

# Travellers' TIMES

The national magazine for Gypsies and Travellers

WINTER 2010 | ISSUE 44 | £3.50



[www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

**FINAL  
FREE  
ISSUE!**

**Subscribe now  
from only £14**

## Derby win!

**Crowning  
success for prize  
winner Shirley**

**PAGE 12**

## Premier performance

**Gypsy soccer star bags a trial at Liverpool FC**

**Young Times PAGES 10-11**

## Win £100

**in the TT Big Survey**

**CENTRE PAGES**





# Your final FREE issue

**Travellers' Times is going subscription only from March 2011 – so this is your final free issue. Subscriptions to Travellers' Times start from only £14 a year. New subscribers are being offered a fantastic limited edition pewter boxing glove key ring (r.r.p. £9.99). Offer only whilst stocks last, so hurry. Fill in the subscription form on page 21 and post to us or call 01432 344039.**



## Sheriff drops in

HERTFORDSHIRE'S High Sheriff Gerald Corbett had a personal poetry reading when he dropped in to visit Brookes Place site in Potters Bar, owned by the Casey and Jones families. After a tour and his poem, read by Doll Casey's grandson, Gerald Corbett was shown around the county playbus. Last month the High Sheriff was on walkabout at Ver Meadows in Redbourn.

## Sites shortage

### Government decision will worsen sites situation

ENGLISH COUNCILS are expected to put plans for new sites on the back burner after the Government scrapped regional planning boards.

The boards, which would have delivered new council-owned sites and refurbished old ones, are being shut down. Although the High Court has ruled the closures 'unlawful' Minister Bob Neill insisted: "The Government remains firmly resolved to scrap this layer of confusing red tape."

Some councils say they are actively seeking new sites. Herefordshire Council, featured on a regional BBC news programme, appealed for landowners to suggest sites. (The Council – 01432 260139 – has an estimated shortfall of around 70 pitches). Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury (01452 396836) are also seeking land.

While the English government budget has been cut to zero, the Welsh Assembly's £2m sites budget escaped the cuts. At a five-pitch site at Withybeds, Welshpool, a £1.3m revamp paid for by the Welsh Assembly and Powys Council, rents will rise from £35 to £60 a week. Other Welsh sites set for improvements are Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, Torfaen and Cardiff.

**Footnote: Carmarthenshire Council says it needs 25 new council pitches around Llanelli and Whitland and another 15 private pitches.**

## UK first for Gypsy site

THE BUILDING of five new pitches on a Worcestershire site marks a first for one UK housing association. Most housing associations offer housing to local people, but the pitches at Wythall, Bromsgrove are being built by Evesham's Rooftop Housing Association. Could Rooftop be setting a trend? Will other housing associations provide much-needed Gypsy pitches?

## Inside your last free TT...



Maguire Cage  
Fighters  
**page 6**



Talented  
Travellers  
**pages 8-9**



Yarm Fair  
**page 13**



Family Album  
**pages 14-15**

COVER PHOTOS: Justin Strafford and James Newell

### What the Government did

- Scrapped England's £30m sites budget
- Promised to halt bank holiday pull-ons
- Scrapped regional plans to provide new sites

# Halt evictions call



PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet

ROMA VIP MODEL: Roma's new Park Avenue tourer (below) was one of the stars of this year's Caravan and Motorhome Show in Birmingham. Built at their new factory in Bedfordshire, the Park Avenue is proving popular, says Roma's Stuart Aitken. A basic 19-foot costs around £20,000, but buyers can pay up to £40,000 on a customised model. "We make thirty to forty units a year and they are all hand-built from the laminates to the upholstery. People want the very best and we pride ourselves on providing it," says Stuart.



## UPFRONT news from your world

ASSEVEN Essex families including two mums-to-be were forced out on the road, a UK Human Rights organisation has called for a halt on evictions across Europe.

The families were evicted after bailiffs Constant and Co moved in on Hovefields near Dale Farm, Essex earlier in the year. While two sisters found a legal place to stay, four other trailers, the families and children traumatised by the evictions, were moved on by Essex police under the 1994 Criminal Justice Act. According to one report, one family, moved into Bedfordshire, was allowed to stay only after a midwife, called by the families, pleaded with police.

It prompted the Human Rights Clinic at Essex University to call for a halt on all evictions of Roma, Gypsies and Travellers across Europe. Director Leticia Osorio told TT: "We appeal for a halt on such evictions to give governments time to find solutions which respect the rights of Travelling people."

## news in brief

### That's me, Dad!

Clare Pawlik from Highbridge found her Dad John Pettyfer, her brother Johnny with the black cap, and friend Joe Matthews on TT's front page. "My other brother Danny is upset: he's hidden behind Dad's shoulder."



### Lost learners

A learning centre for Gypsy and Traveller children in Bynea, South Wales closed down earlier this year.

### Sexual violence

Family Matters offers help over sexual violence. "Contact us: you are not alone," says the group. You can call the national helpline: 01474 537 392 or visit their website [www.familymattersuk.org](http://www.familymattersuk.org). (Kent now has its own Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and counselling services.

### Stand proud

Register your pride in your community by making sure you get counted in next year's Census. Every ten years a census is held across England and Wales and if you've got a bit of spare time then you can get paid to distribute forms. Census day is March 27. 35,000 temporary jobs are available. **Check [censusjobs.co.uk](http://censusjobs.co.uk) for details**



Before he died this November, Scottish Traveller Alex 'Toby' Stewart shared a little of his musical life story with Bill Laws



*The late Alex Stewart*

Alex 'Toby' Stewart was fourteen when he left factory work to play 'the box', his piano accordion, at the Glasgow Metropole. He toured abroad and shared venues with the likes of Shirley Bassey, The Platters, Andy Stewart, Norman Wisdom and the king of the accordion Will Starr. But it was a chance meeting with Glasgow's Jimmy Logan that changed his career.

BORN IN 1943 to father John and mum Maggie Mullen, Alex and his seven brothers and sisters all went to school. "Father made sure we had an education, reading, writing, the whole thing. He used to make money, but he was an awful jack-the-lad. He'd go in a pub and say: 'There's a £100. When that's finished, give me a call.'"

"Every summer we followed the farm work, doing piecework. You'd have your bottle of cold tea and you'd work 'til 5 o'clock. You'd set your snares at night for a rabbit, hare or a pheasant. There was always plenty of food."

They travelled with their trailer and car or van until the winter when they would settle down in their "wee house" in Ramsay Street, Montrose.

"One time when I was about seven and they were away at the pictures, I took down father's accordion, a Forbes of Dundee. I fell in love wi' it. It was the smell and everything. My sister said: 'You're not to touch it', but I started playing 'On top of old smokey' – phuff - 'all covered in snow' – phuff phuff."

***"The secret is to enjoy what you're doin'"***

It was the start of Alex's love affair with 'the box'. Although he never could read music he had inherited his family's musical talents. His grandfather was Pipe Master John Stewart, while his father regularly played along to the wireless: "I'd listen to him and pick up a tune – there was nae telly then."

"One day this fellow come along and he said: 'We're short of someone in the band. Would you play?' Money was tight then so I says: 'How much?' He said: 'I'll gi' you a pound.'" That night Alex earned his first music money.

News of the new, talented young musician spread around Glasgow and Alex was invited to meet the famous Jimmy Logan.

"I asked: What should I say tae him? This feller says: 'Jimmy Logan's got the Swedish champion on wi' him. Tell him you could cut two of your fingers off and still play better than the Swede.'"

A year later he was in Ireland, playing the pubs. He went on to devote his life to music (giving concerts and making records and CDs) and to his wife Avril.

Undergoing chemotherapy meant Alex missed this year's Appleby Fair. But Alex could still play a tune. Sitting in his front room, preparing for his photo to be taken he gently began to play *Somewhere My Love*, the Doctor Zhivago theme.

"The secret," he says, "is to enjoy what you're doin'." And did he enjoy it? "Aye. Every minute."

**Listen to Alex at [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)**

# Fire alarm

## EVENTS what's going on



DEVON AND SOMERSET firemen were handing out free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at this year's Priddy Fair.

"Most Travellers and Showmen know someone who has been affected by fire or carbon monoxide poisoning," explained firefighter Mike Troop as he and Chris Grantham (above) chatted with Travelling families about fire safety.

"Everybody needs to know what they can do to prevent a fire," agreed Showman Henry Chipperfield.



**Did you know?**

**1,400**  
**Caravan fires every year**

**5**  
**Candle fires every day**

**3**  
**Every three days someone dies in a cigarette-related fire**

### Six Top Tips

- Keep parked trailers six metres apart
- Never store fuel under trailers
- Keep gas canisters at least six meters away
- Never run electrics from van to van
- Fix a smoke alarm and keep it tested
- Keep all vents clear and fit a carbon monoxide tester



PHOTO: Linda Taylor

### Diary Dates

**JANUARY 2011**

2nd January

Peterborough Show-out Day



IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROSE-MARIE AND TONY CARTWRIGHT

**Liz Emmett proudly presents back from Las Vegas**

*Rose-Marie*

**Available for all Travellers' weddings, birthday parties and the Travellers' get-togethers, singing your favourites — *Pal Of My Cradle Days, When I Leave The World Behind, When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New, and many more.* Complete with the Rose-Marie band and The Rosettes.**

For more information please contact Liz on

Home: 01908 269903 Mobile: 07984 338 158 E-mail: [elizabeth.emmett@sky.com](mailto:elizabeth.emmett@sky.com)

There's  
only one singer for the  
Travellers...and that's

*Rose-Marie*

**NEW CD NOW AVAILABLE**

ROSE-MARIE 'SONGS FROM THE BLITZ' £20.00 plus p/p.  
20 BEAUTIFUL SONGS TO BRING BACK THE MEMORIES. PLEASE NOTE THIS CD IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE SHOPS TO GET YOUR COPY PLEASE CALL LIZ ON THE ABOVE NUMBER.

FEATURING *The Old Rugged Cross, The Sunshine Of Your Smile, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, I'll Be Seeing You, Dear Daddy, Let The Rest Of The World Go By AND MANY MORE*





## Steps ahead

Róisín is inspired by her Gypsy roots

IRISH DANCER Róisín Mullins is to premiere a special Gypsy dance in London this spring. The Lord of the Dance star, now running her all-female dance company, plans to stage Raven Dance at Broadway Theatre, Catford in March.

Róisín and her dance company have performed on stage, at celebrity parties and alongside entertainers like Des O'Connor, Ant and Dec, Bobby Davro and X Factor's Daniel Evans. Twenty-eight-year-old Róisín comes from a long line of dancing Romany Gypsies and she's made a name for herself with her fusion of Gypsy dance forms combining Irish dance with the expressive arm movements of the Middle East, the fiery footwork of Flamenco and spinning motion of India's Kathak dance, influences that mirror the passage of the Roma people themselves from India into Europe.

Róisín says she is inspired by her great-great-grandmother who used to dance for a living in Ireland and who would have followed the old style (Sean-nós) Irish dance. This form, with its free arm movement and the low 'battering' footwork, hailed from the Connemara region of Ireland in the nineteenth century. (The 'stiff arms' associated with traditional Irish dance were introduced later through official competitions and examinations.)

**Tickets for Róisín's Raven Dance are on sale at Broadway Theatre now: 020 8690 0002 (www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk) www.ravendancecompany.com**



**Double whammy: Cage fighters John and Tommy Maguire from Wisbech St Marys, Cambridgeshire. John (left) sports his silver (UCMMA Championship) belt and gold (OMMAC Championship) belt over his shoulders while brother Tommy sports his own Anger Management belt. Both men train at the Pro Am Fight Centre in Cambridge. "Cage fighting is a big sport in the US and catching on fast over here," says John. So what's it like? "Well: once you're in there there's nowhere to go."**

PHOTO: Darren Benson Photography



# Reach for the sky

HALF A CENTURY ago Keith and Violet Emmett forked out £150 to buy their heart-stopper of a ride, the Skymaster. For the next thirty years they toured it around Aylesbury and Oxford with their family, recalls daughter Liz.

"My brothers, Keith junior and Thomas, and my sister Michele were all brought up on the fairs. We had some very good times," says Liz.

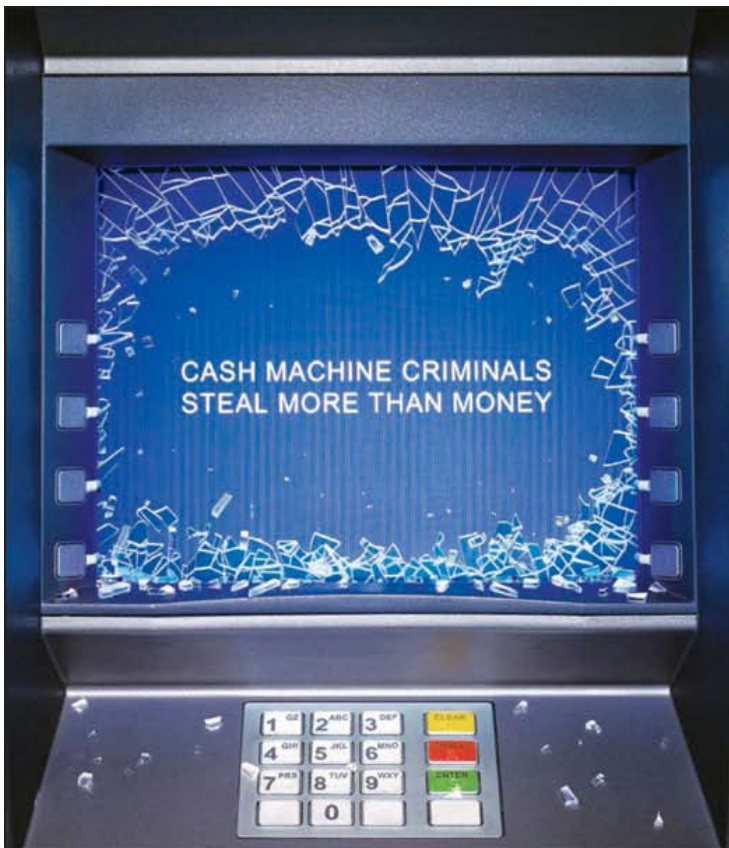
Keith, a merchant seaman, and Violet, a Showman's daughter, first met at the fair. "Dad used to collect the balls at a coconut shy run by Watford's Dotsy Aymer. 'Carry me bags,' she'd shout at him. Then Dad started writing to Mum when she was only fourteen years old. Eventually they were married and started off with the Shooter, a rifle range game, and then took to the road with the Skymaster."

They gave up life on the road to run amusements at Cosgrove Lodge Park near Milton Keynes in the 1980s. "We ran fairground rides there for years and put on big firework displays in Milton Keynes." Now the family run Cosgrove Lodge as a hotel and cabaret venue.



*The Skymaster*

**The Irish singer and life-long friend of Liz Emmett, Rose-Marie, one of many artists who have starred at Cosgrove Lodge Hotel.**



**Tell us what you know about ATM crime.  
With your help we can stop them**

- Call Crimestoppers anonymously with any information you may have
- Tell us what you may know, not who you are
- Your information could be worth a £25,000 reward from LINK

**Remember, this is not a police operation. Call Crimestoppers, an independent charity, anonymously today.**





# Born under a wandering star

Gypsies and Travellers have been great entertainers for a thousand years. But could the days of entertainers hiding their ancestry now finally be over, wonders *Jake Bowers*



*Travellers Got Talent 2010 winner Olivia Ayres: "I think Cher is brilliant."*

PHOTO: Christopher Preece

BOB HOSKINS, Helen Mirren, and Charlie Chaplin are just three famous faces that have been open and proud about their Romany heritage. But in recent years, those performers with a Gypsy or Traveller heritage have kept their background quiet, fearful perhaps that revealing their true identity would harm their career.

Yet it wasn't too long ago that having Gypsy or Traveller roots was seen as a career booster rather than killer. The 1970s rocker and current West End performer David Essex traded on his Gypsy connections to great effect. David Essex may never have actually met his Irish Traveller granddad, but he exploited his roots to his benefit. The 1950s chart-topping crooner Danny Pugh was also marketed as 'the boy with the golden earring' after being

discovered busking close to his home at the Corkes Pit stopping place in St Mary Cray in Kent.

X Factor hopeful Cher Lloyd's Romany roots were recently revealed and former winner Shayne Ward's Irish Traveller heritage has long been known, and it's done them no harm. But should they have made more of their backgrounds?

Travellers Got Talent 2010 winner Olivia Ayres certainly thinks so. "I think Cher is brilliant, but she has never come out and talked about her heritage on TV," says Olivia. "I want her to be proud of the fact she's a Gypsy!" You can see her and many other proud performers in the national Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month competition in a film recently made for BBC1 on the Travellers' Times website at:

[www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

## Make the most of your dreams

Well done to seventeen-year-old Cher Lloyd from Malvern on her stunning success in ITV's X Factor, writes *Shanterlena Knowles*. She's become a role model for other young Travellers by wowing audiences with her powerful voice and strong performances. Her success follows her time in the competition where, week after week, she has gone from strength to strength and shown other Travellers that you can achieve your dreams no matter what you are!



TV TALENT: Cher Lloyd



# Prized poets

## Lyrics and laughter at Lewes

LEWES TOWN HALL played host to young wordsmiths from up and down the country at a prize-giving ceremony for Gypsy and Traveller poetry. Traveller students and their classmates gathered with families and friends to celebrate the winners of this year's Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month Poetry Competition.

Prizes were also awarded for portraits of Gypsy and Traveller life. One of the winners, Sam Smith from Cranford site in Hounslow, told TT: "I done a picture of Billy Joe Saunders, a load of photos behind him, it took me about three or four weeks to do it, and my cousin there stuck a picture of him

on, drew a couple of trees behind it and he won!"

Sam's mum Clara hopes the next generation will have the best of both worlds: their own businesses, and an education to back it up.

"My daughter wants to be a health visitor. She would be the first of our family to go on to college. I want Sam to do well, I want him to have his own business. I want them to have the education I never had."

See the full list of prize winners and a film of the day at

[www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

Damian Le Bas

PHOTO: Patricia Knight



## Being me DANNIEL BENNETT

For a Gypsy boy like me  
I know it's hard for  
all to see  
I live not in a trailer  
nor travel around  
I live in a house  
and not on a ground.  
I go to school  
I try and follow their rule  
So please accept me for all that  
I am  
I am just a Gypsy boy  
who's not yet a man.

Danniell Bennett's 200-mile journey to Lewes was a small journey compared to some of his school experiences in Nottinghamshire.

"I wrote the poem 'Being Me' because, at my previous school, on my first day there, my geography teacher told me: 'We don't want your kind in this school.'"

"I hope when I'm older, hate and prejudice will end." Read Danniell's poem in full at [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

**alpha  
TALK**

## Are you in Trees, Drives or Plastics?

Create a professional image, and increase your business - order your 0800 number today!

### Special Telephone Numbers:

- Connect straight to mobile
- Advertise on Van or Business Cards
- 0800 Freephone & 0845 Local Rate numbers
- Area numbers for London, Manchester, Liverpool and all other areas
- Same day connection

### Websites:

- Professionally designed two page website for £199.00
- Free Hosting for 12 months
- Free email set up
- Free Domain name registration (.com/.co.uk/.net/.biz)

### Virtual Office:

You can now have a prestigious office address in BIRMINGHAM & LONDON for as little as £120.00 per annum.

**CALL NOW  
FOR OUR  
SPECIAL PACKAGE  
PRICE £299.00**

**inc VAT**  
includes one  
number, website  
and address

**Tel: 0845 021 2000**  
**Mob: 07828 155 626**  
**email: sales@alphatalk.com**

**Increase your business with a special  
telephone number on your Van**  
**Call: 0845 021 2000**





# YOUNG TIMES

## Shoot to the top!

### Tom's Liverpool turn

Big congratulations to Tom Turner, the seven-year-old Gypsy from Totton, Southampton, who has been signed for a trial with Liverpool Football Club.

Tom is a rising star and has a legion of fans including Freddy Eastwood, the Romani Gypsy footballer and Coventry striker. "Keep it up Tom. You're a lot better than I was at your age!" PHOTOS: James Newell



## standing proud

Fourteen-year-old Donna Marie Jones stands proud alongside the executive officer of Sandhurst Town Council, Surrey beside a display about Gypsy and Traveller culture. Donna Marie and her grandmother put the poster together as a celebration of their Gypsy roots.



**God bless! Here are  
Maryann and James  
McCarthy from Dale Farm  
at their first confirmation  
back in July.**



# a day to remember

IT WAS A day to remember for Mary Elizabeth and Edward James from Wisbech when they both successfully completed their Bronze Arts Award. To get the Award, Mary and Edward spent three months documenting the lives of young Travellers.

Cambridge Arts Development worker Zoe Davidson told YT: "It was a pleasure to work with the pair of them... and they've taught me a lot more about Traveller and Gypsy culture."



AWARD WINNERS: Mary Elizabeth (left) and Edward James receive their certificates from Zoe Davidson.

**TRAVELLING AHEAD:** Welsh Travellers Tracey Dixon, Natalia Jones and Nicole Miller (front) and Sam Janes (back row, right) were on hand to launch Wales' Travelling Ahead project recently. With them are the Welsh Minister for Social Justice, Carl Sargeant, John Davies from the Travelling Ahead programme and Mark Chapple from Save the Children in Wales.

## TELL US ABOUT IT

YT editor Shanterlena Knowles says: "Keep those stories coming in!"

Call Shanterlena on 01432 344039 or email [shanterlenak@ruralmedia.co.uk](mailto:shanterlenak@ruralmedia.co.uk)



# CHARTLEY

## CHILDREN'S BEDROOMS

### Beautiful Childrens Bedrooms



Hand made in England  
Your design or one of ours

For your FREE  
brochure visit our  
website or call us...

Showroom open  
7 days a week



[www.chartleybedrooms.co.uk](http://www.chartleybedrooms.co.uk) Tel: 01959 533676

## MASTERMAN PARK HOMES LIMITED



### TRADE PRICES FOR YOUR OWN LAND



- Custom build specialist
- Design your own home
- Sizes up to 60'
- The Best discount prices
- Ex-display priced homes
- Omar main distributor

Call us or visit our website for availability

**TEL: 01953 606202**  
**[www.masterman.co.uk](http://www.masterman.co.uk)**

Valley Side Industrial Estate, Off Station Road, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0NN





Shirley, husband 'Podge' and daughters 8-year-old Shaina and 15-year-old Vanessa  
PHOTO: Justin Strafford

## Christmas comes early for Shirley

Shirley Evans' name was first out of the hatful of entries for TT's Crown Derby dinner service competition

"I THOUGHT it was a joke," said a stunned Shirley when TT phoned her with the news.

But it all came true last month when mother-of-five Shirley took delivery of her prize. On a tour of the Crown Derby factory Shirley explained to manager Liz Parr why she had a special reason to be pleased: she recently lost all her own Crown Derby in a burglary.

The family had moved from a site in Oswestry to a house in Manchester. "I'd come back to the house from a church meeting and found everything gone." Shirley even lost the first piece she ever collected, a Crown Derby hawking basket given to her by her mother. "I couldn't believe it: I loved it so much."



Shirley with Crown Derby manager Liz Parr  
PHOTO: Justin Strafford

**See Final Thought page 23 – why we love our Crown Derby**



# Yarm Fair 2010

Photographer Linda Taylor presents her portrait of October's historic Yarm Fair. Set up in North East England in 1214 it is, says Linda, a little gem which deserves the support of the Travelling community to keep the traditions alive.





# Family Album

## Snapshots of your life

Yorkshire's Joseph Price and his sister, Maggie-Ann with their parents around 1956. The photo was taken near Hollins Hill not far from the caravan site at Shipley where Joe now lives.



Yorkshire's Joe Price (left)

Eastender Annie Lee (below)



Eastenders: Mention of Cardiff's Lydia Lee (TT 43: Focus on Evictions, page 8) prompted Frank C Lee to send a photo of one of the London Lees, Annie (left). Annie married Walter Page and settled in Plaistow, East London to bring up her eight children. She was Frank's great-great-grandmother.

Frank, from Maldon, Essex, has been doing the family tree and traced the Lees back to 1750.

"One of Annie's daughters, Alice, married my grandfather, horse dealer Henry Chambers and they had thirteen children so you can imagine the size of our family."

Zacharia Lee, one of the family members, was once arrested for vagrancy in Epping Forest, but he was discharged when, in 1846, he proved he had a 'fixed abode' at Chingford.

And Zacharia's sister, Charlotte Lee, married Jack Cooper the Fighting Gypsy and "a terror to all lightweights of the ring," writes Frank.

Following your family history? Make the most of:

### Romany Road

[www.romanyroad.co.uk](http://www.romanyroad.co.uk)  
01432 760938 or 01473 250007  
(Membership £9 a year)

### Romany and Traveller Family History Society

[www.rtfhs.org.uk](http://www.rtfhs.org.uk)  
(Membership £10 a year)



Romanys Pride "is my pride and joy," declares Rosie Ripley from Westham in Sussex. Nicknamed Ben, Romanys Pride is her 13.3 hand Gypsy cob stallion.

Ben was bred and broken by Rosie's father, George. "Ben has done Travelling funerals, children's parties, pulled a Gypsy wagon, a London trolley and a two-wheeled cart.

"Best of all he came twelfth out of 400 horses at the Wales and West Show this year." Sometimes, says Rosie, managing life with a pony is a bit of a struggle. "I couldn't have done it all without the help of Mum, Jeanette, and Dad, George," says Rosie.



Rosie's pride & joy

### 2011 Gypsy calendars

Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG) still have some of their 2011 calendars. Send £6.00 to DGLG, Unit 3, Molyneux Business Park, Whitworth Road, Darley Dale, DE4 2HJ.



Have you anything to share from your Family Album? Check out [www.travellerstimes/familyalbum](http://www.travellerstimes/familyalbum)



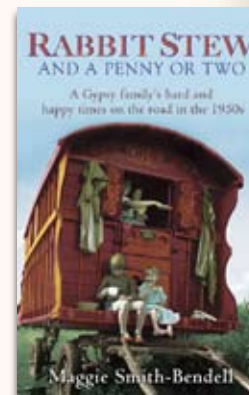
From left to right: Polly Frankham, Maggie's dad Lennard Smith, her mum Defiance Small (frying a dish of Joe Gray) with Bob Frankham in the Mendip Hills, Somerset around 1936. Lennard and Bob are peg making.

Flying off the shelves this Christmas is Maggie Smith-Bendell's *Rabbit Stew and a Penny or Two*. Re-released this autumn, her book has been in the bestseller list and already sold over 35,000 copies.

Cindy emailed TT from Somerset to say: "Maggie Smith-Bendell's book is brilliant. I am not a Traveller, but I just wanted to say thanks Maggie for such a good book."

Speaking to TT from her hospital bed (she was recovering from a virus) Maggie revealed that she's already working on a second book which could be out early next year.

*Rabbit Stew and a Penny or Two* (Little and Brown, £5.99) previously published as *Our Forgotten Years*.

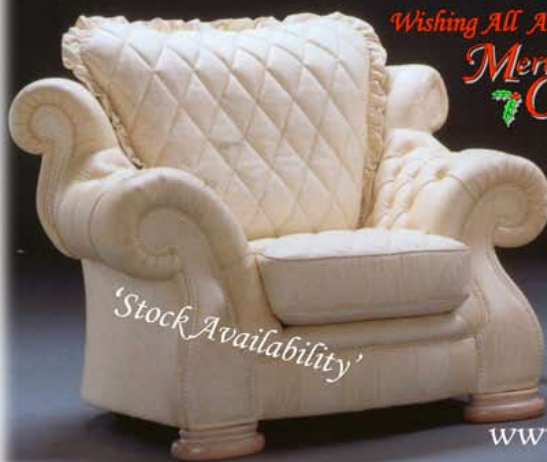


# THE SOFA MAN



SUPPLIER OF THE FINEST FURNITURE

Wishing All A  
*Merry Christmas*



'Stock Availability'



'Available with  
Original Swarovski Crystals'



[www.TheSofaMan.co.uk](http://www.TheSofaMan.co.uk)

Please contact Matt: 07989652438 or 07548324719 - Email: [info@TheSofaMan.co.uk](mailto:info@TheSofaMan.co.uk)



TheSofaMan.co.uk



# IN TOUCH your letters and emails

## Intentional Trespass

Intentional trespass  
Well what can you say  
They just don't want us to  
Live our own way.

No sites for us to pull on,  
Nor common land in sight  
Without the ditch of death dug,  
A moat to keep you out.

Where do we wander, where do we go  
Without this persecution  
In this land, we're meant to know.

England, what are you doing  
To your people? It's a sin  
Against the Gypsy people who's  
Bones are wearing thin.

The cross that we carry  
Has got too heavy, now, with time.  
This what your doing  
Well it's got to be a crime.

Stay strong you Gypsy people  
As we're never giving in  
To what has been a punishment  
For having our tanned skin.

S.O.S. Please help us.  
To this world, I say  
Don't let them do this  
To the Gypsy, in this way.

International rescue  
Please hurry, come and see  
Just what they're doing  
To Gypsies just like me.

*Suzanne Sherred, British  
Romany Gypsy and proud.*



## Desperate search

I was adopted as a child but I know I came from a Travelling family and my Mom's name was Margaret Smith. This was in the Stourbridge area in 1976. I'm desperate to find her. I know that Travellers are very private people and I respect that but I am lost in my search for her.

*Jo Billingham*

**Contact TT if you can help Jo**

**PETER JONES**  
FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL

**ORDER NOW ON**  
01924 362510

See the largest display of Royal Worcester Hand Painted Fruit in the country at our **Wetherby & Doncaster** shops:

21 Market Place  
**Wetherby**  
01937 582686  
&  
Frenchgate Centre  
Lower Mall  
(near Sainsbury's)  
**Doncaster**  
01302 329465

**LIMITED EDITION 600**

**NEW**  
ROYAL WORCESTER  
ESTABLISHED 1751

Order yours NOW for February / March delivery

**£199**  
Height 8"

### The New Royal Worcester Gypsy Figurine for 2010

#### A precious purchase at Stow Fair

This very special **NEW** Royal Worcester model 'A precious purchase at Stow Fair' features Mary Ellen making a special purchase of valuable Hand Painted Royal Worcester Fruit at Stow Fair. She's decided to carry her baby boy and give priority in the pram to her Royal Worcester purchase! **BEAUTIFULLY HAND PAINTED**

February / March delivery.

**SAVE £10** Purchase 'A precious purchase at Stow Fair' and 'Like Mother - Like Daughter' together as a pair for £388 and **SAVE £10!**

This Royal Worcester Gypsy Figurine 'Like Mother-Like Daughter at York Races' depicts a young gypsy mother with her daughter at York Races - She's showing off her new Royal Worcester hand painted fruit Vase. It's the perfect matching piece to 'A precious purchase at Stow Fair' Ht.8" approx Limited Edition 600. £199  
*Hurry - only a few remain for Sale!*

**Just a few remain**

**PETER JONES, Dept. 2305, 22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB**  
**Order Hotline 01924 362510 24hrs.**

**ORDER FORM** To: Peter Jones, Dept.2305, 22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB.

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No \_\_\_\_\_  
(Maestro)

☐ Pair of Royal Worcester Figurines - **£388** **SAVE £10**

☐ A precious purchase at Stow Fair - £199 (006410)

☐ Like Mother-Like Daughter - £199 (447287)

☐ **PLEASE ADD £3.99 P&P PER ORDER**

☐ I enclose my cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Debit my credit/debit card with £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Card No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(last 3 digits on the signature strip)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_



# Classic Furniture

Italian Furniture Specialists

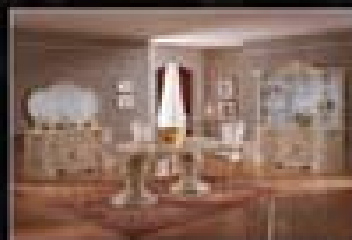
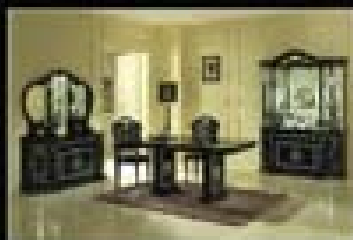
"Quality furniture is what turns a house, into a home"



## Designer Contemporary Furniture

From Italian and European Designers including:-

Contemporary Living Room Furniture • Modern Bedroom Furniture  
Designer Dining Room Furniture • Contemporary Lamps, Lighting & Accessories



## Classic Furniture

43 Lichfield Street • Bilston • West Midlands • WV14 0AJ

T: 01902 490 992 M: 07944 525 733

E: [info@classicfurniture.biz](mailto:info@classicfurniture.biz)

W: [www.classicfurniture.biz](http://www.classicfurniture.biz)





Janie Codona: training Travellers

## Stroke saver

### Daughter's health course comes up trumps

A TRAVELLING MAN who suffered a stroke found himself in safe hands recently. His daughter who had just done a One Voice health course recognised the signs and sent for help straight away.

Gypsy Janie Codona is with One Voice and helped train eight Travelling people. "We taught everyday subjects from first aid, children's health and wellbeing, women's personal health and diabetes as well as more specific health issues like recognising signs of a heart attack. It was all about equipping people to help themselves and their families," explained Janie.

Run in partnership with the NHS and Buckinghamshire New University, One Voice has just received an NHS award. "Doing that work and getting recognition for it is quite rare within the Gypsy and Traveller community," says Janie.



### Did you know?

Most people go first to their pharmacy for medicines, but chemists have a range of other services on offer. Over 6,000 pharmacies in the UK offer screening for chlamydia, nearly half provide an NHS stop smoking service, and most have consultation areas in which a range of screening, health improvement and medicines interventions are delivered.

## CLASSIFIED

**Place a Classified advert for £23.50 inc VAT**

**FOR SALE STATIC CARAVANS** Over 30 vans in stock, at all times. Prices start from £1,000. Can be delivered anywhere in the UK. Tel 07515 359044

**JOB VACANCY** Brent Irish Advisory Service is an Irish charity based in Willesden, North West London. We are looking for an experienced Traveller Advocacy and Development Officer. For job application pack please e-mail sharonoregan@btconnect.com

**FOR SALE** near Northampton, Travellers' plot on a private site. Electric gates, last remaining plot to be developed. Licensed for one mobile home and one day room. All mains services on site. For more information ring Lee on 07983 809453

## Emily's

Washable Mats

Ladies and Childrens Shoes

Call at the shop or full postal service.

Tel: 01582 794756 / 07787 767968

## The Travellers Advice Team at Community Law Partnership

Legal Advice for Gypsies & Travellers on evictions, planning matters, homelessness and other issues.

Please telephone us on: 0121 685 8595

or e-mail: office@communitylawpartnership.co.uk

**FOR  
SALE**

**Travellers' Times can help you sell your land or property** for as little as £23 plus VAT per month. Just go to our website [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk) and click under the FOR SALE heading. You can also advertise anything on our new FOR SALE page for £5.00 plus VAT per month. Advertisement deadline for Spring Issue is 25th January, 2011.

# Rokkerin's rokkerin

Should we be sharing  
our language?

## Romani on the BBC

Gypsy playwright Dan Allum's *Atching Tan*, performed on site by the Romany Theatre Company and starring our very own Damian Le Bas and his fiancée Candis Nergaard, was premiered on BBC Radio 4 in November.



## RESOURCES great books and CDs

*The Dialect of the English Gypsies*, B. C. Smart and H. T. Crofton (BiblioBazaar reprint of the original 1875 book, priced around £15 on amazon.co.uk)

*Romani in Britain: The Afterlife of a Language*, by Yaron Matras (Edinburgh University Press, price around £60).

IT MIGHT SEEM a bit late to review a book on Romani that came out 135 years ago, but *The Dialect of the English Gypsies* is still one of the best books on English Romani.

A brand-new copy will only cost you about £15 on Amazon and there's a wealth of little stories in old 'Wester' Boswell's puri jib. Even then, some Travellers preferred using Romani words and phrases in English sentences.

Meanwhile Manchester University's Yaron Matras has just written a new book on the changing language. It's technical, but very thorough. For the book, forty Romany Gypsies from across England and Wales were interviewed about the language as it is today. Amazingly, Matras's team found almost all the words recorded in 1875 are still in use somewhere in the country.

The challenge for any scholar is finding out how the language is used privately. Travellers learn it in the family. Should we be expected to let on everything to outsiders?

When Romani is written down, the spelling can be confusing. There's a lot of accents among Gypsy people. But rokkerin's rokkerin whether you're from Penrith, Peterborough or Penzance.

**Reviewer: Damian Le Bas**



*Kakka chavvy, the coat's mandi's but I  
chored the beard off mi dai!*  
PHOTO: Alison Chapman



## MEMORIAL MASON

Family owned – established 1924

**Full range of memorials supplied throughout England & Wales**

Free brochure available • Competitive pricing • Workshop on-site available to view  
Design & bespoke work

Thankfully the purchase of a memorial is, for most people, not something they deal with often. For this reason we are on hand to help you with your choice and also offer advice about things like burial ground regulations, the relative merits of different types of stone, what to include in your inscription, etc.



**01604 780045**

4 Wold Farm Park, Broughton Road, Old, Northants NN6 9RH





PHOTO: Shantelena Knowles

## Lisa's a lesson to all

TEACHING ASSISTANT and Romany Traveller Lisa Smith has been shortlisted for a Good Citizen Award.

The 18-year-old from Worcestershire, who works at Great Malvern Primary school and a local inclusion club, was summoned to West Mercia Police HQ to be presented with her award by Chief Constable Paul West. "I was petrified," Lisa said afterwards.

Lisa, who lives with her family, Mum Lisa, and brothers Jason, Teaman and Carl, wants to go on to university and become a teacher. "School can be hard for young Travellers, like having to getting changed for PE together: teachers need to be able to understand," says Lisa.

"She's an excellent role model," says Traveller teacher Kay Poole.

**Scottish Traveller families will have the chance to learn online with the launch of eLates. Being trialled for two years eLates (right) will keep teachers and young people in touch online. Details on eLates, funded by Scotland's Equalities Unit and supported by the Traveller Education Programme at [www.scottishtravellered.net/elates.html](http://www.scottishtravellered.net/elates.html)**

## Get in there!

### Visit your child's school, says Sentabell

"AS A PARENT it is really important to get involved in your child's school," writes Sentabell Mabbott.

"When I was younger I hated going to school. My mum used to drag me out of bed and make me go. Now, as a parent I can see that she was doing it for my own good and I thank her every day. Being a parent it's the little things that help: making sure my child goes to bed at a reasonable time, that she has breakfast, encouraging her to go to school every day, praising her and talking to her about her school day.

"But it also makes a big difference if you go into school, speak to your child's teacher, go to parent's evening and any school events.

"If your child sees that you're interested they'll feel a lot happier too."

**Sentabell works for Leeds Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Achievement Service.**



### Subscribe today

Travellers' Times – it's time to pay.  
If everyone who now gets a free  
Travellers' Times subscribes – only  
£14 a year – then the future is secure.

**We have an estimated 100,000  
readers.**

**You can guarantee your  
copy, post-free, for just  
£14 a year (£3.50 per copy).  
We've also introduced  
discounted rates:**

01	copy	every 3 months	£14	a year
02	copies	every 3 months	£26	a year
03	copies	every 3 months	£36	a year
05	copies	every 3 months	£55	a year
10	copies	every 3 months	£100	a year
20	copies	every 3 months	£180	a year
30	copies	every 3 months	£240	a year
50	copies	every 3 months	£350	a year
100	copies	every 3 months	£600	a year

For overseas rates please contact  
Travellers' Times. **Tel: 01432 344039**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job title \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery address \_\_\_\_\_

**[Must be the same as the cardholder's address]**

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number / mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me  copies every 3 months

I enclose a cheque / postal order for £   
payable to The Rural Media Company

**Note: Payment in £ Sterling only**

☐ Please invoice

**Note: We cannot issue invoices for personal subscriptions**

Please charge my credit/debit card for £

Card no

Expires  /  Valid from  /

Issue number (Maestro)

3 digit security code    (see back of card)

Do you require a receipt? YES/NO

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form to Travellers' Times, The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street, Hereford, HR4 9HG

*"I love the Travellers' Times when I  
get a copy. It gets passed round 50  
times in me family. It's the best thing  
to happen to us Travellers. Keep up  
the good work."*

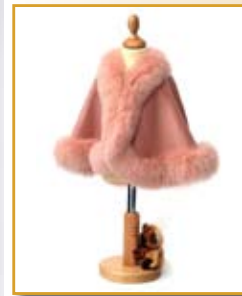
TRAVELLER





# Beautiful Furs and Accessories

from our **exclusive** online store  
**100s of styles and colours** to choose from!



*Posh Furs*

**[www.poshfurs.com](http://www.poshfurs.com)**

**Sales Line: 07919 500234**

*Shop open strictly by appointment*

## Charity slams treatment of Roma in Hungary

Children at Putteridge High School, Luton spent a month learning about the lifestyles of local Roma families. Some, who sell flowers on Luton's streets, even ran a flower making-workshop in school.

In return the school presented the families with three carloads full of surprises ... including a brand-new washing machine. Putteridge also helped one mum to return to Romania for her children: they'd been separated for over a year.

The poor treatment of Roma people in Hungary has been condemned by the charity Amnesty International

AT LEAST SIX Hungarian Roma people died and others have been seriously hurt in gun and petrol bomb attacks in the last two years. Hungarian police claimed only six race attacks on Roma communities in 2009, but other agencies say there were over four times as many.

The victims have included a couple in their forties, an elderly man, a father and his four-year-old boy, and a widow with a 13-year-old daughter.

In one incident a 27-year-old man and his four-year-old son were shot dead trying to escape a burning house, set on fire in a petrol bomb attack. Police described the incident, at Tatárszentgyörgy, south of Budapest, as 'an accident' until the intervention of Euro MP Viktória Mohácsi.

Amnesty say the authorities are failing to even record race crimes against Roma people. "The authorities must send a clear message that racism will not be tolerated," says Amnesty.

Hungarian Roma have a tough time in their country. Children are often segregated in schools while their parents experience real problems getting housing. The unemployment rate among Roma is estimated to be 70 per cent, 10 times the national average.

Amnesty report: *Violent Attacks against Roma in Hungary*  
[www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR27/001/2010/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR27/001/2010/en)

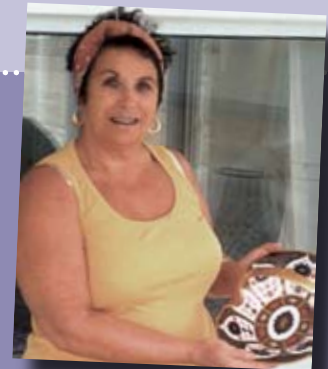


*BUILDING BRIDGES: Roma women and their children in school*

## Final thought

"We love our Crown Derby –it's all those bright, rich colours and the gold." Theresa, seen here with her Crown Derby hawking basket remembers going hawking herself when she was twelve. "Mum was a Lovell from Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthen; father, who used to break horses for gentlemen, was a Bryan. And I used to sell pegs door to door, a dozen for half a crown, four dozen for ten shillings!"

*Theresa Tierney is from Towyn, Abergele*



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 them. We are guided by our editorial group and strive for accuracy and fairness.

Contact us at:

**Travellers' Times**  
**Sullivan House**  
**72-80 Widemarsh Street**  
**Hereford HR4 9HG**  
Tel: **01432 344039**  
Email: [travellerstimes@ruralmedia.co.uk](mailto:travellerstimes@ruralmedia.co.uk)  
[www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

Editor: **Bill Laws**

Marketing Manager: **Barbie Smith**

Web Editor: **Jake Bowers**

Education Editor: **Damian Le Bas**

Picture Editor: **Hilary Smallwood**

Marketing Assistant: **Shanterlena Knowles**

Co-ordinator: **Julie North**



THE RURAL MEDIA COMPANY  
[www.ruralmedia.co.uk](http://www.ruralmedia.co.uk)







## NEW 2011 ROMAs

PRICES FROM £18,995 + VAT.

BUILT TO YOUR DESIGN.

CALL NOW ON 01525 864 090

