

TEAM NEWSLETTER

Snow-Friendly Play City

by Anastasiya Yurkevich

Snowy winter is one of the most beautiful seasons in the temperate and polar zones.

There are more than 30 such countries: Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Japan, some USA, and China regions. Snowy winters are enjoyable for children. Snow has unique loose parts play properties that make it a material for artistic experiments of any size and shape. Through playing with snow, children can observe natural phenomena, adapt various games, transform spaces, create characters, and fantasize. But the winter season has three serious limitations: snow hides the boundaries between safe and unsafe spaces; low temperatures render outside spaces unusable and reduces play time spent outside.

Our project explored:

- Analysis of winter scenarios games. Types of winter play, necessary equipment, and maintenance. The need for special adult education.
- Collection of unusual winter games. Cold weather rule games. Snow building techniques and snow architecture for kids.
- Check List "Is the playground ready for winter?" and how playgrounds should look exciting and educational in both summer and winter.

The astute organization of outdoor spaces in winter and the presence of a wide variety of winter scenarios will satisfy the child's right to play when these rights are determined by nature.



RISE AND SHINE

Project

Preston's online
consultation

PRESTON FRIARGATE SOUTH

Written by Sybille

Our vision to transform Preston City public realm continues with plans to improve Friargate South.

Over the years, we've been working extensively with Preston City Council to offer high quality public realm to Prestonians. On Friargate South, we are working with Eric Wright Civil Engineering to improve cycle connections and create a considered and integrated streetscape. Located in the historic and main commercial centre of the City, the proposed new cycle connections, resurfacing of the streets and additional tree planting will put an emphasis on creating a safer, greener and decluttered pedestrian and cycle friendly environment for Preston.

We'd love to hear what you think! You can give feedback on the scheme through Preston's online consultation.



Practice

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

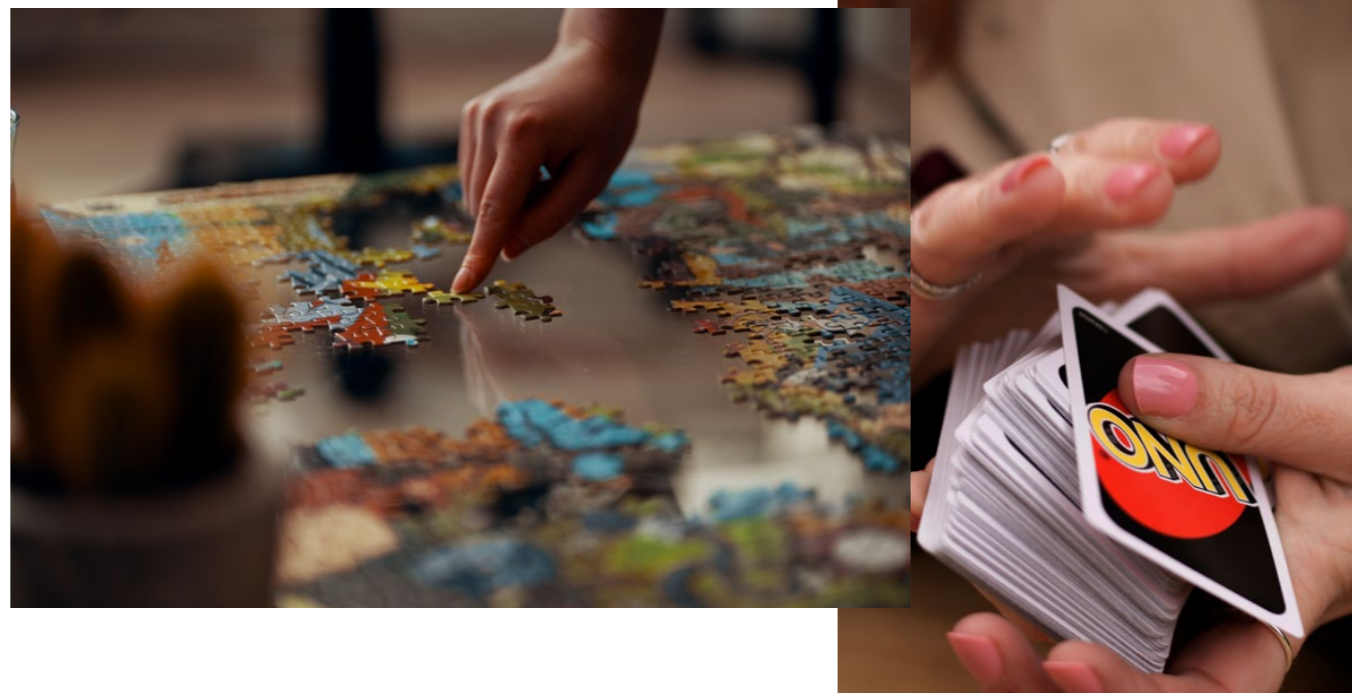
Written by Soteris

For January's social event, Planit is organising a board games week from the 22nd to 26th, at lunchtime (13:00 - 14:00). The idea is to bring the team together with fun games, challenging our minds and releasing stress.

More so, we can introduce games that reflect the diversity and ethnic backgrounds of our team, so feel free to bring them in to your studio for everyone to play. The games should last less than 15min long. For example, Monopoly would not be ideal as it takes too long. On the other hand, Uno is a great example (but can be a reason to not want to talk to your colleagues at the end of the day, everyone loves a bit of drama right?! haha!).

As part of the board games, a jigsaw will be placed in the Altrincham studio from Monday to be gradually completed day by day from each of our colleagues as they pass it. Jigsaws are considered great for mental health, stress release and relaxation.

Let the games begin!!



People

FAREWELL SAM CORTIS

Goodbye and good luck to Sam!

Sam joined Planit in London in 2022 and became a big personality in the studio right away. A true people person with a genuine interest in others, Sam was able to turn his hand to a number of different scales of projects such as co-design at Padnall Lake, highways improvements in Oldham, and urban extensions at Manydown.

Sam has decided to take a different direction and focus on smaller scale work, alongside a friend he studied with. We will miss him around the studio, especially his gregarious nature and Christmas quizzes. We wish him all the best in his new venture, and look forward to giving him a proper send off soon.



Recommended

[Read more on the 10 reasons](#)

Ten reasons to avoid Amazon by EthicalConsumer.org

1. Amazon is an aggressive tax avoider.

In 2021, the UK lost around half a [billion pounds](#) from Amazon's tax avoidance. Due to its strategies, Amazon will likely pay around £22m - just 4.2% of the £500m that might be expected in the UK.

2. Amazon has violated workers' rights for years.

Ten-hour days standing, with the target of packing [one item every 12 seconds](#), having to pee in a bottle for fear of taking breaks. Workers have been found to be at greater risk of musculoskeletal disorders and back injuries from having to lift multiple heavy parcels and work long hours to meet quotas, according to inspectors.

3. Amazon workers say abuse comes at a high price for workers in the cost of living crisis.

Amazon workers have led protests against the company's [appalling workers' rights](#). "Real wages are going down while the corporation rakes in record revenue - \$121bn for the second quarter of 2022 - and doubles down on its union-busting tactics."

4. Amazon sells its services to fossil fuel companies.

Amazon offers its high tech services to help fossil fuel companies find more oil and gas - helping drillers run simulations to maximize how much oil they can pump from existing wells, as "[part of their sustainability work](#)".

5. Amazon has a poor climate record.

In 2020, Amazon announced its target to be carbon neutral by 2040. Yet, in 2021 its [emissions actually rose by 18%](#). The company reported its emissions at over 70 million tons of CO₂e in 2021. Amazon destroys over 124,000 products a year that are [outdated or have been returned](#).

6. Amazon is damaging small independent businesses.

Over 86% of people in the UK shop on Amazon, and it controls 30% of the online retail market. Its monopoly has marginalised many small independent businesses.

A [2022 report](#) found that in the US, Amazon's market capture has displaced 136,000 bricks and mortar shops.

7. Amazon has repeatedly been accused of racism.

In 2021, Amazon was sued in the US over accusations of "systemic" racism in its offices. A manager said that Black people were hired for lower positions and were not promoted as quickly.

8. Amazon is accused of union busting.

"[Amazon has been virulently anti-union everywhere it operates](#)," according to Christy Hoffman, General Secretary of UNI Global Union and Sharon Graham, Unite Executive Officer.

In May 2022, [workers and managers were fired](#) from a US warehouse after they successfully voted to unionise.

9. Amazon has faced questions over spying on politicians, trade unions, and consumers.

In June 2023, the company was accused of storing the voices and geolocation of children after they used Alexa. It was also accused of security failures for its Ring cameras, which put users' private videos, their accounts, cameras, and videos at risk of being controlled by hackers, according to the suit.

10. You'll be in solidarity with workers and activists globally.

Organisations all over the world have been protesting Amazon's actions - from workers' unions and civil society organisations to anti-racism and anti-gentrification campaigns.



[Ethical alternatives to Amazon](#)

Did you know?

It's Energy Savers Week!

1. Turn down your thermostat by 1°C and save around £105 a year on energy bills and 305kg of carbon dioxide. But to keep comfortable and stay safe we recommend staying above 18°C
2. Switch your heating off when leaving the house for a few hours. It's cheaper to reheat your home than keep your heating on low when you're out, unless you own a heat pump.
3. Fit draught-proofing strips to your windows and doors and save around £45 a year. This can be a quick DIY job. Keeping extra heat in your home will leave you feeling warmer and more comfortable.
4. Get a hot water cylinder jacket and save roughly £50 a year on energy bills. Jackets are easy to fit, typically cost under £30, and you'll also spend less on a hot shower or bath in the future.
5. Keep furniture away from radiators and heaters to feel warmer at home. Don't overwork your system by blocking your source of heat and remember to remove radiator covers to get more value for money.

[Compare how much electrical appliances cost to use](#)

People

HAPPY 10 YEARS STU!

Written by Rich

A long time ago in a company far far away, this young whipper snapper came into our studio for a job interview. Wind forward 10 years and he is still here. Trapped. My memory is shocking but I am reminded Stu came in for an interview, I sat him down at a desk and gave him some work to do. That was the interview. "See you tomorrow" was my response. Clearly Stu had passed with flying colours. He could work a PC, model in Studio Max, what's more to like?!

The last ten years have flown by and I can honestly say Stu has brought another dimension to the business. He is a jack of all trades, master of many. Nothing phases Stu, he is calm, collected, efficient and methodical. He is the defensive midfielder of my team. My Bryan Robson, my Roy Keane, my Rodri. And he can drink like them too! Oops sorry Stu.

His skill set knows no boundaries whether it be CGI, VR, Verified Views and Verified Video, he can do the lot. His most notable accolade was developing our methodology for producing Verified Video. His process driven brain pioneered something the visualisation world has yet to produce. He is a ground breaker.

So on behalf of the Directors, we want to say thank you for the last ten years of service. And no, you cant leave yet, there is too much to do.



**We design for the living world.
For today, tomorrow and the next 200 years.**

As a B Corp, we envision a global economy that uses business as a force for good; that is purpose driven and creates benefits for all stakeholders, not just shareholders.

We believe that we must be the change we seek in the world. That all business ought to be conducted as if people and place matter. That, through products, practices, and profits, businesses should aspire to do no harm and benefit all.



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