

Spring 2009

Play for children in Islington

IPA Newsletter

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What's inside:

- How to get up to £19,000 for your voluntary sector adventure playground!
- Play Forum: 12-1.30pm, 25th March at Paradise Park Children's Centre
- See pages 2-3 for updates on the IPA's projects
- See pages 4-5 for the latest play news and resources
- See pages 6-7 for more funding news
- See page 8 for information on the IPA's all-year-round playworker recruitment pool



Pictured (left to right): Peter Wanless (Chief Executive, Big Lottery Fund), Joe Swash ("King of the Jungle"), Anita Grant (Director, Islington Play Association), James Kempton (Leader, Islington Council)

Islington Play Association awarded a quarter of a million pounds to enable children to design and build tree houses in Islington

On Tuesday 10th February at Islington Town Hall, Islington playworkers, council officials, councillors and the press gathered together to launch the start of Islington Play's new Tree Houses for Kids Project.

The Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund was there in person to present Islington Play with a cheque for £245k. The project, which will run from March 2009 to early

2012, will enable children at 24 sites across the borough to build their own treehouses, shelters and dens under the guidance of specialist play professionals.

See page 2 for more details on the project. Contact Max on 020 7607 9637 or write to max@islingtonplay.org.uk if you want further details on the tree house project or want to volunteer to support the work of the project.

Sunday 5th April: Den Building Day at Paradise Park (N7) 11am-4pm

All welcome!

IPA updates

Treehouses for Kids: project update

We are delighted to announce we have just appointed a specialist playworker to deliver our long-awaited 'Treehouses for Kids' project. Our very own Wendy Jeeves, from Three Corners Adventure Playground in Clerkenwell, will be building treehouses, dens and shelters with children at Islington's 12 adventure playgrounds (as well as 12 other sites) over the next three years. She will be working closely with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to make sure we minimise hazards whilst offering excitement and acceptable risk.

As the project is going to be led by children, we won't be working from pre-conceived designs. The adults' role will be to supervise the safe use of tools and intervene only if necessary. As such, we are hoping to establish a culture of free play and constantly changing children's spaces.

We still believe that play spaces need to be adaptable by children, even if that means that they take down (and re-build) their creations when they become boring. Large loose parts (such as timber, fabric, tyres, rope etc.) are a great way to do it. This approach is easy to put into practice in playworker supervised, fenced-off spaces (such as adventure playgrounds) which are relatively safe from trespassers at night.



The children will be building in trees wherever they are present on playgrounds and other sites. Where there are no trees, we will allow the children to think about spaces they want to create and how we can help them do it. We will also be working closely with Greenspace and other partners to make sure that we use the correct techniques to minimise damage to any of the trees that will house the children's constructs.

There is the possibility of having treehouses on one or two sites in public places (parks etc.) which will be accessible by the public and not supervised by playworkers. In these cases we will have to think of more permanent structures, which we will base on treehouse designs from around the world.

All in all we are extremely excited by this project and will be reporting regularly on its progress at

regional and national conferences, as well as through various publications - watch this space! We will also be producing a 'how-to' manual, so that children and their families can safely share in this thrilling experience up and down the country.



More IPA updates



PIP: findings at the half-way stage

It's nearly the end of Year One of the Play Improvement Project (PIP) at IPA, and we've been getting busier and busier. We've been going to each Adventure Playground in turn, seeing what we can do to help improve access and inclusion across the borough. This help has been varied and can range from providing free training or resources, or making contacts with individual area residents or groups such as Centre 404.

To help promote access to adventure play, each Adventure Playground will get its own free flag and flagpole, designed by the children onsite. This will put play right on the local skyline, and by the raising of the flag make sure that all children know when play is "in session".

The March Sunday openings (11am-3pm) of our children and families café at Paradise Park Children's Centre are going from strength to strength, providing us with an ideal platform to meet and chat with

local residents about their play needs, and to introduce children to Adventure Playground ideas through the mini-Adventure Playground of the nursery garden. Open until Sunday 5th April, the café has a different theme each week. Food is 50p a plate for children and young people, and £1 a plate for adults. The final Sunday event is on April 5, when the Eden Project will be coming up from Cornwall and leading a public den-building session in Paradise Park. All welcome! For more information contact Morgan on 020 7607 9637 or at morgan@islingtonplay.org.uk.

A fond farewell to Bob Hughes after almost four years work at the IPA

Bob Hughes, winner of the 2008 Lifetime in Play Award, play theorist, academic and author with an international reputation has made a fantastic contribution to the work of the IPA over almost four years. His best-known work has been around "play types" (A Playworker's Taxonomy of Play Types 2001) and evolutionary play theory (Evolutionary Playwork and Reflective Analytic Practice 1996). He created and sustains Playwork Education which informs state of the art playwork training and education. In short he is one of the most significant people working in the field of children's play and we have had the privilege of having him on the staff team of the IPA!

Of course, working with Bob has been challenging! It is not always easy to be made to think and re-think what you are doing and why. Bob was hired to advise and enhance the work of the IPA on a programme to promote novel modifications on Islington's adventure playgrounds that would reflect children's play choices and needs as well as specifically promoting physically active play. His contribution has been considerable. Bob's work with the IPA is one of the reasons why Islington has the best adventure playgrounds in the UK!

Everyone at the IPA expects a special relationship to be sustained into the future and we see his continuing advice and guidance as of great value to our ongoing work.

News and resources



Adventure Play Forum

When: 12-1.30pm, Wednesday 25th November
Where: Paradise Park Children's Centre
 164 MacKenzie Road N7 8SE
 Lunch provided

Playwork and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): an update

The government have made assurances that as long as Playworkers are adhering to the Playwork Principles, those working with children aged 4 and 5 will be in a good position to meet the EYFS requirements.

- The assessment scales (appendix 1 of the Statutory Framework for the EYFS) will be completed by the primary setting where the child spends the majority of their time between 8am to 6pm. In term time this is school.
- During holidays, although children may be spending a large proportion of their time at the play-schemes, taking into consideration the whole year, they still wouldn't be the primary setting.
- There is an expectation for playworkers to keep up with and improve on existing good practice.

For more information see:

www.skillsactive.com/playwork/early-years-foundation-stage

Quality in Play (QiP) update

The new manual is now available through Play England. There are only 11 areas grouped under 3 headings: the play environment, the organisational framework and the wider context. There is one level of achievement that can be boosted to

an additional excellence award for providers showing significant and sustainable good practice.

The last deadline for applications for assessment using the current version of the QiP manual is **12 June 2009**. For more information see www.playengland.org.uk/quality or contact the QiP team on 020 7833 6838 or at gip@necb.org.uk

Max Mueller is the IPA's QiP expert. He has been trained up in the new manual and you can contact him if you have any questions on 020 7607 9637 or at max@islingtonplay.org.uk.

Change to CRB checks

The government has handed control of vetting and barring of children's workers over to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). All employers must send their referrals to list 99 and the Protection of Children Act list—which record the names of people banned from working with children—to the ISA at: Independent Safeguarding Authority, PO Box 181, Darlington DL1 9FA. Until October 2009 the process of applying for CRBs will stay the same. For more information see our Autumn 2008 newsletter at www.islingtonplay.co.uk/newsandjobs.htm or see www.isa.gov.org.uk

Nature play: fun and simple ideas

This Forestry Commission practical guide on nature play offers fun, simple and cost effective examples of play ideas from easily sourced materials. It contains 34 ideas, all clearly illustrated with photographs, including tree climbing, play roots, stepping logs, willow domes, muddy pits and den building. See: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7LSEHW

**Playday 2009:
Make time!**

Playday 2009 will take place on **Wednesday 5 August**. This year the campaign theme is **Make time!** The campaign is urging everyone - parents, carers, teachers, policymakers and planners - to make time for children's play.

The IPA will be working closely with the Council this year and will keep you updated on plans.

Training, HR & Resources



Play for children in Islington

Islington Safeguarding Children Board - training and development

April

22nd & 23rd - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection
28th - Sexual Abuse
30th - Protecting Disabled Children - Part I

May

12th - Faith Communities - Exploring different belief systems
14th - Protecting Disabled Children - Part II
20th & 21st - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection

June

8th - Workshop - Working with Sexually Active Young People
9th - Workshop - Named / Designated Child Protection Person - Role and Responsibilities
16th - Workshop - Managing Allegations against Staff

July

14th & 15th - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection

For more information or an application form contact Maria Gilby at maria.gilby@islington.gov.uk or on 020 7527 4234

Natural play support from London Play

Trees and Plants for Play is designed as a guide for choosing plants and trees to place in a natural play area, or simply to plant in public places so that they can become playable spaces.

www.londonplay.org.uk/document.php?document_id=1317

Managing Risk in Play Provision

Play England, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Play Safety Forum have published new guidance for play providers and designers on dealing with and even valuing (!) risk in children's play. Take a look at: www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_9424fe_1139449502553e76o_2009171038g

Inclusive design for play

A new good practice briefing from KIDS looks at what inclusive design is in relation to play, the process of inclusive design and explains the six principles of inclusive design. It also

includes a play space checklist and a resource list. Download: www.kids.org.uk/files/102530/FileName/PIPBriefingFeb09.pdf

HR

Free legal advice

Community Matters offer free legal surgeries on a monthly basis (usually the second Wednesday of the month) at their London office. Solicitors are on hand to give specialist advice to community organisations on employment law, leases, incorporation (as a company), contracts and intellectual property (trademarks). This service is delivered in conjunction with their partner LawWorks and operates as a pre-booked 30-45 minute one to one session. Contact Liz Cleverly at Community Matters in advance to

book a place on 020 7837 7887 or at liz.cleverly@communitymatters.org.uk

Minimum wage information

The minimum wage increased from 1 October 2008:

- From £5.52 to £5.73 per hour for over-21s
- From £4.60 to £4.77 per hour for 18-21 year olds
- From £3.40 to £3.53 for 16 and 17 year olds who are above school leaving age and are not apprentices

Statutory annual leave entitlement

From 1st April this year the statutory annual leave entitlement will increase from 4.8 weeks to 5.6 weeks

For more information on either the minimum wage or annual leave entitlements see: www.berr.gov.uk

Remember to check funders' guidelines on their websites before starting work on any application form to make sure your group is eligible to apply.

Voluntary sector adventure playground funding!

Play England has been contracted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to manage a funding programme for refurbishment of adventure playgrounds run by the voluntary and community sector. £1.5 million will be made available through the programme, which will run from April 2009 to March 2010, and **all eligible third sector-managed adventure playgrounds may apply for up to £19,000 to update and modify their play spaces.**

Applications must be received no later than **5pm Monday, 13 April 2009**. Applications and guidance materials are available on the Play England website: www.playengland.org.uk

The IPA is here to help. We want to make sure that as much funding as possible is awarded to Islington's voluntary sector adventure playgrounds. We can help however you want, from reading over your bid to helping you to think how to spend the money! Just contact us on 020 7607 9637.

Community Resilience and Modernisation Fund

A £15.5 million Community Resilience Fund will provide grant funding to small and medium providers in communities most at risk of increased deprivation due to the recession. This is in addition to the £130 million already committed to the Grassroots Grants programme meaning more small grants to more community groups.

Funding News

Available from April 2009

A £16.5 million modernisation fund to support viable third sector organisations to access specialist services in order to restructure and become more resilient and efficient in the recession.

Available from summer 2009

For more information see: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/real_help_for_communities.aspx

Sport England

From April 2009 there will be 4 new open access funding streams for groups delivering grassroots sports: regular themed funding rounds, small grants (£300-£10,000), match funding for funds secured from the private sector, and an innovation fund.

For more information see: www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/how_funding_works.htm

Awards for All Changes

Awards for All will be changing on 1 April 2009. The current application form is valid until 31 March 2009. They will not accept any applications received on this form after 31 March 2009. New application materials will be available from www.awardsforall.org.uk **from 1 April 2009**.

B&Q One Planet Living Awards

The One Planet Living Awards from B&Q provide up to £10,000 of products for environmental groups, community organisations and other local charities in saving energy, conserving nature, supporting local culture and heritage, or 'grow your own'. Deadline: **27 March 2009**. For more information see: www.diy.com/awards

The Woodward Trust

The Trust (one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts) annually gives around 30-40 grants of £500-£2,000, for children's summer play-schemes. Summer playscheme application forms will be considered in May 2009 and application forms should be received by **1 April 2009**.

For more information see: www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

Chelsea Building Society Charitable Foundation

Grants of between £250—£5,000 to relieve suffering and disadvantage and benefit local communities. The trustees meet twice a year. The next deadline for applications is: **2 April 2009**. For more information see:

www.thechelsea-charity-foundation.co.uk

BBC Children in Need Changes

From now on applications will only be accepted online. Next deadlines: **15 April, 15 July and 15 October 2009**. For more information see:

www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/apply.shtml

SkillsActive and Nancy Ovens bursary

Sponsored by SkillsActive and awarded by the Nancy Ovens Trust, the bursary is aimed at paid or voluntary coaches and leaders in the active leisure and learning sector. The 2009 bursary will be worth up to £2,000 and may be used by the selected individual(s) to undertake training or an alternative work experience within the UK or EU. Application deadline: **1 May 2009**. For further details and to apply:

www.nancyovenstrust.org.uk

The LankellyChase Foundation

The Foundation is inviting

applications for small grants of £500 to support Summer Activities. Schemes must benefit children between 5-17 years old. In 2009, the Foundation is specifically looking to support activities for children and young people living in refuges, and for young carers. It also wants to see projects with strong volunteer support.

Deadline: **8 May 2009**

For more information see:
www.lankellychase.org.uk

HLF - Young Roots

Grants between £3,000-25,000 aim to involve 13-25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. This is a rolling programme and decisions will be made within 10 weeks of submitting an application. For more information see:
www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YoungRoots

City Bridge Trust

The Trust aims to address disadvantage through their current grant programmes include:

- accessible London
- bridging communities
- improving Londoners' mental health
- London's environment
- strengthening the third sector

There is a rolling deadline and no minimum or maximum grant size. For more information see:

www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk/CityBridgeTrust/Grants/GrantsProgrammeGuidelines

Paul Hamlyn Changes

The small grants (under £5,000) programme has ended. The Foundation's three UK funding programmes are: Arts; Education and Learning; and Social Justice. The Foundation makes grants to organisations that aim to maximise opportunities for individuals to experience a full quality of life, both now and in the future, particularly in the case of disadvantaged children and young people.

There is a rolling deadline and no minimum or maximum grant size but they do

require some match funding.

For more information see: www.phf.org.uk

For more funding ideas see our previous newsletters at:

www.islingtonplay.co.uk/downloads/IPA_Newsletter_Autumn_2008.pdf and
www.islingtonplay.co.uk/downloads/IPA_Newsletter_Summer_2008.pdf



Noticeboard

**Do you work with 14-19 year olds?
If so, do pass this on to them**

14-19? Wanna create your own music, radio show or artwork?

Book now for FREE accredited Radical Roots workshops run by award-winning music college Point Blank. Your tutors will be highly experienced industry professionals who have worked with major recording artists such as Leona Lewis, Sugababes, Oasis, Natasha Bedingfield and Massive Attack. This is your chance to learn the skills you need to get ahead in the media industry. What's more, the work that you create will be part of a 3 month exhibition at the museum.

So if you're aged between 14 and 19, don't miss this fantastic opportunity to get creative, produce your own work, and be noticed! Come along to a taster session at Islington Museum to get an idea of what it's all about.

Next taster session: 16.00 - 19.00 Thursday the 19th of March

Next course: 6th -9th of April

For more details contact us on 020 7527 7989 or email
allie.dillon@islington.gov.uk



Community gardening at Lumpy Hill Adventure Playground (N7)

If you are interested in gardening but don't have a garden, you might be interested in our gardening project.

We have 10 plots for local gardeners to use and develop, and we also have opportunities for volunteer gardeners.

Our gardening project will run Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-2pm. If you are interested call Dawn on 020 7607 3586.

Jobs in Play



Playworker Recruitment

Pool

We have recently extended our normal summer playworker recruitment pool to become an all-year-round playworker recruitment pool.

If you are an Islington community playgroup or adventure playground, and are **looking for staff**, whether full-time, part-time, holiday only, year-round, or any other type, you can arrange to come in and look at the applicants in the recruitment pool by contacting us on 020 7607 9637 or at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

If you are **looking for a job in playwork**, you can apply to join our Playworker Recruitment Pool. For an application pack, contact us on 020 7607 9637 or at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

Recruiting staff?

Remember:

Advertising a play job in our newsletter or on our website is free to voluntary and community sector organisations based in the Islington area. Just contact us on 020 7607 9637 or at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

Adventure Play Forum

When: 12-1.30pm, Wednesday 25th March
Where: Paradise Park Children's Centre
164 MacKenzie Road N7 8SE

Lunch provided

- **Has this newsletter been forwarded to you? Would you like to sign up to receive the newsletter directly?**
- **Do you have something that you would like included in a future newsletter?**

If you answered yes to any of the above questions contact us on 020 7607 9637 or at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

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info@paradiseparkcc.org.uk

We're on the web at
www.islingtonplay.org.uk