let alone rewarded. Janet will have given many hundreds of children enormous pleasure and important life skills which they will never lose. She is respected both in the UK and internationally, and her passion, determination and single mindedness has made her into a play icon. We are thrilled to be able to honour her work with this Award."