

KIDS' STUFF

IN 1971 there were 26 summer play-schemes organised in Liverpool by voluntary bodies. This summer there will be close to 100.

Linking all these schemes is the Merseyside Play Action Council, a co-ordinating body set up by, and run by the people running voluntary playschemes.

The nature of the playschemes and the activities that each one offers varies greatly from those projects which have a permanent building, run a year round programme and have a stock of equipment (inflatables, sports and gymnasium gear, cameras, silk-screen printing, etc.) to playschemes put together by a few mothers who take all the kids from their street to the park to play ball games, and maybe run a few coach trips.

In almost every case the situation is that the more people who join in as helpers (particularly people with the confidence and/or skills to run games; football matches; workshops in leatherwork, photography, silk-screen printing, painting, storytelling, etc.; a nursery corner; a coffee bar/shop etc.) the more activities are possible.

People who would like to join in with one of the playschemes should contact Dave or Kim at the Merseyside Play Action Council.

Similarly anyone who has thought about, or is planning to run activities for kids in their own area this summer would find it useful to get in touch with the Play Action Council. Funds are available from the Liverpool Education Department for summer play, and the Play Action Council has been asked to make recommendations to them about which schemes should be funded. A portion of the money is earmarked each year for new schemes and is held until the beginning of the summer holidays to allow for late applications from new schemes.

The Play Action Council also has a warehouse full of cardboard, paper, wood, cloth, polythene etc., materials donated by local business and industry for summer playschemes; disco equipment, inflatables and fans, cameras, etc., available on loan to the summer playschemes; and, among its members, a lot of experience in running play activities so that technical advice — how to silk-screen a mask, how to build an inflatable, etc., — is available as well as more general information on putting together a playscheme.

On Saturday afternoon, June 19 at the Pier Head, the Merseyside Play Action Council is presenting a showcase for the summer playschemes by inviting people to Bring Something Yellow to the Pier Head. Most of the groups who are running playschemes this year will be there with yellow costumes, yellow paint, yellow inflatables, yellow submarines, yellow brick roads, yellow rivers, banana custard, canary singers, dancers, discos, games, sideshows.

So if you want to join in with an existing playscheme, to start a new one, or to Bring Something Yellow to the Pierhead, contact: **DAVE RICKUS** or **KIM RODGERS** Merseyside Play Action Council, 1 Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool 8. Tel: 708 0468.

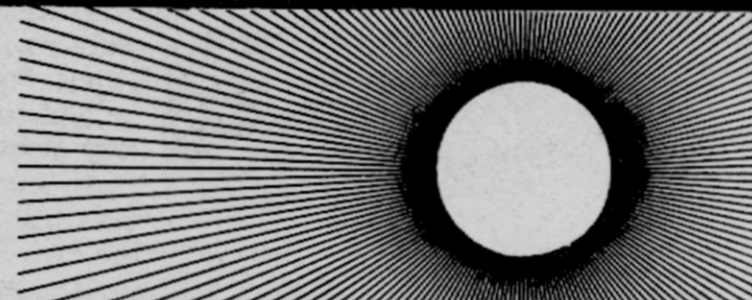
ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS...

June 7-12. **HANSEL AND GRETEL.** The famous children's classic with music. Theatre Royal, St Helens. Evenings at 7.15. Matinees Tues-Fri, 2 p.m.

June 8-11. **POLKA CHILDREN'S THEATRE.** Professional company with actors and puppets. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Neptune Theatre. 709 7844.



INFORMER



THE SUNNY seaside above rests in the unlikely surroundings of Kirkdale.

This colourful backdrop to the Crocus Street playground is the result of the combined efforts of local kids and students from the Liverpool College of Art, and — surprise, surprise — a local landlord who provided finance and the wall.

Nearly 200 would-be artists sent in entries for the design competition. The winning entry was put on to a slide and projected on to the wall.

The students planned it out and did the detailed bits, and the kids filled in the colour, and everybody likes it. Even those who feel moved to write graffiti on every wall. The seaside's been there three months and so far it's remained untouched.

The planning department have now given the go-ahead for more murals, so if you want to brighten up any walls in your area, contact Pete McFerran at the Fine Art and Sculpture Department at the Art College in Hope Street.

EXHIBITIONS

ALLERTON GALLERY

117 Allerton Rd., Liverpool 18. 724 5206. **INDIAN MINIATURES.** June 10-July 3. With the World of Islam Festival in London, here's a rare chance to see a local selection. Works from the 18th and 19th centuries. Mon-Fri, 10-6; Wed & Sat 10-1.

ACADEMY GALLERY

65 Renshaw St., Liverpool. 709 4088. Tues-Fri 10.30-5.00; Sat 11.30-3.00. **A STRING OF BEAUTY IS A TOY FOREVER.** Paintings and graphic work by John Oakley. June 8-18.

MICHAEL LAWSON. Paintings and drawings. June 22-July 2.

GROSVENOR MUSEUM

27 Grosvenor Street, Chester. Tel: 21616. Mon-Sat, 10.00-5.00; Sun, 2.00-5.00. **FROM OUR OWN COLLECTIONS.** Objects from the museum's reserve collections of social and recent history. Items of local interest, including come connected with the making of Cheshire cheese. Until Sept 9.

THE ARDERNES OF UTKINTON and local family portraits. Arranged in connection with the Chester Festival. June 26-Sept 30.

SUDLEY ART GALLERY

Mossley Hill Road, Liverpool. 724 3245. Mon-Sat, 10.00-5.00; Sun 2.00-5.00.

FRANK MEADOW SUTCLIFFE (1851-1941). Photographer of Whitby. Until June 29.

WALKER ART GALLERY

William Brown Street, Liverpool. 227 5234 Ext. 2064. Mon-Sat, 10.00-5.00; Sun, 2.00-5.00.

R.J. BARROW. Early 19th century Liverpool townscape. Until June 13.

JOHN MOORES LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION 10. Until Aug 8. Biennial show of new British painting. Late opening until 8 p.m. Thurs. Adults 10p, children 5p.

COUNTY MUSEUMS

William Brown St., Liverpool. 207 0001. Mon-Sat, 10.00-5.00. Sun, 2.00-5.00.

BRITISH BIRDS by British artists. Original bird illustrations. Until Sept 26.

THE CAMERA AND THE CRAFTSMAN. June 7-July 4.

NIGERIAN POTTERY. Metalworking in the Bronze Age and early Iron Age. On show all this year.

BOOTLE ART GALLERY

Oriel Road, Bootle. Mon, Wed, Fri 10.00-7.00; Tues, 10.00-5.00; Thurs, Sat, 10.00-1.00.

BOOTLE TIMES. Exhibition to mark the centenary of the world's greatest newspaper! June 7-26.

CROSBY LIBRARY

Crosby Road North. Mon, Wed, Fri, 10.00-7.00; Tues, 10.00-8.00; Thur, Sat, 10.00-1.00.

HISTORIC HOUSES. June 4-July 5.

ATKINSON ART GALLERY

Lord Street, Southport. Tel: 33133, ext. 149. Mon-Sat, 10.00-5.00. **THE FACE OF MERSEYSIDE.** June 26-July 24.

NEPTUNE THEATRE GALLERY

Hanover Street, Liverpool. 709 7844. Mon-Fri, 10.30-2.30; Sat, 10.00-12.00.

BRITISH RAILWAYS. Photographic exhibition of the loop and link line.

CHESTER ARTS AND RECREATION TRUST.

The Centre, Market Square. Chester 313853. Mon-Sat, 9.30-5.00. **DON MCKINLAY**—Paintings. June 5-July 3.

THEATRE

LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE

Tel: 709 8363

Re-opens June 23 with **THE UNEXPECTED GUEST.** Agatha Christie's brilliant thriller.

EVERYMAN ON TOUR

Tel: 709 4776

June 8-10. **MACBETH** by William Shakespeare. Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street. Mon-Wed at 7.30. Matinee Tues 2 p.m.

AMATEUR PRODUCTION

June 23-26. **HMS PINAFORE** and **COX AND BOX.** University of Liverpool Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Stanley Theatre, Students Union, Mount Pleasant. 7.30pm.

POETRY

June 9. **JABBERWOCKY.** 8.00pm.

Overton Hall, Wirral Country Park, Thurston, Wirral. John Tench talks of 'king, prisoner, poet' James 1; Mel Savitz with Catullus: Poem of the Month. Poets: F.S. Rickards and Peggy Poole. Music: A woodwind quartet from the Mabel Fletcher College Music Department.

June 14. **ROGER MCGOUGH** and **BRIAN PATTEN**, plus sketches by Unity Theatre and supporting band. Bluecoat Concert Hall. 7.30.

MATHEW STREET FESTIVAL

The Liverpool School in Mathew Street is the stuff that dreams are made of. But on Sunday, June 6, the dream becomes a reality with the unveiling of a bust of Carl Jung, the Swiss psychologist.

If the dream isn't a wet one, the day's activities will run something like this: **1.45 - 3.45 Brass Band.** **3.00 Exposing of bust and releasing of balloons.** **3.15 Mandala exhibition.** **4.00 - 9.00 Vice Versa, Albert Dock, Deaf School.**

Hopefully, the person who wrote the Liverpool School anthem "They tried to tell us we're too Jung" will be shot as well.

● Our thanks to the Merseyside Arts Association for their help in compiling much of the information on these pages.

POLITICS

SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY. A five part course of lectures and discussions. 20p a session.

June 7: Problems of Socialist Democracy - John Gollan. June 14: Lessons of the Czechoslovak Experience 1945-1968 - Jon Bloomfield. June 21: Parties and Power in Socialist countries - Monty Johnstone. June 28: Economic Planning and Socialist Democracy - Mark Harrison. July 5: Theory and Practice of Soviet Literary Production - David Craig.

All at 7.45pm Leo McGree House, 39 Shaw St, Liverpool 6. Organised by Merseyside Communist Party.

MERSEYSIDE PEOPLE'S HISTORY. Further information from 25 Tumilty Avenue, Bootle. 521 5763.

Video & Film

The Merseyside Visual Communications Unit can offer a wide range of facilities and services. We will hire out equipment at ridiculously non-commercial prices, teach you how to operate portable video, film or video local events, issues etc. We can't promise you a Hollywood film set but we will do our best to give you the media treatment.

MVCU: 83 Seel Street, Liverpool L1 4BB (051-709 9460).

FREE PRESS BENEFIT

POETRY, MUSIC AND SURPRISES BY

Roger McGough Brian Patten

SKETCHES BY UNITY THEATRE

BOBBY SOX AND THE PRIZE GUYS

MONDAY, JUNE 14th at 7.30 p.m.

Bluecoat Concert Hall,
School Lane, Liverpool.

Admission 75p