

Sporting heroes

Let's celebrate their
achievements

PAGE 16



Go get the vote
says Traveller councillor

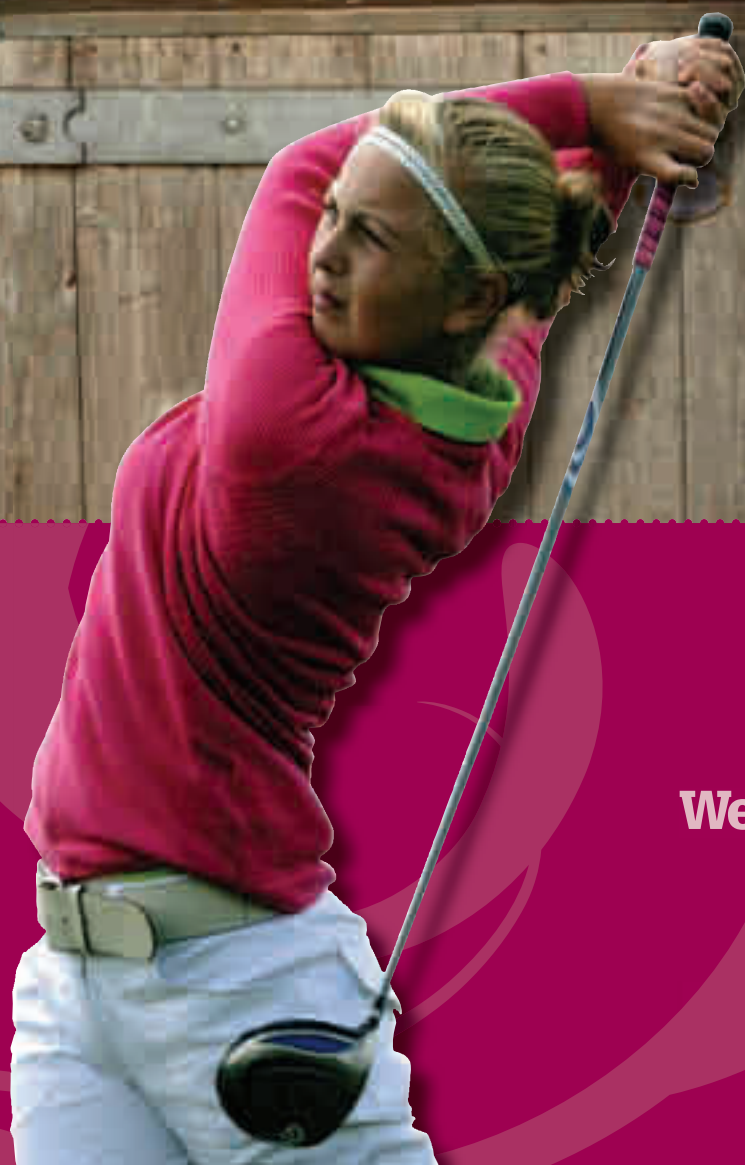
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Police need training
Welsh Minister promises review

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Meet the young
Romany Gypsies
working for the BBC

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Chorley's shame

Council denies local families' needs



The Linfoot Family: (from left) Nathan, Michael, Charlie, Michael and Patty. PHOTO: Jason Smalley

THEY'VE BEEN TRAVELLING around Chorley for 35 years. And still they have nowhere legal to live.

Michael Linfoot, his family and a group of local Travelling families have failed to get planning permission on their land, Heath Paddock, near Chorley (below).

"Our children are in local schools and doing well," says Michael. "We're registered with local doctors. We pay our council tax and have recycling bins. We are all income tax payers and contribute in every way we can.

"All we are asking for is somewhere to live. And all they've given us is an enforcement order. If we're evicted that'll be seven families made homeless."

Chorley Council have been told by north west regional planners that they need to find ten new pitches, five transit pitches and ten Traveller Showpeople pitches by 2016. Chorley Council has failed to find a single site. And they dispute the need. "The Lancashire-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment in May '07 highlighted there was no need for any pitches for Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople in Chorley Borough," a Council spokeswoman told TT. She added that a review was underway.

Yet Michael Linfoot knows of at least 54 cases of people pitched up around Chorley in the past three or four years.

Buy it yourself

Councils could loan sites money to Gypsy groups

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS like Michael Linfoot could get grants to buy and manage their own sites.

TT has learned that some councils are considering bidding for Government money, earmarked for affordable housing, to help solve the sites crisis. The money could be loaned to Travelling groups who would set up a community land trust to buy land 'in perpetuity' for their families and their descendants.

Councils could even help the families find the right land.

The funds would come from the Government's Homes and Community Agency. An Agency spokesman told TT: "We are keen to encourage the development of innovative solutions for site provision that can speed up delivery, improve standards and give value for money and better outcomes."



Heath Paddock: Could councils help Travellers buy their own sites?

PHOTO: Jason Smalley

Register for your vote now

Get off your a*** and vote for your future, says Irish councillor

A LOCAL COUNCILLOR and self-confessed 'Irish Paddy' is appealing to the Travelling community: register for your vote.

Wiltshire councillor Simon Killane claims the best way to beat the problems facing Travelling people in Britain today is by the ballot box.

"I'm an 'Irish Paddy' and a councillor: and my message is get off your a*** and get out and vote!"

Killane says he was 'outed' as being from a large Irish Travelling family when he stood as a councillor in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. When he delved into his past, he discovered his Irish Traveller roots.

Killane told TT: "It's not something I'd carried around with me. But then you hear what people say – 'Travellers are ignorant; they leave litter; they steal'

– well I'm certainly not ashamed of my background."

"My grandfather was a drover who grew up in extreme poverty in Ireland. When his wife died of TB he took his 12 children on the road with him." Killane's father ended up on the buildings in Birmingham and married a girl from the Birds Custard Factory (she had been living in a Belgian convent). Simon was born in Longford, in the Midlands.

"I have an empathy for people of all backgrounds," he says. "If Gypsies and Travellers choose this way to live we have a duty to accommodate them. I worry about the young children: we have to give them a decent education and the opportunity to have the freedom to become citizens."



Simon (front left) as a child with his family.
PHOTO: thisiswiltshire.co.uk

BELOW: Wiltshire councillor Simon Killane.
PHOTO: thisiswiltshire.co.uk



3 simple steps to getting your vote

1. Go to your local council office and fill in an Application to be Registered as an Elector form.
2. Where it asks for Current Address write the place where you get your letters.
3. Sign the declaration at the bottom.
(Ask for help if you are not sure about any details)



Who else?

Gypsy Candy Sheridan is a councillor on North Norfolk District Council.

news in brief

Prize memories

Tireless campaigners Maggie Smith-Bendell and Ryalla Duffy have both written their life stories, Maggie's *Our Forgotten Years* and Ryalla's *Pinnies and Pegs*.

We've got six signed copies to give away. To win your copy enter our Family Album competition – just send in your favourite story and photo of years gone by.

Read more reviews at www.travellerstimes.org.uk



Learning laptops

The Government's Home Access project, launched this month (December), could help Travelling people in England with laptops and a year's internet connection.

The project aims to help children with their schoolwork, although anyone in the family will be able to use the computer. There will be a charge for the package, although some families may be eligible for a free package.

See Home Access at www.travellerstimes.org.uk

Free internet guide

Are you worried by the web and the dangers it might bring? Foxed by computers? You need *Easy Internet – A Guide for Gypsies and Travellers*.

The Guide, produced by the Travellers' Times team who brought you the *Planning Guide for Gypsies and Travellers*, will show you in easy, step-by-step stages how to get on the internet, log on to the web and use it safely. And it'll be free!

Easy Internet – A Guide for Gypsies and Travellers will be sent out free with your next issue of Travellers' Times in March.



Eddy Buckland
PHOTO: Hilary Smallwood

Eddy Buckland from the Forest of Dean has diabetes. "It's no bad thing," says Eddy, "you just have to learn to manage it."

Now Eddy, along with daughter Delphine, son Gary, young Traveller Jess Royal and TT's own Barbie Smith, has helped produce a CD guide on coping with diabetes, *Don't Leave It Too Late*.

The CD has been produced by Diabetes UK with The Rural Media Company. And Diabetes UK have 30 free CDs and booklets to give away. Call Casey Collyer on 01372 720 148 (casey.collyer@diabetes.org.uk).

Listen to the CD at
www.travellerstimes.org.uk

Healthy ideas

PERSONAL HEALTH RECORDS for Gypsies and Travellers on the move are to be trialed in the West Midlands and South East. Travelling people in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Birmingham and Hastings, Rother, East Kent and Surrey will be the first to be offered the new health records.

The records give Travelling people the chance to present their own personal health history whenever they seek medical attention.

Travelling health records have been tried – and failed – before. This time, says Pacesetters, which is running the trial, it will work provided health workers get the right training.

More info?

Call Hilary Williams 07786 391483
hilarywilliams.pacesetters@nhs.net

New health centres open across the UK

Daily Mail attacks service

ONE OF THE FIRST walk-in health centres to help Travelling people opened its doors in October.

Dr O'Neill is one of the doctors at the new Leighton Hospital Walk-In Centre in Crewe:

"Gypsies and Travellers should have better access to health services and the new walk-in services have the potential to work well."

The Centre, along with others across the UK, was set up to give Gypsies, Roma and Travellers and others including asylum seekers rapid access to health facilities. It followed a health report by Lord Darzi, High Quality Care for All, in 2008.

But the Centres was attacked by The Daily Mail. Columnist Richard Littlejohn complained of "gypsies jumping the NHS queue" and described Travelling people as mostly "Irish tinkers, itinerant scrap-metal merchants, scruffy hippies left over from the

1983 Glastonbury Festival, or dubious waifs and strays from Eastern Europe doing a bit of freelance begging."

However, the Daily Mail's own web poll reportedly recorded 93% of people in favour of the new Centres.

"People are sometimes cynical about new health initiatives, but this Centre should help reach a lot of marginalised groups," said Dr O'Neill.

If you need help urgently there are around 100 NHS walk-in centres, some attached to hospitals, and open very late into the night. There are also going to be over 150 new GP-led health centres, open every day of the week from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., across the country. Want to find out where your nearest one is? Call NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Where are the Centres?

Our Leanne Jones called NHS Direct to find her nearest one. Go to www.travellerstimes.org.uk and find out what happened.

The **Horsmonden Gypsy Horse Fair** has gone back to its roots. But no market stalls and no beer didn't stop everyone having fun, reports *Damian Le Bas*

FOR THOSE WHO haven't been to Paddock Wood horse fair at Horsmonden, Kent, in a few years, this year's event might have come as a shock to the system. Until the year 2000, the fair was awash with market stalls selling everything from fancy baby clothes to huge, flash sets of stainless steel water churns. And there used to be enough beer flowing to fill most of those churns, too. But then it was banned.

In 2007, a long campaign to bring the fair back succeeded, and brought with it a new, clean and thoroughly traditional image. Nowadays the beer has stopped flowing in Horsmonden and every pub in the village closes for the day.

Sixty-seven-year-old Romany Gypsy Billy Boyle has been coming every year. "There'd be fifty or sixty trolleys going in every direction, all with loads of people on them. And they'd all be drinking. The beer used to come in barrels, barrels of beer." Some things haven't changed: young Gypsy men and women still trot their horses through the village – everyone having a great time.



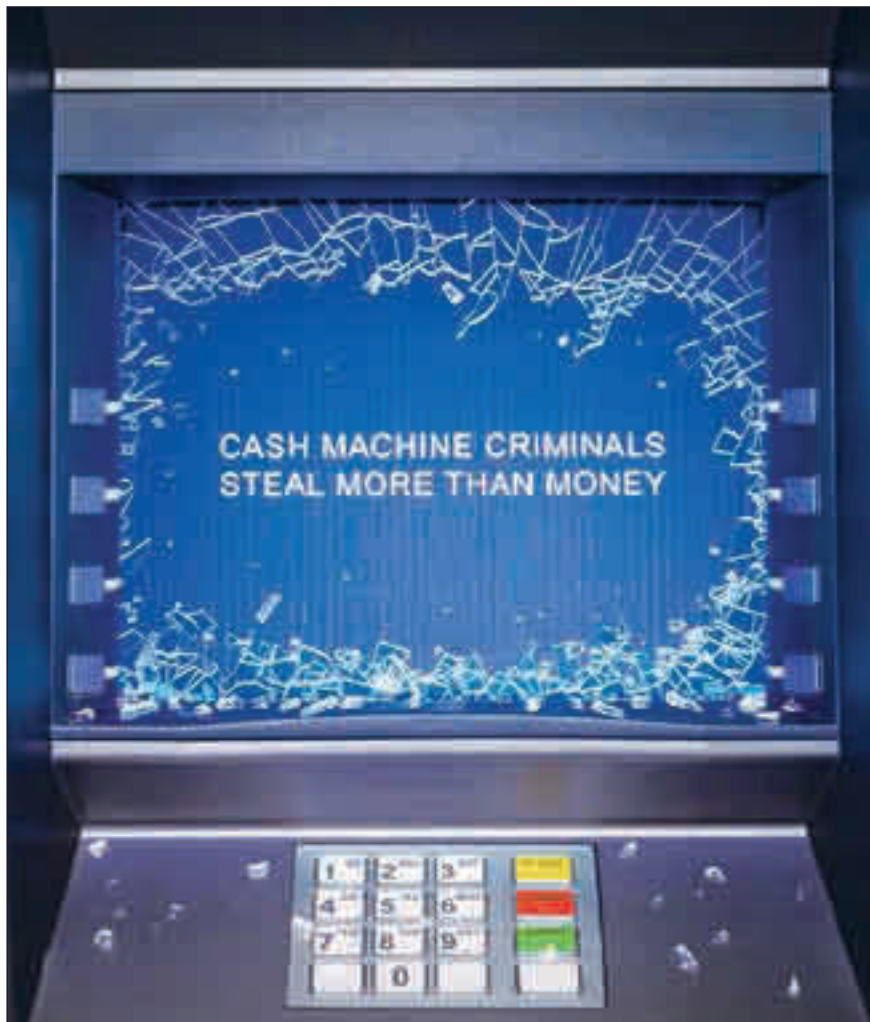
PHOTO: Alison Chapman

Muddy marvellous: The TT team was at Stow this autumn to promote the Travellers' Times website and meet little Charles Wilson and Paula Nicholson from Doncaster (above). Thanks to all of you who filled in a questionnaire, says Barbie Smith. See pictures from Stow Fair at www.travellerstimes.org.uk and look at Young Times.

Fairs, rides, conferences? List your event at www.travellerstimes.org.uk

And all the latest events are on the website too!

The legendary Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt was born a century ago. Don't miss the International Gypsy Swing Guitar Festival in his honour, January 17-25 in London. www.quecumbar.co.uk



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Police need training

Welsh Assembly will review Gypsy plans, promises Minister

WELSH JUSTICE MINISTER Dr Brian Gibbons met a group of young Gypsy Travellers in November to talk through the Assembly's new plans for the community.

While health, welfare, education and planning are part of the plan, called *A Road Less Travelled*, the police are not.

But Pembrokeshire Traveller Christine told the Minister better police training was essential. Relations with the local police were good, she said – "We've even had a 'cuppa with the copper' sessions." But elsewhere things are not so good. Andrew, another young Traveller, told the Minister: "If anything is stolen we get the blame."

As the Minister agreed to add policing to the draft report, 15-year-old Caroline told him: "The biggest problem is lack of sites."

"There are more people wanting sites; the report promises two new ones by 2013. But is it enough?"

There are 19 council-run sites in Wales serving an estimated 4,000 Gypsies and Travellers. Yet the last site in Wales was built in the 1980s.

A Welsh Assembly spokeswoman said: "There is now a requirement on councils to find sites. And until there are enough to go round, there has to be toleration of unauthorised sites."



Dr Brian Gibbons meets young Gypsy Travellers from Monkton Priory School, Pembrokeshire

A Road Less Travelled promises:

- To listen to what the community is saying
- Build two new sites by 2013
- Give £1m towards repairing old sites
- Increase planning permissions for private sites
- Send more children to secondary school
- Deliver better health care

And the sting in the tail?

Cut down on illegal sites

Consultation on the report ends January 5, 2010.

www.wales.gov.uk/gypsytravellers

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Hit and run attack

TRAVELLING NEWPORT MUM, Sarah Hendry, is living in fear for her life after a hit and run attack. Police say the driver failed to stop.

Moved on by the council, the Hendry family were staying on an unauthorised site near the Transport Bridge, in Newport when a driver sped past in November. "I flagged him to slow down, but he gave me a lot of abuse and took off. The next thing he drove back down and hit me with the car." Sarah was taken to hospital with cuts and bruises and released later.

"To be honest I'm terrified now," said Sarah. She and her family have been waiting for a safe place to live for years. Newport has no site for Gypsies and Travellers.

Newport police are appealing for witnesses. Call 01633 838111 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111

LEFT: Sarah and family
PHOTO: Hilary Smallwood

Hollow promises

FOR 54-YEAR-OLD FATHER of five, Trevor Smith, a Romany man from Brecon, the promise of help for Welsh Gypsies and Travellers has a hollow ring to it.

"We have been down in car parks, lay-bys and we've had nothing but abuse from passersby – windows broken, stones thrown. I'm a proper Romany and I've been local to this area for as long as I can remember – my father was King of the Gypsies and he was here with his horses and carts."

Trevor now has a council-owned house and yard outside Brecon and two of his daughters have gone into bricks and mortar accommodation. "I've been in housing before, but I can't live in it."

Daughter Claire, 28, says there's a crying need for a site in the Brecon area. "They are just pushing us from pillar to post; other areas have sites; we need one too."

Recent plans to build a site near Talgarth, says Trevor, were defeated by local objectors. Trevor, who sits on the local Gypsy Working Group and who has passed all the site warden courses, says the problem is that councils are spending all the money on refurbishment and nothing on new sites.




Brecon man Trevor Smith with daughter Claire and grandson Wisdom PHOTO: Bill Laws

Scotland

When the charity Save the Children pulled out of working with young Gypsies and Travellers in Scotland last year a group of young people set up on their own with help from Article 12, which promotes human rights among young people. See www.article12.org/gypsytraveller.html


Young Gypsy/Traveller Lives group are conducting **their own online survey. Tell them what you think at www.travellerstimes.org.uk**

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PHOTO: Damian Le Bas



Acting up

Tom and Pender take to the airwaves

Brothers Tom and Pender Buckley from St. Neots have become two of the youngest Romany Gypsies to work for the BBC. They've been telling Damian Le Bas about acting in the BBC's first-ever series made for, and about, the Gypsy community.

Tom plays Ambrose Buckton, and Pender Ethan Arkley in the second series of *Atching Tan* by Dan Allum and the Romany Theatre Company. *Atching Tan* is airing this winter on BBC radio and internet radio.

Find out what Tom and Pender think of their acting careers. Go to www.travellerstimes.org.uk and check out Young Times and listen to previous editions of *Atching Tan*



Our Day Out



Kathleen, Clorna, Josh and Courtney from Ipswich spent a blissful summer day out at Lowestoft thanks to Sylvia Parker, Stacey and Alfie. "We played in the golden yellow sands," wrote Kathleen after. It was a great day out.

Have you a Great Day Out photo to share? Send a copy to Travellers' Times – don't forget to add your name and phone number.

Green gold for Malvern young Travellers

A group of green-fingered young Travellers found themselves taking on the job of judging at the Autumn Royal Horticultural Show.

Charlie, Chloe, Vicky, Victoria, Ryan, Gavin, Megan, Shannon and Chantelle are part of Malvern and Upton's Inclusion project. Last April they started growing their own mobile vegetable garden. Last autumn they entered it at the famous National Show ... and won.

Ryan told TT: "It had to be an edible garden. We grew it all ourselves." Twelve-year-old Charlie said his family was dead proud: "I grew better parsnips than my Granddad."

After a photo shoot with TV gardens star Chris Beardshaw (here he is with Vicky, Charlie and Shannon), Vicky, Chantelle and Megan found themselves being invited to judge the work of 'fusion-chef' Felice Tocchini. "One of the dishes was all right," says Chantelle, "but the others were urch!"



Beating the bullies

Seventeen-year-old **Charmaine Finney** from Gloucester left school at 12. "There was a lot of bullying, but I moved around a lot too," she says. "I think Travellers should have their own separate schools."

Then Charmaine decided to get a better education for herself. "I went to Connexions and since then I've done a retail course, my level 1 and 2 Literacy and my Health and Safety."

"Young girls are expected to sit down, marry a boy and clean up for the rest of their days: I don't want to be like that!"

Mary Smith left at 14. "We'd moved to Gloucester and I went to a pupil referral unit and struggled a bit."

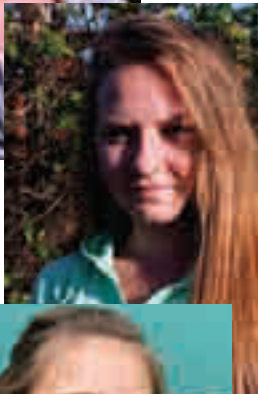
Mary took three GCSEs last summer. "I didn't think I'd get through them, but I did. My mum Sally is really proud of me." Mary's ambition is to become a teaching assistant in a primary school: "I want to help other children so they don't miss out on school."

Interviewer **Leanne Jones** says: "If we had more Traveller teachers we'd have more Traveller children in schools."

Charmaine



Mary



Leanne

Who helped you learn?
Nominate your favourite teacher or teaching assistant for TT Top Marks Award. See page 15.



YOUNG TIMES

Read it!

Jimmy Goes to School

David Johnstone, illustrated Levi Pinfold (Somerset Traveller Education Service, £5 each plus p&p. 01823 3556644) Suitable: KS2/3 and can be used in PSHE to explore different cultures, homes, bullying.



Walking through the school gates for the first time can be scary. Especially when the school bully is out to get you. And when the village doesn't want you or your kind around.

David Johnstone's *Jimmy Goes To School* tells the story of Jimmy the Traveller and his school days. It's based on a true story (but this one has a happy ending) and produced by Somerset Traveller Education Service.

More books reviewed at www.travellerstimes.org.uk



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Paramedic Chris Porsz went snapping photos at the Oxney Road site in Peterborough in the 80s. See more of Chris's unique collection at travellerstimes.org.uk





chris porsz

Paramedic Chris Porsz has a special way of relaxing from the hurly-burly of life in the ambulance: he takes photos. And in the 1980s he chose to go snapping at the Oxney Road site in Peterborough. The pictures have been gathering dust ever since," admitted Chris, "and I wanted to do something with them."

Is there anyone you know here? Let us know at Travellers' Times. See more of Chris's photos at www.travellerstimes.org.uk

Welcome back to The Book

After funds ran out earlier this year Travellers' Times, the only national magazine for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, hit the buffers.

Your letters and offers of help poured in:

"I am very mad that you are taking Travellers' Times from us. That magazine is the only thing that explains us. I am hoping that this letter will make a difference," wrote 13-year-old Katie Caffrey from Kingswinford. **"I like Travellers' Times, you tell me and I can send a letter back with signatures and raise money for Travellers' Times."**

"You need to make more books about Travellers and raise more money," wrote 14-year-old K. Lee. **"I go to the youth club every Thursday where we write about Travellers' Times."**

And Casey Davies from Dudley told us: **"I'm 13, I live in the West Midlands and I go to the youth club. We use Travellers' Times there for our education. I want the Travellers' book to continue."**

The good news is the Government's Department for Communities and Local Government will help the magazine until 2011.

Subscriptions

TT is back and reaching more Gypsies and Travellers than ever before. This, and our Spring issue (41), is being sent out for free. From next summer we will be bringing in new subscriptions. Make sure you get your free copy now! Call Leanne Jones (01432 344039) or email leannej@ruralmedia.co.uk with your details.



Save Travellers' Times, demanded Coral Marie Davies (left) and Katie Caffrey. Coral and Katie are part of the Return2Learn project in Dudley along with Mary Devlin, Casey Davies, Sinead Davies, Holly Davies and Peter Wilson.

Cultural contribution

Dear Sir,

With reference to the articles about Travelling people camped at Montrose, it should be noted that in Tayside, and Perthshire in particular, the Gypsy/Traveller community is strong and vibrant. Their writers, their poets, their story tellers and their musicians have all contributed to Scottish culture. Betsy Whyte has helped put Scotland on the world map with her books about Gypsy/Traveller life. Gypsy/Travellers have fought alongside their fellow Scots in the great wars and continue to serve in our armed forces.

Yet they experience levels of discrimination unacceptable in a country that is recognised across the world as having a strong sense of social justice and a respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

We can judge a community by the way it treats its minorities.

*This letter from **Lynne Tammi, Montrose**, was published by her local paper, The Courier.*

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IN TOUCH

your letters and emails

TT's largest postbag comes from behind bars. Here are some of your letters.

I don't understand after so many years how public houses can get away with being racist against Gypsy and Traveller people. It seems like there is a green card to be racist against Gypsy people.

Robbie Gardner, HMP Bullingdon

I recently lost my mother and this got me thinking I should do something of my family history so I can hand down a book to my son. That way he, and my kids, will come know their roots. My father, Mike Flood from Dundee, was a Traveller of Irish descent. I only found out about TT lately. I asked if I could have a copy: they said no. So I chored it instead!

Neil Falconer, HMP Guys Marsh

I pass every TT around the Romany community in here and they say that if you ever want us to pay for the magazine or postage don't hesitate to ask.

Gary Payne, HMP Camp Hill

Our prison library refuse to allow copies of TT to be removed. In the 10 minutes allowed in the library once a week it's impossible for the boys to read it.

D. Armishaw, HMP Hull

Thanks for publicising stories about Travellers in jail. TT's a grand magazine for us boys.

Jimmy Boy, HMP Hull



Are there any magazines out there to show how to make a *vardo*? I'd like to learn how to make one for when I get out.

Shane Leroy Hughes, HMP YO1 Ashfield

■ Sorry, Shane, we don't know. But some of our readers might be able to help. Contact TT if you can help Shane.

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OPENING TIMES





PHOTO: Damian Le Bas

The new woodspeople at Powdermill Woods in East Sussex

In memory of Matty



This is a photo of Matty Gilmore with his horse Penny Lane, writes his daughter, Maxine Gilmore from Trefnant in Denbighshire. Penny Lane won the Prestatyn Derby Welsh Harness in the late 1960s. "My brother Bob and I are sending you this in memory of Dad who died at the age of 82."

Advertise now

Are you looking to buy or sell to the Gypsy/Traveller community? If your answer's yes get in touch with TT's sales team now! 01432 344039 or email leannej@ruralmedia.co.uk

Learning the old ways

A walk on the wild side with some young Travellers

Woodcraft was once a traditional craft for many Gypsies and Travellers. Now a group of young Romany Gypsies in Sussex is learning what makes the forest tick.

Nowadays, not many of us would know where to begin if we had to live in the woods. What makes the best fire wood? Which wood is best for tent pegs?

A few years back, Travelling families knew how to make a living from the forest. They could weave baskets and make pegs to sell. They could collect wild food and build bender tents from hazel. Travellers knew how to take care of the woods. When they moved away you'd barely know they'd been there.

In Powdermill Woods, East Sussex, young Travellers have been getting the chance to learn some of the old ways of the woods. And they're having a lot of fun doing it.

Organiser Claire Bingham from Friends, Families and Travellers, says: "They all have a great time here and everyone who joins in gets a Circle of Life Rediscovery award to show what they've learned."

Jake, 13, is from Lewes. "We've

played games and cooked apples. Today we carved a butter knife out of wood. It's *kushti* here."

"We used to earn a living out of carving," says 22-year-old Ivy from Hailsham. "We don't anymore but it's nice to learn about it."

Steve, 24, is another of the new generation of young woodspeople. "When you work together doing things like carving, people become a team," he says. "It's *kushti* to sit round the fire as well."

Want to find out more?

Call Marina Robb (07966 514469)
or email
info@circleoflifediscovery.com



PHOTO: Alison Chapman

Finding 'the way'

O Patrin is Romany for 'the way', the signs Travellers used to leave each other to show where they were going. The Romany Theatre Company have been on a schools tour with their play of the same name.

O Patrin, by Romany playwright Dan Allum, also featured Candis Nergaard and Sarah-Jane Miller, both from Romany backgrounds, and Rachel Drazek. "The play is about two sisters. One of them is like the ghost, or conscience, of the other, and she tries to teach her sister about Romany traditions," explains Candis.

"Some of the children who've watched the play have come up with really interesting questions about the culture. One girl asked what would happen if the girl in the play married a *gorja*. It's not easy to answer that!"

www.romanytheatrecompany.co.uk



Shraddha

The story of a Romany family pushed to its limits

Shraddha, performed recently at London's Soho Theatre, features a family being evicted from their home by the 2012 Olympic Games. **Damian Le Bas** was assistant director.

It's the summer of 2007, and 17-year-old Pearl Penfold has fallen in love with a *gorja* boy from the local housing estate. To make matters much, much worse, her family is about to be evicted from their East London site to make way for the Olympic Games.

Writer Natasha Langridge spent four years researching and writing *Shraddha*.

Directed by Lisa Goldman, the play explores themes close to the heart of the Romany community.

ARTS and culture

TT
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Award

Best in school?

Traveller Mary Smith from Gloucester (read her story on page 9) admits she struggled with her school work. But she says: "Luckily there was someone there to help me."

Who's the best teacher or teaching assistant you ever knew? Nominate your favourite now! Write to TT Top Marks Award or go to www.travellerstimes.org.uk

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Our sporting heroes

Never mind boxing stars such as Tyson Fury and Billy Joe Saunders, Britain's Gypsies and Travellers have plenty of sporting heroes to celebrate

Jason Roberts

Our Olympic hopeful

It's fast and it's furious: it's wheelchair rugby.

Not a sport for the faint-hearted, wheelchair rugby is a high-octane, Olympic sport. Gypsy Jason Roberts knows all about it: he's represented Britain in the Olympic team at Beijing and Athens.

"It's a full contact sport with the guys doing 15 to 20 mph," says 36-year-old Jason who's back in training with Britain's Olympic squad.

Jason from St Martin, Oswestry was seriously injured in a van accident when he was 18. It hasn't held him back.



PHOTO: PA

Shelby Smart

Youngest ever county champ

Playing the winning stroke at Gloucestershire this year was clever Shelby, Smart by name, smart by nature. At 14 Shelby became the youngest ever Gloucestershire Lady's County Champion. Her home club is Knowle near Bristol, she's been playing since she was nine, and she's a member of the English Women's Golf Association. When she was featured before in TT she told us: "I get lots of support from my Mum, Heidi, Dad, Dean, and the rest of my family."

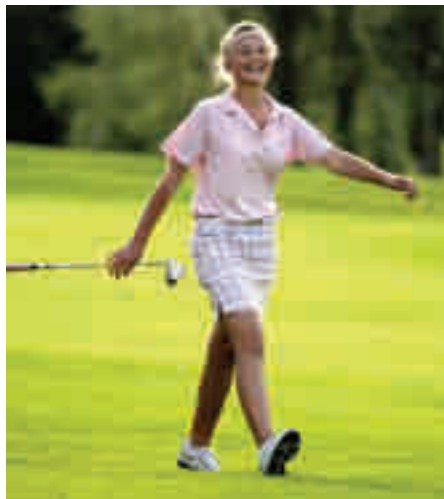


PHOTO: leaderboardphotography.com

Freddie Eastwood

Striker with Coventry City

"I'm a Travelling lad, so growing up I got a bit of racism about my caravan and bits and pieces. Obviously you don't want to hear any racism at all in the game so it is disappointing when you hear it. I'm a proud lad about my background – I've grown up in a Travelling family and I'm proud of that."

"As my career's gone up the ladder, with bigger fans and bigger stadiums, you get a bit more of it because if you're doing well, the away fans don't tend to like it so I've got quite a bit of racism."

"I've never reacted in a bad way to be honest, but I think that if you kick racism out of the game at all levels it'll make it a better game for everybody. All Travellers get racism because a lot of people don't like them for the stuff they do but I'm sure there's probably good and bad in everybody and obviously we are not all bad."

Freddie's interview features in Out of Site, a new resource designed to tackle racism from Show Racism the Red Card. (www.srrtc.org).



PHOTO: srrtc.org

Phoebe Buckley

One of the top trialists at Badminton

Phoebe Buckley from Willingham, Cambridge finished in the top quarter at the Badminton Horse Trials this year with her horse Little Tiger.

She's been riding for over 12 years and, she says, "I'm proud of who I am. I've never tried to keep quiet about my Travelling background. But if I do a good job I expect to be taken on my merits."



PHOTO: SWNS

Do you have a sporting hero from the community? Tell us all about them at www.travellerstimes.org.uk

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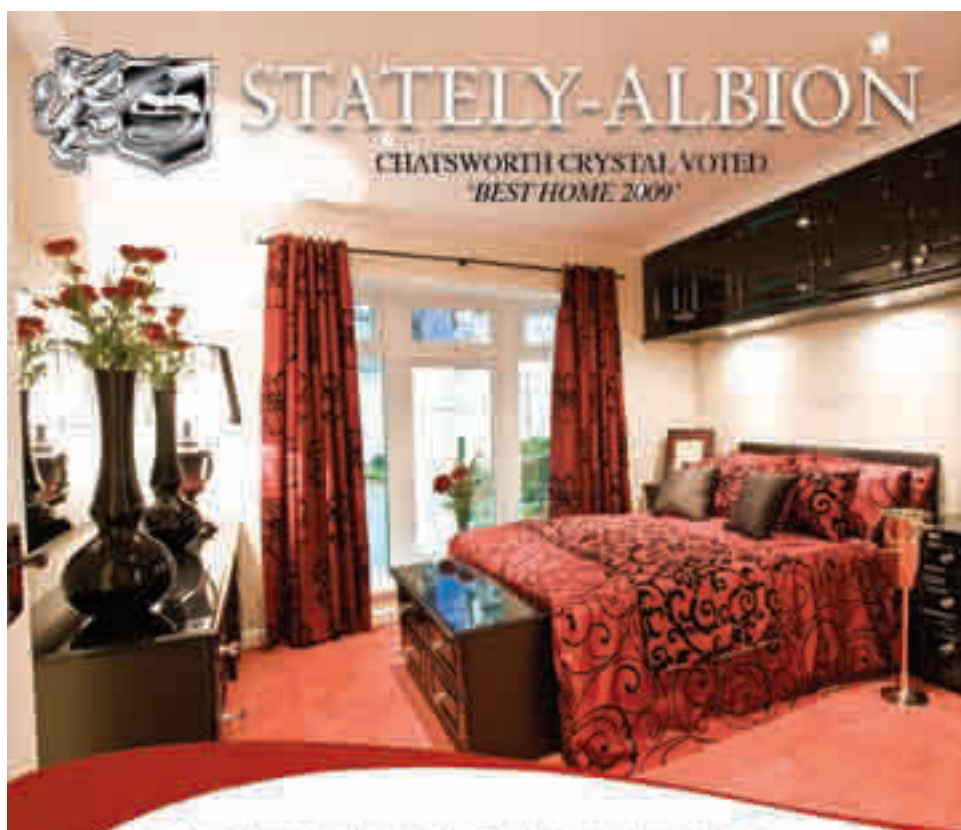
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Romany Route launch



The Aven Romanale Band, a rich sample of Romany culture, Kamenci, Slovenia.
www.youtube.com/travellerstimes PHOTO: Jane Jackson

Roma arts launch The Council of Europe's Route of Roma Culture and Heritage in October 2009. The Kamenci Roma settlement in eastern Slovenia hosted the partner organisations and the media from across Europe, with music, dancing and presentations. The partners will be working together to increase the knowledge about Roma history, culture, values and lifestyle, to encourage the contribution of Roma to Europe's cultural life and diversity.

Roma and racism

'Maria' is a young Roma woman living in Britain today. But she's afraid to admit her heritage.

Maria is a young woman living in Cardiff. But Maria is not her true name – she is afraid to speak it.

"I cannot say my name because I am Roma. Loads of people in this country don't like Roma.

"I don't know why. For example if I was in Germany on holiday and was robbed, I wouldn't come home saying 'All Germans are robbers'."

Three years ago Maria lived in Slovakia with her father, mother, brother and sister. Then her father left to find work.

"Dad came to Cardiff for a job, for any job. He worked very hard and three years ago we came over to join him."

Now Maria is doing an NVO in business studies and administration and working to improve her English. "We can't study in Slovakia," she explains. "I cannot improve my skills at home because I am a Roma. It is the racism.

"But Roma people are no different to anyone else: some will do their best; some are rubbish.

"We are just human, like anyone else."



Final thought

"It's easy to forget that lots of Travelling people own their own houses, run their own business and are doing very well, thank you. I think TT sometimes suggests that all members of the community are poor and powerless. Well we're not."

Delphine Butler

**Welcome
back!**

**"As an American Romany of British ancestry, I
welcome TT back! I too very much missed TT!"**
Donald Locke

Travellers' **TIMES** is published by The Rural Media Company

Travellers' Times is the national magazine for Gypsies and Travellers, and people and organisations who work with Gypsies and Travellers. We are guided by our editorial group and strive for accuracy and fairness.

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