summer time ....

Fair Play for Children e-letter

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STOP PRESS sort-of-thing .... our website hits the 400,000 mark

Playground survey

We have now published the results of this Freedom of Information Survey to 326 English local authorities re their playground provision. Roughly speaking, there are over 16,000 childrens play areas maintained by the principal councils, covering more than 14,000 acres. Or 692 children per play area (752 per acre of play area). There are further details in the story at: http://www.fairplayforchildren.org/index.php?page=HTML_News&story_id=8825. We also calculate that to achieve 100 children per acre would need another 98,000 play areas and cost in excess of 5.7 billion. Golfers have about an acre for every 18 golfers ....

Full Report at:
http://www.fairplayforchildren.net/survey1.htm
Stolen Streets, Stolen Childhood

Our new major report, revealing the true extent of loss of playspace by our children, and the main culprit ... the parked car. Between 300,000 to three-quarters of a million acres of street space taken from children in 3-4 decades, and nothing remotely adequate in replacement. But there are less kids now ... Really? Try 11.5 million in England, the same as in 1931 and 1901. The proportion has dropped, the numbers are set to rise to over 13 million by 2025. WHERE will they play? If we take back the streets (Play Streets the main need), we can provide coverage as good as 14 children per acre of street space. Read our report: http://www.fairplayforchildren.org/pdf/1312375424.pdf

Pass it on to ... MPs, Councils, Councillors, Planners, friends, neighbours. It is a matter of health and avoiding earlier morbidity, as serious as that.

Summer Playschemes

The time is upon us, the quality papers are full of what shall we do with Jemima and there are not as many playschemes maybe as there used to be.... Fair Play has been compiling a list of local council weblinks about activities on offer in England (again maybe a first) which will help parents etc hopefully to locate affordable activities for their kids in the coming weeks. Its not complete, council details are being added on a daily basis but we aim that it should be as full as council responses will permit. http://www.fairplayforchildren.net/summer.htm

Facebook porn issue

Using a link at Google, a correspondent drew our attention to a Facebook site she described as disgusting. When we clicked on the link she cited, it seemed very normal, then it was noted that only the first part of the link was highlighted, so a copy-and-paste job into the web browser revealed the site she had concerns about. Rightly so, as 8 of the 70+ photos at least were child pornography (the others confirm that such people as post such stuff see children not as we do). We reported to Facebook (who removed it quickly), to the Internet Watch Foundation and CEOPS. We have asked the latter about the implications of the situation how can someone add a tag to someones Facebook address? Not sure if we have the answers as yet.

Contacting re Concern about a child

The same Fair Play Google link (which appears at the top of many Google pages re child protection) has brought a spate of calls and emails from people wanting to contact someone about a concern about a child. In fact, so many, we explored WHY they were not contacting childrens/social services in their areas. It has become rather apparent that this is not an easy task in all cases. Our volunteer, Nigel Warren, was asked to find all the relevant web pages and phone contacts, in working and out-of-working hours. Not easy, many councils sites scored very poorly. We wondered if there was some national website for reference, couldn't find one so bodged it as at: http://www.fairplayforchildren.net/chipro.htm

The web stats we use show a large proportion of hits in the past week since we launched this have go to that page. The strength of the quick-on-its-feet voluntary sector? You bet! But why wasn't this done before by central government/the big boys in the charity world? Shimple???

Vetting Poll progress

Well, still recording that 95% of respondents dont agree with the Government proposal, and the Safeguarding Freedom Parliamentary Group has joined the concern: http://www.fairplayforchildren.org/index.php?page=HTML_News&story_id=8928
HAVE YOU POLLED YET! It's VITAL you do. Go to our Home Page: www.fairplayforchildren.org

Mosquitos Buzz-off : Its official!

At last! Someone has told the Government the use of the Mosquito is likely to be illegal under European Rights law and should be regulated or banned. Someone being the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Good for them. We got nowhere with complacent, smug Home Secretaries, trading standards etc. Lets hope Michael Gove MP, Minister for Children, will ensure action is taken, and meanwhile we have written to every Local Authority Chief Executive and Police Force Chief Constable to draw the advice to their attention and to forewarn them we intend to use FoI in a month's time to find out what action they may have taken as a result of receipt of the advice.


Savlon Survey

Two thirds of parents always had adventures outdoors as a child but worry their children do not have the same opportunities today, according to research from Savlon and Play England. Many of parents fondest childhood memories are of playing outside, however, outdoor activities that few parents were part of growing up seem to be in danger of
New membership service

We've introduced two new membership categories, both three years duration. Associate Professional is for individuals who also want a CRB Enhanced Disclosure for their work needs, it costs 120 over the three years including the CRB charge. Similarly, Parent Employers for those who employ child carers in the family home (nanny etc) this is 90 for the three years inclusive of CRB Enhanced Disclosure. Details on our website, under Join.

CRB checks in partnership approach

As readers may be aware, we're now in a partnership to deliver CRB checks for our Members. The transition seems to have worked well, Sanctuary have taken on the work smoothly, and we anticipate moving towards electronic access later this year. We also continue to negotiate an insurance deal and progress seems to be the order of the day more soon on this.

Our budget for 2011-12 ....

Well, there's the rub, we did set it at 16k+, now we probably could do better at just under 20k for 2011-12. When you see what we are attempting on so vast a sum, you may wonder just how we do it. Lots of volunteer hours, no office rents, looking for best deals and always aiming to hit well above our weight .... and being light on our feet and quick reactions. Sounds like a Third Sector Work-Out.

1 or $1 or 1-euro    The many ways You can help Fair Play for Children:

Join for goodness sake! We like our members, good folk them:

Buy At Our Shop lots of great offers from Big Name Stores etc, and we get a slice if the action without you paying more!
http://buy.at/FairPlayChildren?CTY=1&CID=226

Buying Toys? Then buy at Confident Kids, our mate Leo will see you right and we get a share too.  http://www.cktoys.co.uk/index.jsp and quote Fair Play

A DONATION is always welcome do it online, by card etc. And it doesn't matter how small. 1, $1, e1 .... it all helps. Even 2.50 a month.

Offer Time! Yes, some of your free time .... from home. Mail: administration@fairplayforchildren.net


Jan Cosgrove Mr
NATIONAL SECRETARY
July 2011

Oh, and did I mention the back page? No? How remiss of me ....
http://www.fairplayforchildren.net/backpage1.html   Now I have. If you like that sort of thing.... You have been warned ....