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MKPA is pleased to be a member of the Play England Free Time Consortium a group of 17 local and specialist organisations working together to increase children and young people's opportunities for play and recreation.

The Consortium is founded on the principle of sharing information about how to make sure more children can play more often. Through promotion and practice, local Play Associations and national specialist organisations aim to make sure that all children in England have the time, space and opportunity to play throughout their daily lives.

Current Consortium members are:
Birmingham PlayCare Network, Children's Links, Hackney Play Association, Hillingdon Play Association, KIDS, Lambeth Play Association, London Play, Manchester Young Lives, Milton Keynes Play Association, Participation Works, Play Torbay, Playwork Partnerships, Plymouth Play Association, Shiremoor Adventure Playground Trust (North Tyneside Council), SkillsActive and Wansdyke Play Association.



To read the full article click

[here](#)

Wishing Pool at centre:mk the count is over the results are in!

Bank Holiday Monday, the 3rd of January, saw a brave band of MKPA staff turn up to count the donations from this year's 'Wishing Pool' in centre:mk. Aided by the Fire Service from Broughton, the pools were drained, the coins shovelled out, then came the arduous task of drying and bagging ready for collection by G4S.

G4S processed the coinage at their Leicester cash centre and **we are pleased to announce the final figure is £4,093.76.**

We would like to thank everyone who supported us by donating to the Wishing Pool and visiting our Crafty Christmas activities. We would especially like to thank the Fire Service at Broughton, G4S and the staff of centre:mk who helped make it all happen.



Dean makes sure every penny counts!!

Have fun at half term

Great News! Our outdoor Play Sessions are going ahead in Stantonbury (Lincoln/Carwarden), Fishermead and Broughton over half term, but there may be some changes (i's to dot and t's to cross!) look out for our new activities and revised timetable on the <http://www.mkpa.co.uk> or follow us on [Facebook](#).



We are also supporting some activities with the Community Mobilisers - on Coffee Hall where we are doing Breeze Block carving on Wednesday 15th, 10am to 2pm, and we're running a bouncy castle at Knowles Junior School on Thursday 16th.

Later in the month, on Sunday 26th February, the Funion Bargee creative play boat will be supporting the Iron Trunk Aqueduct Open Day - again, check out our website or Facebook, or www.waterscape.com

From 'Tip to Ship' a competition for schools

From Tip to Ship' is Start Imagining's fantastic competition.

Inspired by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on Sunday 3 June, groups of between 2 and 6 children are

invited to make a model of a boat or a ship using reclaimed materials - and it doesn't need to float!



The boats should be a maximum of 1 metre in any direction and must be the group's own work. You'll need to photograph your work to enter the competition.

Don't forget to keep your model somewhere safe - it could be one of the winning entries to be displayed at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London.

The judges will be looking for creative vision and imaginative use of materials.

All entries will be initially judged by the team at Start, Cool it Schools, Craft Club and Freecycle. The shortlisted entries will then be judged by our prestigious judging panel.

[Click here for competition rules and entry form.](#)

And obviously you can get loads of resources from our Scrapstore!

Resource Unit News

Things are progressing well in the scrapstore and shop with Valentine's day, Easter and mother's day all occurring soon. Occasions for celebration with ideas for gifts and simple makes from goods available here in the Resource Unit.

As ever we are on the lookout for new ideas and welcome suggestions from members.



We have found that Facebook is a good way of communicating with our members. We are trying to use it more, so if you want to receive news then please like our Group page.

A4 folded art canvas boards - great for sending as a Mother's Day gift

Soon to be arriving in the shop will be some A4 folded art canvas boards. These will be ideal for art projects or as a replacement for a greetings card. Get the children to paint,

draw or print on the board, fold and hang on the wall or stand on a shelf. At less than £1.00 they will be a lot cheaper than cards too! They should be here in the next week. We also have a new range of themed borders for displays and notice boards.

In the scrapstore there are bags of plastic balls which normally retail for £10.00 which are going very quickly as we are only asking for a donation of £3.00.

We have said it before, but if you have any interesting ideas, photos or examples of things you have done with your groups or children then you are more than welcome to bring them in. We will then try and make up a display of those ideas for the foyer for all to see.

With spring just around the corner, thoughts may well turn to more projects and activities to do outdoors. Watch this space and in the resource unit for ideas or contact our play team who are experts in their field who will only be too pleased to help.

Remember: It doesn't have to cost the earth.

Highlighted Training



Fire Awareness - 7th February 2012 - 930am-1230pm - £50.

Basic Fire Safety to help prevent and deal with fires in your setting or home. The course covers updated regulations and risk assessment.

Bereavement & Loss - 9th February 2012 - 630pm-930pm - £33 members / £35 non-members

Face Painting for Beginners - 11th February 2012 - 10am-2pm - £20 members / £22 non-members

Health & Safety - 23rd Feb & 1st Mar 2012 - 630pm-930pm - £55.

ADHD Awareness - 28th February 2012 - 930am-1230pm - £26 members / £28 non-members.

Epilepsy Awareness - 28th February 2012 - 630pm-930pm - £26 members / £28 non-members.

To book on these or any of our courses, or for any further info please call Tina or Janet on 01908-263033 or email tina@mkpa.co.uk

Having an early Spring Clean?

We are pleased to be supporting Sweet Dreams Lingerie Shop Buckingham, by operating a 'Bra Bank'. There is a box in our lobby for all donations.

The donated bras will be recycled and all funds will be donated to The Puzzle Centre, this is a charity providing early intervention for children with Autism.

www.puzzlecentre.org.uk



Recycle and raise funds for MKPA

We are pleased to announce that we are now able to recycle most printer toners & inkjet cartridges as well as old mobile phones and pda's. In addition, if you have any cd's or dvd's we can also recycle these, even better if they are in their cases as this increases their value to us.

Every item we recycle will earn us a small amount as well.

If you are willing to display a poster in your workplace advertising this then please e-mail admin@mkpa.co.uk and we will get one sent out. Please drop any items into our collection box in the foyer at the Play Association. Unfortunately at the moment we are unable to offer a collection service.



Vegetable Orchestra on Room101

For those of you (like me) that were impressed by the Veg Orchestra featured on Room 101 on Friday night, ([see You Tube link](#)) If you would like to have a go at making some music then why not come on our **Playing with Food** course on **Thursday 15th March 630pm-930pm**, we are not promising Royal Philharmonic standards but we are promising fun.... **Cost £16 members / £18 non-members**



Toot on your root flute!!

To book on please call 01908-26033 or email tina@mkpa.co.uk

Play in the News

Go Play in the Street!

Stickball, skully and hopscotch used to be as common on New York's streets as cars. These days, vehicles have totally taken over, but transportation advocates are fighting back to carve out space for kids.

[Read the full article from the New York Observer](#)

Should we let children run wild?

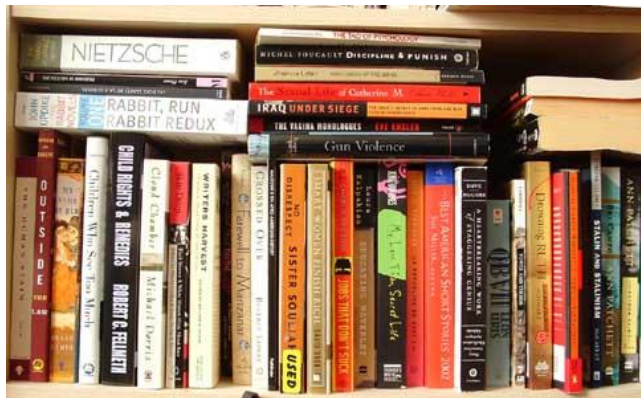
When Sophie Radice found a small boy wandering alone and barefoot, she swiftly returned him home. But the surprising reaction of his parents caused her to question her own attitudes to children and safety

[Read the full article in the Independent here](#)



MKPA Book Sale

We are planning a book sale on 28th February. There will be books on display in the foyer area with an honesty box. If you are coming into the Resource Unit, on a course or just want to browse the books please take a look.



Fortcoming Events

**Iron Trunk
Open Day**
Sunday 26th February 2012
11-3pm

The Iron Trunk Aqueduct is over 200 years old and this year will get a makeover. Come and find out what's planned, hear from the project's engineer, take a guided walk and discover the history of the aqueduct.

Free fun for all the family with face painting, boat rides and children's activities.

Recommended parking located next to the Calleon pub, Old Wolverton Road, Old Wolverton and at Cosgrove Wharf

For further information please visit www.watercrops.com



