

ipa newsbrief

International Play Association - England, Wales & Northern Ireland
Promoting the Child's Right to Play

June 2008

Issue 4

New IPA representative on the Children's Play Policy Forum

Earlier on this year the Children's Play Policy Forum (CPPF) announced that it would be inviting the IPA (EWNI and Scotland branches) to have a seat on their forum with observer status. It can now be confirmed that David Yearley, Head of Play Safety at RoSPA Playsafety Ltd and Treasurer for IPA EWNI will be that representative. He will have to attend up to five meetings a year and help inform the CPPF on international policy developments and other relevant issues.

To contact David please e-mail david.yearley@rospaplaysaftey.co.uk.

Play: the most neglected right



The International Play Association: Promoting the Child's Right to Play (IPA) has embarked on an ambitious plan to raise Article 31 from its position as 'the most neglected right' in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Theresa Casey, IPA President, reports:

The IPA Council adopted a strategic plan during our World Conference in Hong Kong this year. Our first goal is to improve our visibility as a credible and authoritative world voice on children's play; we will build on IPA's historical connections and current networks to establish formal collaborative links with other international organisations and UN agencies.

Another goal is to influence the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. IPA played a significant role in the inclusion of play in the UNCRC but the evidence to date shows us that Article 31 is neglected, even by this Committee. IPA Council met with Professor Jakob Egbert Doek (a former Chair of the Committee) who gave us an invaluable insight into the system and advised us on how we could raise play on the agenda. At a national level IPA members are urged to be active in ensuring that Article 31 is addressed in Country reports to the UN Committee.

The UN Committee's annual Discussion Days and the publication by them of General Comments are major vehicles for drawing attention to aspects of children's rights; neither has yet been devoted to Article 31. Our challenge is to demonstrate what we know about the vital nature of play to children - something that is often overlooked when there are apparently weightier issues addressed in the UNCRC.

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We are also on the

Web! Visit us at:

www.ipa-ewni.org.uk

IPA EWNI is a registered charity
no. 1094980

Wales to host the 2011 IPA World Conference

IPA England, Wales and Northern Ireland - New Executive Committee Members

New members were elected at the IPA EWNl AGM in London last November. For more information about the members visit our website www.ipa-ewni.org.uk.

Chair: Jackie Dorrian*

Treasurer: David Yearley

Secretary: Paul Soames

Other members:

Ted Beattie

Christian Brown

Keith Cranwell

Gill Evans

Blanche Thompson

Felicity Sylvester

* Jackie was elected as Chair and new National Representative in April 2008. Her successor Ute Navidi has stepped down to be able to concentrate on her new role as IPA Vice President (Europe).

If you would like to join IPA EWNl, an organisation devote to promoting and protecting the child's right to play please visit <http://www.ipa-ewni.org.uk/Members.html> and download an application pack.

IPA EWNl is a registered charity
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Play Wales has been successfully elected to host the 2011 triennial International Play Association Conference on the 50th anniversary of the founding of IPA. This outcome was achieved after Play Wales' bid was accepted at this year's International Play Association conference in Hong Kong at the beginning of the year.

Mike Greenaway, Play Wales Director said: "We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic support we have had from colleagues in the UK and abroad. This event will be a superb opportunity to make international contacts and to learn from the research and practice of other countries. We look forward to working with and for the International Play Association."

"It is important to us that this conference includes people who might ordinarily be unable to access such an event. We are urging organisations and individuals in the UK to raise funds to sponsor delegates who might struggle to finance airfares and accommodation. If you feel that over the next three years you can raise money to help support a delegate please get in touch."

Play Wales hope that the conference will leave a positive legacy after 2011 and are already encouraging people to help promote the event by saying "I'll be there".

The event will run in the summer, over five days (not including pre-conference activities and tours) and will involve play researchers, play provider's, policy makers and practitioners involved in the early years.

To get involved or if you require further information about the conference please contact Gill Evans on 029 2048 6050 or e-mail info@playwales.org.uk.

A final farewell and adieu

Her nomination for the Lifetime in Play in London Award had described her as "a play phenomenon", but sadly on 8 November 2007, Janet Dalglish MBE left the global adventure playground forever.

On 12 March 2008, family members, friends and colleagues came together to celebrate her life at a Memorial Service jointly organised by Fair Play for Children and London Play. There were no prepared speeches, instead, people took turns to say something spontaneously about how Janet had touched their lives.

Throughout her eventful career, Janet 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 and Westminster Play Association. She was lifelong President of Fair Play for Children, and winner of the first ever Lifetime in Play in London Award – London Play's own 'Oscar' – created in 2006.

She was also a founder member of the International Play Association and will forever be fondly remembered by generations of playworkers as the lady who took a suitcase 'full of rubbish' to children playing on local primary school bomb sites; places which later evolved into London's adventure playgrounds.

Despite being 90, Janet attended Executive Committee meetings of IPA EWNl and Play England and London Play meetings and events. The 2008 IPA Conference in Hong Kong marked her passing with a two-minute silence.



If you are an IPA EWNl member and would like to contribute to future issues of this newsbrief please contact the editor Eleanor Maunder at Play Wales on 029 2048 6050 or e-mail eleanor@playwales.org.uk