



PlaySpace Publications

NEWSLETTER: 01 APRIL 2013

“Play can be, and frequently is, of the utmost seriousness. Thus the cheat is far less hated or chastised than the spoil-sport. The person who somehow subverts and shatters the validity, the importance of the game” (J. Huizinga – Homo Ludens)

Sometime in 1971, a small group of students at Sydney Wells College in London got together to improve their understanding and appreciation of drama, literature, music, art, dance, and to appreciate their importance in everyday life. Fun and games became the basis for sharing beliefs, pooling skills and realising creative ideas. 'PLAYSPACE' was launched as charity offering training, workshops, and creative play in hospitals, parks, day centres, prisons, and playgrounds for people of all ages. Creative games were collected, invented, adopted and played over and over – games are only learned by playing them.

With support from the National Playing Field Association the first publication for PlaySpace was a set of 60 illustrated cards [GamesGames – 1978] we printed and sold 2,000 copies. It's now out of print. Since 1978, there have been a trickle of limited editions of poems, essays, leaflets and cards, for specific groups – such as Survivors Poetry, Lapidus, community writers' groups – celebrating, for example, a personal life. Some are still in print and available through the PLAYSPACE website.

Our most recent book is [today today today](#) by Alec Finlay and will be launched at The Maggie's Cancer Care Centre in Gartnavel Hospital complex in April. This is a sequence of poems on the theme of sickness and death, and is published on the occasion of Finlay's residency at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Glasgow. Hand-written originals of the poems were gifted to patients. The title is after a motto composed by John Ruskin. Here is the Project blog: www.alecfinlay-today.com

