

# Travellers' TIMES

The only magazine for Gypsies and Travellers

SUMMER 2012 | Issue 50 | £3.50

## Flaming proud!

**Louise carries the Olympic Torch for her country and for Travellers**

**PAGE 11**

**ALSO INSIDE**

**Our Magnificent 7**

Celebrate the achievements of some inspirational young Travellers

**PAGE 16**

**Dale Farm**

The story continues

**PAGE 2**

**Fiery flamenco**

Gypsy dancer Jairo Barrull comes to the UK

**PAGE 14**

**Travellers' Times is 50!**  
Special Bumper Issue

is published by  
The Rural Media Company

Editor:

**Damian Le Bas**

Marketing Manager:

**Jan Howells**

Picture Editor:

**Alison Chapman**

Media Skills Co-ordinator:

**Shanterlena Knowles**

Co-ordinator:

**Alison Chapman**

Assistant:

**Emma Johnson**

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)



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

ISSN 2046-3251

The Rural Media Company is a registered charity,  
number 1041335  
Company limited by guarantee,  
registration number 2732325 Wales

Printed and designed by Kingfisher Print and Design,  
Totnes, Devon.

Cover: Louise Broadway with the Olympic Torch  
PHOTO: Alison Chapman



PHOTO: Mary Turner

# Dale Farm finished? Not a chance!

*By Candy Sheridan*

LAST NOVEMBER, Basildon Council said that it had secured total compliance with the planning enforcement notices it had issued against the land at Dale Farm. One of the requirements of the notices was that all the material imported onto the site since the 1970s be removed and the land flattened and seeded with grass.

Anyone actually seeing what remains of Dale Farm, however, would be shocked and horrified at the state the council have left it in. They have built large bunds (or mounds) of hardcore, landfill and debris from the hard standing. These bunds have been built so high that pools of water have formed. The bunds also contain large amounts of asbestos from when the site was used as a council landfill site in the past, and much of this material is further polluted by oil and petrol from the council's use of the land for storing motor vehicles. It's a sad end to a once vibrant and happy community of Irish Travellers.

The cost of removing the council's pollution has been estimated at between £7 million and £15 million. In response to a question from Mary Sheridan, a Dale Farm resident, council leader Tony Ball said that the responsibility for removing the council's pollution lay with the land owners. However, Tony Ball had previously maintained that the council's rubbish was temporary, and that it would be removed.

Mary Sheridan's question, and the inadequate response from Basildon Council,

opens up the possibility of a return to court to right this wrong. Mary Sheridan is over the moon: "We have waited a very long time to get to this point. All of us have been on the roadside in front of the legal yards, without water or sanitation, whilst Basildon Council have left our former homes in a such a state," she said.

Len Gridley, the neighbour so publicly opposed to Dale Farm, is also considering taking the council to court because of the damage caused to the site and the blight on his property.

Reports from the Environment Agency are expected to identify that it is a contaminated landfill site. The Secretary of State noted that Dale Farm was being used as a landfill site in 1994 and required this activity to cease.

The council was provided with borrowing of £8 million to undertake the enforcement action against Dale Farm and was given a further £1.2 million in grant aid, giving a total of £9.2 million. So far it has spent £4.8 million, but certainly not on restoring the site. The council does not have the money now needed to clear the waste it has mounded at Dale Farm.

The Environment Agency has said that cess tanks need to be cleared and water must no longer be allowed to stand. This will be a great relief to the residents as all are very concerned with the danger that this stagnant water poses for the many children playing nearby and getting on with life.



# Keep your yoks on the box: Gypsy film season in June

COMMUNITY CHANNEL is screening a season of films for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month this June, including a real mix of British filmmaking and international documentaries from the 1970s to the 2000s.

In particular they will be screening *Story of A Gypsy Woman*, made in Poland in 1970; *We Have No War Songs* from the mid-90s featuring the Gypsy Kings, and more recent documentaries such as *Human Heart Explodes* and *Train of Freedom*.

All the films will be available on their YouTube channel within a few days of broadcast, at [youtube.com/communitychanneltv](http://youtube.com/communitychanneltv)

The season kicks off with *Gypsy Life – Born on the Straw*, Monday 4th June at 22:00.

**Community Channel is a Media Trust initiative. For more information visit [www.communitychannel.org](http://www.communitychannel.org)**

## Coming up in TT 51: Planning update special

BE SURE you don't miss this autumn's Travellers' Times, which will include a special update on changes to the planning system.

The government has reduced the amount of planning guidance down to a much smaller document, and this includes big changes affecting Gypsies and Travellers.

The government is also following the path to what it calls "localism", which could mean local groups like parish councils will have more power to affect the outcome of a planning decision.

There will also be important news about local authority sites which may go over to being managed by private companies. If you live on a council site this might affect you, so don't miss out on the planning special in TT 51.



Levi Gumble at home



LEVI GUMBLE is a very happy Gypsy man who can now hold onto his own Gypsy site. Mid Suffolk District Council attempted to gain a compulsory purchase order (CPO) for his nineteen-pitch site at Stowmarket. The council felt that it was better able to run it as a Gypsy site than the local Gypsy family who have owned and run the site very successfully for thirty years.

In his decision dated 17 April 2012 following a public inquiry in December 2011, the Secretary of State concluded that the council had sought to breach the human rights of Levi Gumble and his family. The council admitted that staff of the Mid Suffolk District Council had misled councillors in their attempt to secure his land for their own purposes. By attempting to compulsorily purchase a local private Gypsy site, rather than identify new sites, the council would not have been helping to address the serious current need for pitches.

Known as The Forge, Levi Gumble's site was built in the early 1980s. It is well liked by the local community. About fifty local people attended the public inquiry to support Levi Gumble, his family and other site residents. Only one person supported the council seeking to strip Levi Gumble of his land, and that was the local District Councillor who lives opposite.

The council identified that it wanted to acquire Gumble's site for affordable housing and reduce the number of pitches from nineteen to twelve. So history has been made! A CPO has been successfully challenged and stopped and an inspector has stated very clearly that Levi's human rights have been breached.

The council offered Mr Gumble £70,000 for his land in 2010 while telling the Secretary of State that the land was worth £150,000. They later estimated its worth at a minimum of

## SPECIAL NEWS REPORT

# Suffolk Council eats Gumble pie: History made as Gypsy Levi Gumble beats purchase order

By Candy Sheridan

£380,000 and made a bid with a local housing association to get £1.2 million to refurbish the site. The Secretary of State required the funds he awarded in January 2012 to be reduced to ensure that the Council did not profit from its acts. The nineteen-pitch site has since been valued at £1.5 million.

Levi Gumble is now in discussions with the Co-operative Group, Gypsy Council, Carta Developers and Mid Suffolk District Council to ensure that the site can help meet the community's needs.

Mr Gumble said: "I'm really chuffed. My phone hasn't stopped ringing since I won. I'm really pleased that my neighbours also felt the council was well out of order. I understand that because I won, another three sites where other councils were also planning to take these away from Gypsies in other parts of the country can now be saved. I've had six years on the ropes trying to deal with the council. Now I've sorted them out!

"I might be a Gypsy but I'm also British and I really fought for everyone. My neighbours were worried that the council might even try to buy their homes at a price the council said was fair, while failing to provide people with affordable housing through the planning system."

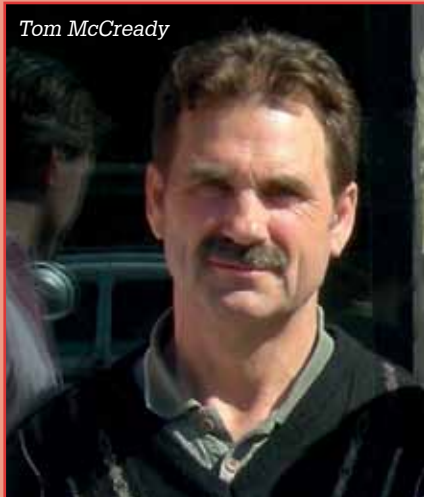
Cllr Marilyn Curran, Mid Suffolk's Portfolio Holder for Housing, said, "It is disappointing that the Secretary of State has not granted us the Compulsory Purchase Order for The Forge site."

**Know a person or family facing a similar plight to Levi? Get in touch with Candy Sheridan of the Gypsy Council by writing to her at Travellers' Times, c/o The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street, Hereford HR4 9HG.**

## Three cheers from Derbyshire

■ Tom McCready, Romany Gypsy and UK representative on the European Roma and Travellers Forum, attended the Extraordinary meeting of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion, held in Brussels on 22nd March. The meeting was chaired by Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, and was about making sure European governments live up to their commitment to Romany and Traveller people.

Tom McCready



■ Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group held a major workshop in Birmingham with Barrister Tim Jones and Chris Johnson from Community Law Partnership. The two-day event provided an introduction to planning law as it relates to Gypsies and Travellers and an update on changes to the system.

■ Congratulations from all members of the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups to Community Law Partnership who were named Law Firm of the Year by Birmingham Law Society.

# Gypsy and Traveller coverage gets papers a bad press



Lord Leveson  
PHOTO: Steve Forrest/PA

A NEW DOCUMENT has been sent to the Leveson Inquiry which highlights the unfair treatment of Gypsies and Travellers in the British press.

The study, compiled by journalist Mike Doherty and the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, looks at a range of stories concerning Gypsies and Travellers and how the stories fail to live up to reporting standards.

Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity is often linked to crime in press reports. Many journalists do not give proper balance in their coverage of stories about Gypsies, and many newspaper comment threads on the internet are allowed to become hotbeds of racist abuse.

In spite of the law's recognition of Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers as ethnic minorities, most papers do not use capital letters when referring to them, a unique case

when the names of Eskimos, Cossacks, Jews and Native Americans are always capitalised.

Generalisation is also a problem and many journalists are only too happy to tar Gypsies and Travellers with the same brush. "They [the press] say "Gypsies" and "Travellers" when they are speaking about a single Gypsy or Traveller. If a single Traveller breaks the law they write about it and say "Travellers" – meaning all Travellers," says Irish Traveller Bridget McCarthy.

The report goes on to say: "The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain believes that the press is a major driver of the hostility and discrimination that the UK's Gypsies and Travellers face, and that as a public institution, has responsibilities towards ensuring that it doesn't publish material that serves to stir up racial hatred and harm social cohesion."

## DIARY DATES

**8th June**

**24th June**

**29th June**

**15th July**

**4th August**

**24th – 27th August**

**29th August – 1st Sept**

**Kirby's Fair**

**Langley Horse Fair**

**Kenilworth Horse Fair**

**Jimmy Smith's New Forest Fair**

**Brigg Fair**

**Eddie's Fair & Drive**

**Great Dorset Steam Fair, Tarrant**

**Hinton, near Blandford**

*(also known as Stourpaine Fair)*



PHOTO: Bill Laws





PHOTO: Mugur Varzarin

# Amnesty speaks out over plans to evict Roma

THE HUMAN RIGHTS organisation Amnesty International has expressed concern about plans to evict Roma settlements in the town of Baia Mare in north-western Romania.

Romani CRISS, an NGO set up to defend the rights of Roma people, has also

condemned the possible evictions.

Local government officials have met with some Roma leaders but many Romanies feel frozen out of the process.

"Nobody listens to me. Whenever I try to speak, they tell me to shut up," said a Roma woman speaking to Amnesty.

## Romani Sofi is Marinova the moon

*By Shanterlena Knowles*

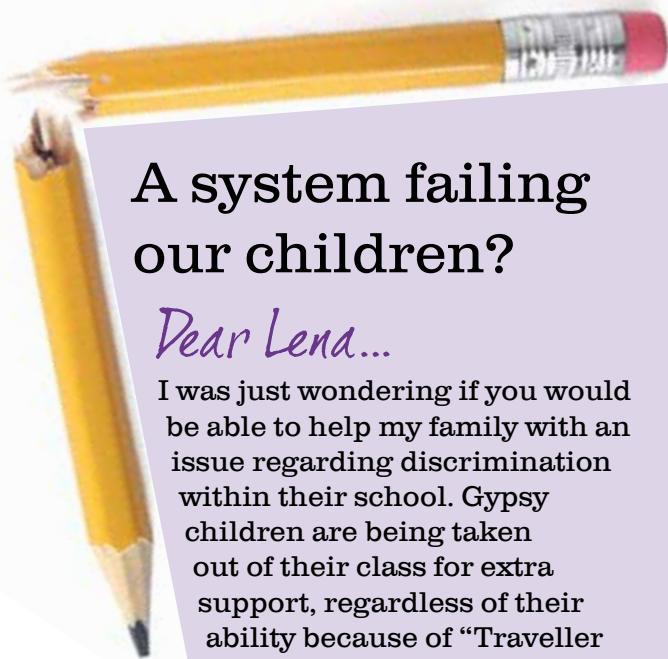
BULGARIA'S OWN "Romani Pearl" Sofi Marinova sang her heart out in a bid to be crowned the first Romani winner of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Miss Marinova, who sang for the European Parliament on International Roma day, has won numerous competitions and awards that are securing her a steady career in music.

Representing Romani people in a competition that is as worldwide as the Eurovision Song Contest was a very proud moment as she sang not only for her country but also for her people.

**To purchase any of Sofi's songs as well as her Eurovision entry "Love Unlimited" then visit <http://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/sofi-marinova/id281806087>**





## A system failing our children?

*Dear Lena...*

I was just wondering if you would be able to help my family with an issue regarding discrimination within their school. Gypsy children are being taken out of their class for extra support, regardless of their ability because of "Traveller illiteracy" which were the words the head teacher used to describe the grouping. I would really appreciate your opinion on this matter.

**Dear Reader**

**Thanks for getting in touch.**

**This is a perfect example of going from one extreme to the other.**

**Too often Travellers are neglected in the education system, falling to the bottom of the heap and it's pretty ironic how your situation is completely the opposite.**

**Firstly I would suggest that you speak to the head of year to raise your concerns and hopefully this will quickly relieve the problem.**

**But if you are still unhappy then you should arrange a meeting with the head teacher to discuss the possibility of the children sitting a literacy test to see what stage they are actually at.**

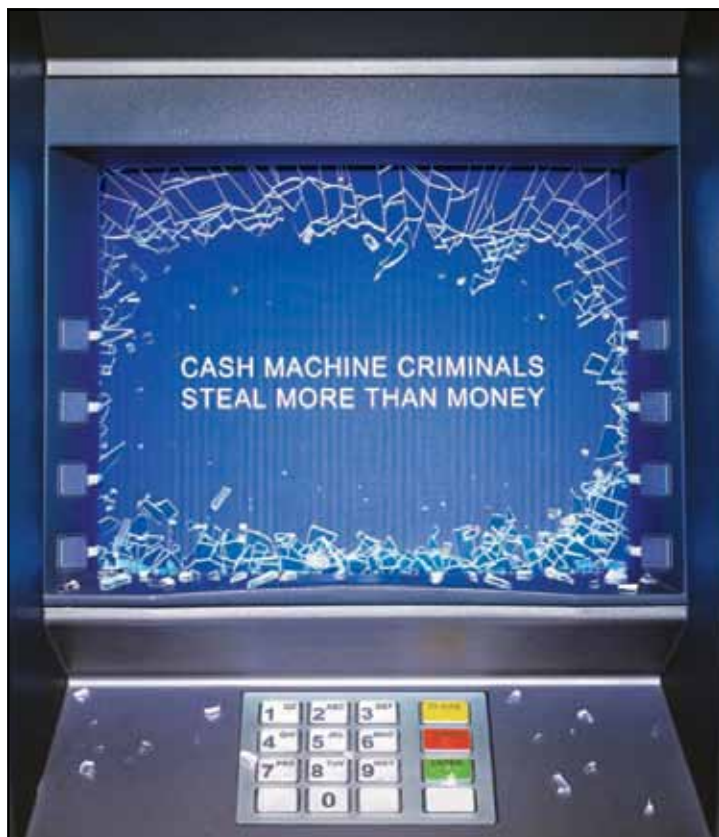
**If the outcome of the test proves that the children don't need extra support then they should withdraw it.**

**Remember you can always get in touch with your local Traveller Education Service if you need any more advice and information.**

**Have you got something you'd like to get off your chest or need help with? Then write to Shanterlena c/o Travellers' Times, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street, Hereford HR4 9HG**



PHOTO: Alison Chapman



**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.**

**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime







*Topper the crops: horse and rider get their caps on* PHOTO: HorseWorld

## Courses with horses are a boost for young Travellers

A NEW PROJECT has helped young Travellers gain confidence and skills by taking a new approach to the Gypsy's oldest friend, the horse.

The National Lottery awarded money to the HorseWorld Discovery project to help young people from the local Gypsy and Traveller community to experience different aspects of horse care from those they are traditionally used to.

Young Travellers on the course developed new skills in riding, fence building and hands-on grooming and stable work. They also produced their own photographs and written work as a record of their achievements.

And it wasn't just one-way traffic: the course leaders benefited from the

young Travellers' knowledge of horses, too. "We've learnt from the greater insight into this fascinating world which the young people are providing," says Suzanne Hunt of Discovery. "The Traveller/Gypsy community has strong links with the equine world through a heritage of nomadic lifestyles which still survive today and these are now being shared with Discovery leaders."

"Coming to Discovery helped us learn new skills and we had fun," says Amanda, a young Traveller who's been on the course. "The best bit was jockin' the horses with saddles."

**Visit [www.horseworld.org.uk/discovery](http://www.horseworld.org.uk/discovery) for info.**

## Queens Park Rangers leads the charge against racism in football

**Premier League football club QPR is making a special effort to help Gypsies and Irish Travellers beat racism and make the most of their potential**



*Martin McCarthy, Warren Bernadetty, Mitch Aubrey, Jonathan Wye, Jason McCarthy and Wayne McCarthy at QPR's Loftus Road stadium*

PHOTO: Damian Le Bas

QUEENS PARK RANGERS is a football club on the up, and as well as scoring goals they're doing what they can to give racism against Gypsies and Irish Travellers a good kicking.

Jason McCarthy lives in Southall and is a qualified football coach. "I run a Travellers' team for Queens Park Rangers," he says. "We have our own 7-a-side team that we play in leagues every Sunday, and we practice every Monday."

"They're giving Travellers a chance to get involved: we have all been playing football for the last two or three years. Before that the only chance we got to play football was in the park kicking a ball amongst ourselves. We never played in any leagues. We never played any serious football."

"Since then we've come a long way, like. We've won the league. We're always playing football, we're always down here at QPR, and they're making us feel involved."

"Hopefully if we keep this up the younger generation can get into leagues like we're playing in now, and maybe we can have a good player coming out from Travellers."

Lord Herman Ouseley, former chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, spoke at a special conference organised by Gypsy journalist Jake Bowers on what could be done to include more Gypsies and Travellers in football.

"The Gypsy and Traveller community is locked in a position of exclusion, tarnished by bigotry and ignorance, and the prejudices

are fed by the popular media," he said.

"We're up against a massive machinery of state that doesn't give a damn about the Gypsy and Travelling communities. As they see it as politicians, it has no votes for them."

"The far right is on the move," said Gypsy rights champion Arthur Ivatts, OBE. "Every day I get news reports and it's frightening. There is conflict all over Europe, people being really abusive to Gypsy and Traveller communities."

*TT is happy to say that Queens Park Rangers will remain in the Premier League next year after a strong end to the season, so they can keep helping Gypsies and Travellers fight prejudice from the very top!*



Emma Johnson

I lived in a trailer until I was 12 years old. Me and my family lived on a farm where my dad worked and my brother and me went to school. One day my dad fell ill and he could no longer work. When my dad told the farmer he was upset and angry and he told us we had 30 days to move a lifetime's worth of stuff.

So that's when we got offered a house in the village and that's when the trouble started . . .



THE COUNCIL GAVE my dad the keys and we had confirmation letters saying the property was ours and that we could start to move in. By this time my mam had a 6-month-old baby so we needed to move in as soon as possible.

Then one morning a letter came through the door: it was from the council. My mam started to read it and her face dropped. It said we could no longer have the property they had offered us. People from the village had put a petition up saying they did not want any more Gypsies or Travellers in the village, there are too many as it is.

Well my dad was angry. Him and mam went straight to the council offices to sort it out. They'd sold the trailers and a man was coming to pick them up so we didn't have a home to call ours.

The council wouldn't help. They just said "We'll find you another property, we just want to keep everyone happy", but we weren't happy that they took our house because we were Gypsies.

When my dad heard that he went straight to the solicitors. They said we had a strong case and they took the council to court. They said the council or anyone else trying to stop us having our house didn't have a leg to stand on. Two weeks later we moved in and nobody was taking it away from us.

I started high school in 2004 and that's when all of my problems started. I was not the only Gypsy in school or in my year group; I was one of about 12 in the school. But the gorjas seemed to focus all their attention on me and making my life a misery. I was overweight and quite short when I started school so that made it easy to start the bullying. Then they started criticising my

culture which was so much more hurtful. It was something they didn't even know about.

One day we were walking from the canteen when six Year 11 boys who looked like full-grown men stopped me by forming a circle around me. They all started chanting "dirty little Gypsy" so I pushed one out of the way so I could carry on and get to form, but they pulled me back by my hair.

One rammed food in my face and said "Eat it Gypsy." Another said "I feel sorry for her she hasn't any money for food." Then all of a sudden I had a big ripping pain in my back. It was one of the others standing behind me, he had actually kicked me in the back and I fell to the floor crying. I sat there waiting for them all to go and five minutes seemed like five hours with them all standing around laughing at me.

When they finally left I told a teacher and all I was told to do was write it down so I did.

I got threats that after school they were all going to get me. I ran and ran as fast as I could to tell me dad and my mam. My dad went completely mad: the footprint where the one boy had kicked me was on my back. That night my dad and my brother and my cousins waited for the boys to come out of school so they could have a word with them but there was no sign of them.

Next day the boys left me alone. Then as I went into one of the toilet cubicles I heard the door open and close. I didn't take any notice of it but I had a funny feeling. As I looked up there was one of the boys watching me on the toilet I screamed and threw my bag at him. He jumped down and left so I waited a few minutes before I went out of the toilets. The coast was clear.

Just as I walked down the corridor three of them were walking up as if to meet me. They ran after me so I ran out of school and went home. I told my dad and he went up to the school and spoke to the head teacher.

When we got a new head teacher the word Gypsy was starting to be used again and the racist remarks and the bullying.

I fought back this time, I wasn't running away again like I did before. Then the new head teacher got those who were involved in the bullying and talked to them. He made it clear to the whole school that racist bullying was not tolerated.

It was the new head teacher who told me that all of my misery and all that I had gone through was an official offence and that I could ring the police and they could deal with it. He helped people see us as normal people, not an alienated culture that is not allowed into society.

I am proud of my culture and being who I am. People say that high school throws some hard challenges but high school made me ill. I wasn't sleeping or eating. I was in and out of hospital because of it. It's not only the pupils that can be nasty, racist and rude: some teachers can too! And when pupils can see the teacher doing something they automatically assume they can do it.

I did the *Same But Different* DVD in hope that if there is anyone else out there who is facing these problems please don't feel alone. I think these days that the way things are going all Travellers are tarred with the same brush. It seems like more people are against us now than ever.

We are all the same. We take the same air, we bleed the same, but we are different, brothers and sisters from God.

*"I am proud of my culture and being who I am"*



Emma at work in the TT office

Emma's story can be viewed online at <http://vimeo.com/38624366>. The Rural Media Company's DVD *Same But Different* features a range of short films about what it's like to be different in a rural county. Copies are available to purchase for £25.00 from Francesca Sandwell, [francescas@ruralmedia.co.uk](mailto:francescas@ruralmedia.co.uk) or alternatively, call 01432 344039



*Travelling Voices graduate Chrissy Alleyn with TT Editor Damian Le Bas*

## Travelling Voices goes from strength to strength

THE TRAVELLING VOICES media skills course is going from strength to strength in 2012. More than 80 people from the Romany, Irish Traveller and New Traveller communities have received free basic media training from Travellers' Times, and all of them have had a go at making a radio programme for our website (you can listen to these at [travellerstimes.org.uk](http://travellerstimes.org.uk)).

We've also got a lot more Travellers writing for Travellers' Times now, and we're proud to feature work from our new Travelling Voices, Emma Johnson and Jobie Newland, in this issue.

If you want to write for TT, get in touch: your community needs YOU to tell the other side of the story! There's never been a more important time to make your voice heard and TT now goes out to MPs and members of the House of Lords so you never know who your words might hit home with.



### There's still an iPad up for grabs!

We're still accepting entries for our TT Storytelling competition, too. If you've got a story you think we need to hear, then get reporting and get in touch! Send your story to us at the address below and you could win a fantastic brand-new iPad.

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




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

000488

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

# Emily's

**Washable Mats  
Ladies' and Children's Shoes**  
Call at the shop or full postal service.  
**Tel: 01582 794756 / 07787 767968**

000483



Emilysshoesandmats

**To advertise in Travellers' Times, call Jan on 01432 344039 or visit [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)**

## Eliza's Boutique

Designer Children's Clothing,  
Shoes, & Accessories  
Boys, Girls & Infants ~ New-born ~ 8 years  
Leading European Brands

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

Postal Service Available  
01483 813842 ~ 07887441002

Horse Fair & Markets Please call for Details


















000478



# Louise keeps the home fire burning

Louise Broadway with her Olympic Torch



**2012 has turned out to be a big year for Romany Gypsy Louise Broadway, who was chosen to carry the Olympic flame on its journey to London 2012. She told Travellers' Times how proud she was to carry the famous torch, and how much it meant to be a Traveller representing her country in this way.**

Photos by Alison Chapman

HOW DID LOUISE find out she'd been selected to carry the Olympic flame? "I work for EDF Energy, and I knew that my work had nominated me but I didn't know any more about it until March. How they actually went about selecting me I don't know. I kind of put it to the back of my mind and forgot about it!

"I was over the moon though, very, very happy. It's absolutely unbelievable when you think about it.

## "People say about honours but this really is an honour"

"It's very much a privilege. People say about honours but this really is an honour. A few days before I was due to run I held one of the torches from a previous relay. That was when it started to seem more real. But to be representing the country as a Traveller, you don't think about it do you? It's brilliant.

"My family are very proud. My Mum and Dad are very proud of all their girls anyway but I know they've been talking about it to everyone. It doesn't come up in conversation, they just bring it up in conversation don't they!

One of Louise's sisters made the trip down from London to watch Louise's proud moment.

"It was a bit nerve-wracking, but I was definitely excited overall. My biggest fear

was falling over and dousing the Olympic flame! But there were reserve carriers just in case that does happen for any reason."

So after lighting up the path to London 2012, does Louise plan to put her feet up for the rest of the summer? She tells TT there's no chance of that!

"It's some year this year. After carrying the flame I'm volunteering for the Paralympics in September.

"Years ago I was an ambassador for the London 2012 bid, helping to get people excited about the games. It felt like such a long way in the future but now it's here."

*Travellers' Times would like to congratulate Louise and wish her all the best of luck for the future*



Proud parents Linda and Maurice



Chrissy celebrates her sister's proud moment



Louise's sisters Chrissy and Amy chat with Louise and Will.i.am on the bus



Louise with fellow torch bearer Will.i.am  
PHOTO: Louise Broadway



Brecon Forum Members, Shannon, Ryan and Becky seen here with Julie Morgan and Keith Towler (Children's Commissioner for Wales)

## The Smith family are Travelling Ahead

A PROJECT CALLED 'Travelling Ahead', which gives young Gypsies and Travellers in Wales a platform to voice their opinions and have their say on things which will affect them, stayed true to its word as the Smith family won their bid for a new site after spending six years campaigning for it.

A Travelling Ahead forum in Brecon, which Shannon, Ryan and Becky Gray attend, supported the family's application, and not only did they secure permanent accommodation – they are the first family to have a local authority-owned site built in Wales in 15 years! Congratulations!



Mary Ann Berry and Stephen Berry collect their certificates

## We Are Who We Are

YOUNG TIMES SAYS a big congratulations to Mary Ann Berry and Stephen Berry who collected their certificates for participation in a brilliant DVD called *We Are Who We Are*.

With other members from the Travelling Ahead Wrexham forum they not only helped in filming and creating it, but also starred and narrated most of it as well!

"They wanted to make the DVD to help other young Gypsies and Travellers overcome their fear of high school, their bullying experiences and just to enjoy it like they do," says John Davies, programme officer.

**If you want to view the film then visit [www.travellingahead.org.uk/forums/wrexham](http://www.travellingahead.org.uk/forums/wrexham)**

## Young John's model is a site to behold



Pint-size place: John's miniature site

YOUNG TRAVELLER John from Latton Green Primary School in Essex had a fantastic idea on how to show non-Traveller children what it's really like to live on a Traveller site.

As part of Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History month he decided to create his own mini site taking time to build, paint it and find the different elements to make it look authentic.

Young Times is very proud of John. Well done!

## A Kushtie Place to Live



FROM STOW FAIR and Crown Derby collecting to puppy selling and horse riding – you can find it all in this book, *A Kushtie Place to Live*, that the children from Waterside Park in Worcestershire have put together.

Using digital creativity skills they set about taking pictures of their homes and families to showcase in the book, which they hope to share with wider communities.

"It was a huge pleasure to work with these children and young people whose creativity never ceases to amaze me," said Kay Poole, teacher advisor.





# BROADWAY KITCHENS

Desirably Different Kitchens

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



Visit Our Beautiful Showroom

54 Thornhill Road, Streetly,  
Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B74 3EN

Free Kitchen Design Service

Request a Free Brochure

Local Rate **0845 5054404**

Birmingham 0121 3534999

London 0207 11 88 22

# Gypsy dancer Jairo puts the flame in flamenco

The fiery flamenco footwork of Gypsy dancer Jairo Barrull will be lighting up Essex this summer when his new show, 'Barrull, A Flamenco Legacy' comes to Chelmsford



PHOTO: Ana Palma



WITH A UNIQUELY FAST and powerful dance style, Barrull is quick to credit the growth of his talent to his upbringing in a Spanish Gypsy flamenco family, and to the dancing skill of his father especially.

"My father created his own personal style of dance and footwork that is different to all other Andalusian dance styles. He taught me almost everything I know," says Barrull.

"I was lucky enough to have been born into a great flamenco family. I've been surrounded by flamenco since I was born. When I was 13 years old I went on tour with Concha Vargas, Aurora Vargas and El Chocolate."

What's more, Barrull is one of the few flamenco performers in the UK who is fully respected in his homeland of Spain. "When I speak about Gypsy flamenco, I mean first-class Gypsy flamenco performers going by Spanish standards," says Jairo's wife, music producer Helen Barrull.

"I've seen Gypsies and non-Gypsies that don't have any technique, but whatever happens, you have to shout 'Olé!' That's what counts," says Jairo.

"Nowadays, I'm an experienced dancer. When I was 15, 16 years old, I danced with great strength and stamina. I could dance for hours on end. I consider that I'm a more elegant dancer now. The experience comes with age, and also through dancing in good theatres."



PHOTO: Miguel Vela



PHOTO: Alain Jacq

**'Barrull, A Flamenco Legacy' will be on at Chelmsford Civic Theatre from 29th June. For tickets and info call the theatre box office on 01245 606505**

**Just arrived!  
IN STOCK  
NOW**

**'Shared Treasures  
at The Epsom Derby'**

The new Royal Worcester  
Gypsy Figurine for 2012  
*Beautifully hand painted*

**NEW**

**LIMITED  
EDITION  
600**

See the largest display of Royal Worcester Hand Painted Fruit in the country  
at our **Wetherby** 21 Market Place (0844 5885841) & **Doncaster** Frenchgate Centre, Lower Mall (0844 5885831) shops

Royal Worcester have created this special double Figurine that features Kathleen and her young daughter sharing a quiet moment together at The Derby.

This **NEW** Royal Worcester figurine 'Shared Treasures at The Epsom Derby' is again issued in a limited edition of just 600 to ensure it is very special and very collectable. Stocks of previous Royal Worcester Gypsy Figurines have completely sold out at the factory! We have just a few of the last matching figurines 'Sparkling clean at Appleby Fair' remaining - **but you need to act quickly to secure one of the last few!**

As with the previous editions this new figurine is hand painted and will match beautifully with other Royal Worcester Gypsy figurines in your collection. Ht. 7"

5 x £50 or 1 x £250 Product No. 014281  
**PETER JONES**, Dept. 2420,  
22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB

**Order Hotline 01924 362510**

**'Sparkling clean at Appleby Fair'**

**£250**  
Product No. 011046  
Height 7.5"  
Length 8"



**ORDER FORM** To: Peter Jones, Dept. 2420,  
22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB.

☐ Shared Treasures at The Epsom Derby £250 (014281)  
☐ Sparkling clean at Appleby Fair £250 (011046)

**PLEASE ADD £3.99 P&P PER ORDER**

☐ I enclose my cheque for £  
made payable to **Peter Jones (China) Ltd**

☐ Debit my credit/debit card with £  
**Card No.**

☐

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Our Magnificent

In the year of Britain's Olympic Games, these young Travellers tell us about the passions that are firing them forward into 2012 and beyond



PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet

## Tayla-Jay Cooper Gregory

"I'm 17 years old and I started drawing from an early age and it was always something I enjoyed. I am now taking A-Level art at sixth form. My hope is to be an art therapist one day and combine my other sixth-form course (health and social) with my art.

"I have done my work experience with mental health services for adolescents. For my A-Level work I am covering culture, so the pictures I paint or draw will always reflect Romany culture, whether through the content or by the colours I use, like those of the Romany flag. I also use faded colours to show how our culture has been faded out more and more, and I did a painting of a Romany woman that used reds to show our anger at how others treat us.

"I'm also part of an awareness troupe that tackles the stigma that Romanies and Travellers face every day. I teach dance, and this year as well as doing my A-levels I will be taking part in many events such as the Happy Soul Festival and Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month. I've been asked to exhibit my work, which I feel very proud of."



PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet

## Levy Cooper Gregory

"I am currently in Year 10, I am studying for my English baccalaureate, I have to do enrichment classes and go into school twice a week at 7.30 in order to fit it all in. I'm also a selective drama student and I like to street dance. In the future I will go to uni, as I want to study to be a doctor.

"You are only entered for the English Baccalaureate if you are on target to reach a C grade or above in at least five subjects. I'm doing English, maths, geography, three sciences and one language."



## Eli "Too Fast" Frankham

"I started boxing at 11 after my dad felt I was at a good age to start. He knew I was ready because he was a champion at boxing and bare-knuckle. I've had 32 fights with 27 wins, I'm 2 times national champion, 2 times British champion, junior ABA champion, and European champion. I've boxed for England against Germany, Denmark, Ireland and other countries.

"I plan to enter the senior ABA for the next two years to try and secure a spot for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, so I look to be turning pro in 2013, or 2014 at the latest. I hope to become a world boxing champion, a legend just like your Muhammed Alis, Floyd Mayweathers and the rest."

PHOTO: Mark Ludbrook/Sportshots



PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet

## Connie Deacon

"From when I got to first choose my options at school, I always had the idea that one day I could be a chef. I want people to see us through our traditional food; to give Gorjas an experience of it and what they're missing out on, really!

"We did an international food project at school so I thought of our culture straight away, and I made a bacon pudding. Back when we were on the road it was easy food to get hold of and it was a meal that everyone loved.

"Time's going by and we're losing our ways bit by bit. We can't go out in the back garden now and cook on a proper open fire, the gavvers might turn up!"



## Queenie Duffy

Queenie has ridden and driven a dray all her life. She was UK Youth Parliament member for Gypsies and Travellers and has served as chair of the East Midlands Gypsy and Traveller Police Forum for young people. Queenie won an Unsung Hero award for volunteering for Gypsy and Traveller outreach work. She set up her own business called Iron Ladies.



PHOTO: Dale Sutton

## Riley Smith

"I've been tap dancing for 3-4 years now and I learnt it off my dad, who also learnt off his dad and he learnt off his dad, if you get what I mean! I started it because I wanted to follow the family's tradition.

"I would love to take it further; I always try and get in as many competitions I can possibly get in to. I would never ever hang up my tap shoes, ever!"



PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet

## Shannan Dean

"I am 12 years old and I am Romany. I love acting, dancing and singing and my mum says I'm a right drama queen! I love to do all types of drama pieces and have been in many different shows with my drama group. I even took part in a film which is now on telly, and one day I would love to be in EastEnders.

"This year I have shows coming up and events where I will do monologues and I'm hoping to be part of another short film."

# Family Album

## SNAPSHOTS OF YOUR LIFE

### Susan's memories

"These pictures are part of my heritage. I'm very proud of my uncles especially, because men like them just don't come around again. Because of the hardship they suffered, they knew so much. But despite all the heartache they regarded their childhood as very happy. People expect so much now but they didn't then.

"A lot of the time I look at the photos and think, if only you could be talking to me now. All the things they used to tell me, all the stories and capers, I only wish they were here now

because a lot of what they told me as a child went over my head. It's sad in a way that they couldn't write down what they went through.

"Now that I'm older and I've got more time I wish they were here so they could sit and recall all their memories to me, because photographs can't speak to you can they?"

*Susan Ayres, now Lister*



*Granny Pachie, Uncle Eddie and Sissy Mitchell*



*My son Ellis, daughter Delaine and Tilly Wood at Appleby Fair*





*Me (on the left) down our yard with my son Ellis, daughter Delaine, husband George, son Joey, granddaughters Sammie-Jo, Faye and Lainie, grandsons George and Damian, and son-in-law Damian*



*Me holding my daughter Delaine with Rosie Plumridge, Aunt Micky, Uncle Bill and my mum Julie*



*Rosie, my great-aunt Julie's daughter*



*Uncle Eddie, Uncle Charlie, Uncle Bill and Uncle Alfie with my cousins, Roger and Bob*



*My husband George standing by his A60 pick up with our girls Delaine and Pachie*



*Granny Pachie with Uncle Job, Uncle Eddie, Uncle Charlie, Uncle Alfie, Uncle Goliath and Uncle Leslie*



*Uncle Alfie, Uncle Leslie and Uncle Goliath at hopping time*



*Sarah, Uncle Job and my dad Ted with the horse and cart in Worthing*

Have you anything to share from your Family Album? Get in touch with us on **01432 344039**

# Beautiful Furs and Accessories

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



## Posh Furs



poshfrocks cannock

**www.poshfurs.com**

**Sales Line: 07919 500234**

**Shop open strictly by appointment**



# "I want to live for my children and grandchildren"

Report on ageing pays tribute to "resilience of Gypsy people"

A NEW REPORT by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has commended "the way that the elders are cared for within Gypsy families".

The report, called 'Perspectives on ageing in Gypsy families', was co-authored by Pauline Lane and Gypsy women Siobhan Spencer and Muzelley McCready of Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group.

"My sister is 73 and she is still dealing in scrap as they do not draw a pension," says Gypsy elder Aunt Julie. "My sister, all her family is grown up and she looks forward to going out to work every day, she has a chat

when she collects scrap and she sees other Gypsies as she is going around. She looks forward to it."

"There are some things that are good about getting old. You know a bit about yourself and you have knowledge and experience and there is a lot of pleasure in seeing your grandchildren every day. We all live together and see each other every day and that really makes a difference. I want to live for my children and grandchildren. I know I can't live forever but I'd like to live a bit longer," says Aunt Annie.

The report describes the need to raise

awareness of Romany Gypsy and Traveller culture in the health service and other service providers, such as the police.

"Although Gypsies have been recognised as an ethnic group under the Race Relations Act, 2011 was the first time that Gypsies had ever been identified in a national census," says the report.

"However, at a local level, local authorities, the NHS and other public bodies should review their ethnic monitoring systems to include Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller as separate categories and use the resulting data for better planning and commissioning."



## 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**



000481

# Light at the end of the tunnel: Getting over domestic violence

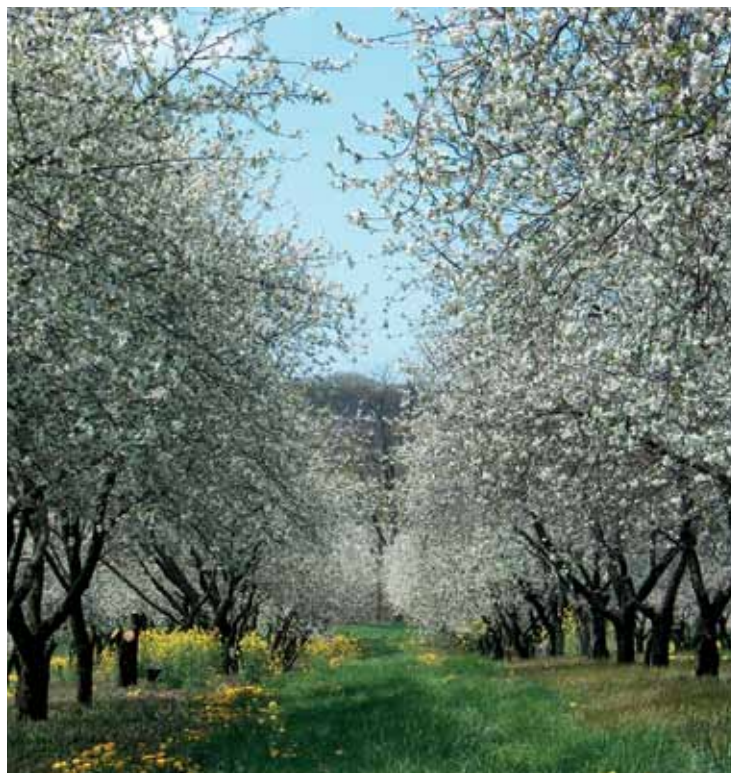


PHOTO: Emma Thorburn Setick, www.hartfordmichigan.com

I COME FROM a Travelling Showpeople family, and I'm nearly 74 years old. My father and his father before him were Travelling Showmen.

My dad was very strict, although I was allowed to go running through fields and woods as long as I was with my cousins, nieces or nephews, after we did our chores! I was brought up ignorant to the facts of life, as most youngsters were then, but I heard bits and bobs from going to school in the winter time.

The I met Tom. I was 17 and 6 months when he asked me to marry him. He was loud but I thought he was the best thing since sliced bread! He just had a way with him, such a character; well to cut a long story short two years later we got married, around cherry picking time.

On our wedding night Tom was so drunk he slapped me across my face, he had never laid a finger on me before, but that was just the start. He was very jealous; when we went out he would say I was looking at other men, saying my eyes drew them to me.

One day at cherry picking time me and Tom were driving in his new motor. He tore the blouse I was wearing off me because it was sleeveless. He got me down so much, one afternoon cherry picking he kept goading me until my ladder slipped and I fell. He didn't even come and see if I was OK. I've suffered endlessly with back problems ever since.

A few weeks later he chased me through the cherry orchard and tried to strangle me. I hadn't even done or said anything to him.

I never told my family about what he was doing to me. I had four older brothers and if they had known, them and my dad would have strung him up. When I had black eyes and bruises, I would just make my excuse not to visit family. One time he punched me so hard in the mouth my front teeth came loose. The next day he said, "Forget about it, it's all a bad dream. Only a weak man says sorry."

After 18 months of marriage we had our little boy, born in the trailer. He was my everything, my life. Tom calmed down a bit when the baby was born. We used to call him our "Champ" and we would hold his reins and count as he jumped up and down: one thing we had in common was love for our baby boy.

But at 15 months our gorgeous baby boy took ill and died – if it hadn't of been for my mum and dad I would have too. He took ill on the Sunday night and died early Wednesday morning in hospital, from gastroenteritis.

We used to say we would have no more children, nothing could replace him. But the emptiness wouldn't go away. So I fell pregnant and at six months I lost my dad to leukaemia. I was truly devastated but on the 22nd July, my baby girl was born.

Tom still had his moments – we got a

bigger trailer but he would get really annoyed and angry, because I wouldn't be left in the orchard on my own with a small baby at night. He missed his single life and took it out on me. We went on to have another three children and I put my life into them.

When I was pregnant with my next to youngest I said to him, "If you hit me any more Tom I'll tell everybody here." I wasn't stuck in the orchard any more, hidden away. But he still mentally abused me and didn't stop using his fists.

This time I got my two teenage daughters and left him. I moved to an old mobile home with the money from the divorce: he thought he could win me back by bringing me a record and a frozen chicken to cook him! But I stood my ground.

I was always a good cook so I enrolled on a cooking course and excelled. It was hard as I had a cleaning job and two young girls to look after. I made friends, went to karaoke, boot fairs and to visit my other daughters every Sunday for dinner. Having a car gave me independence and I never had to answer to him any more.

I took ill at the age of 54 with ME and arthritis so I couldn't work any more, but I still have my friends, close family and yes, my freedom! I now live in a beautiful little bungalow near the sea, and still often go to boot fairs and visit family. Peace at last!

*"I never told my family what he was doing to me"*



# “Through education we can learn to help ourselves,” say the workers at the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain

By Mike Doherty

ONE OF THE many complaints from Gypsies and Travellers is that too much is decided for them without them. So Travellers' Times paid a visit to the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) to talk to the Travellers working there, helping to fight for Gypsy and Traveller rights.

“I grew up as one of eight children and my family always put a strong emphasis on education and pushed us to work hard and to achieve our potential,” said Irish Traveller Elizabeth, 21.

As a result, Elizabeth did well at school before starting training in accountancy.

“I was always interested in accountancy. When my son was 5 months old, I decided to go to the local college and start working towards

my accounting qualifications,” she said.

Shortly after, a member of the Brent Irish Advisory Service contacted Elizabeth's Traveller site looking for women interested in attending an Irish Travellers Women's Group. This led to a visit to the ITMB and soon Elizabeth was starting work as a paid intern helping with the accounts. Elizabeth is still studying and hopes to become a professional chartered accountant.

“I love being involved with an organisation that stands up for Travellers' rights,” said Elizabeth. “Through education we can learn to help ourselves.”

Sophia Vale, an English Showmen Gypsy, Law graduate and mother of a young son, is working at the ITMB until she resumes her

law training. She became involved with the ITMB after volunteering to help the legal team involved in the Dale Farm eviction.

Ms Vale started as a paid policy intern helping to persuade government departments and councils to take Traveller rights seriously. She did so well that when a full-time job came up it was offered to her first.

“At the moment I am working on an anti-bullying campaign to raise the profile of what so many Gypsy and Traveller children experience at school,” she said. “In September I will be returning to my law studies. I want to become a barrister to make a difference to the discrimination and injustice faced by many Gypsies and Travellers.”



ITMB Director Yvonne Nacmanara (centre) with education intern Kelly O'Driscoll and policy worker Sophia Vale. PHOTO: Mike Doherty

## The Travellers Advice Team at Community Law Partnership

**Legal Advice for Gypsies and Travellers on evictions, planning matters, homelessness and related issues**

**Please telephone us on:**

**0121 685 8677**

**or e-mail:**

**office@communitylawpartnership.co.uk**

000484

### WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

#### MARKET CONSULTATION

#### FUTURE OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

West Sussex County Council currently runs 10 Gypsy and Traveller sites across the County.

A market consultation event is taking place for all interested organisations to assist the Council in considering its procurement options for the future of these sites.

The event will include a desk top response to a series of questions to be submitted no later than 21st June 2012 and selected organisations will be invited to attend individual meetings with representatives of the Council on the 2nd July 2012 to enable WSCC to fully understand the views of the market place.

To register and participate in this market consultation exercise you should register on the West Sussex eSourcing portal; <https://westsussex.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>, and then register again for Project No.184 and PQQ No.176 or alternatively contact: Jeff Wellings Tel No. 07540 641835 or Kim Medhurst, 01243 382168

000451

# Trouble on the cut for Britain's boat-dwellers

TT recently received a letter from a Gypsy prisoner, who met a boat dweller in his Gypsy and Traveller prison group. He said: "I thought that we the Gypsy Travellers are treated unfairly, but after hearing about what is happening to bargees and boat dwellers, I was very upset. I am sure that most of your readers would feel the same." We went to investigate, and found out that all is not calm and tranquil – or plain sailing – on Britain's 2,200 miles of canals and rivers. *By Mike Doherty*

"WE REPRESENT the itinerant boat-dwellers who live on their boats and travel from place to place without a home mooring," says Panda Smith, deputy Chair of the National Association of Bargee Travellers.

Panda's narrow boat, 'Flossie', is under 40' long and about 6' wide. It sounds cramped but with the big windows and open door, it feels like you are sitting both inside and outside at the same time. The boat is spotless.

Itinerant boat dwellers have a licence – under section 17 of the British Waterways Act – that allows them to moor for 14 days anywhere along the towpath, explains Panda. This is known as the '14-day rule'. After 14 days, British Waterways – the public body who runs the canals – are allowed to move them on.

"When the Act was passed in 1995, Parliament intended this rule to protect itinerant boat-dwelling communities from homelessness," says Panda. "Most itinerant boat-dwellers – although they keep moving – have to stay around certain areas to send their kids to school, visit the doctor, or go to work." Panda explains that British Waterways is currently enforcing a spurious interpretation of the 14-day rule that contravenes the Human Rights Act and causes hardship for itinerant waterway travellers.

"British Waterways is prejudiced against us, harasses us, and treats us in an unlawful and discriminatory way," says Panda. And the problem might soon be getting worse, she adds, explaining that British Waterways is changing from a public body into a charity; but one that can soon make its own laws.

Yet boat-dwellers are fighting back. In London, BW plans to enforce new temporary mooring restrictions were shelved after London's boaters successfully campaigned against them. Part of this campaign was getting other canal users – such as traders, rowing clubs, dog walkers and others, to support them.

There was also a floating demonstration on the Regents Canal. A judicial review challenging BW has also been lodged at the High Court.

In another move that may help to change BW's attitude, many boat-dwellers are turning their hand to trading to make a living.

The Book Barge is a converted 1920s' Dutch coal barge and is twice the width of an English narrow boat. The barge is currently moored near Broadway Market in Hackney. The front room – and main part of the bookshop – is warmed by a coal burner and the walls are lined with books.

"We opened last July. So far we have made enough to pay us all a wage and to keep the whole thing afloat. We haven't had to start eating the coal yet," says Paddy – who both lives on the barge, and runs the shop with Jon.

Jon, who started his life afloat ten years ago on a dilapidated narrowboat on an unauthorized mooring – which later sank – is keen to stress that whilst he has never been 'settled', he sees a difference between that and being an ethnic Traveller. Yet, because they work and live on the move, both Paddy and Jon could be classed as Travellers – alongside Showmen – under Government planning laws.

And British Waterways? "BW love us," says Paddy. "We pay for a trading licence and we are part of the regeneration of the towpath," he says. "Five years ago you would not have walked along this part of the towpath in the evening," says Jon. "That's changed because of the itinerant boating community and shops like ours."

**The Book Barge will be selling this issue of Travellers' Times. To find out where it is you can track it on Twitter (@wordonthewater). A place where Travellers – of all types – are welcome.**

## History

The canals were built over two hundred years ago to carry coal and products to the towns and cities during the Industrial Revolution. They were built by gangs of itinerant labourers called 'navigators' or 'navvies'. Traditional Irish Traveller songs celebrate how Travellers helped to build the infrastructure of the Industrial Revolution, and many were probably navvies. When the railways started to haul goods, the canals became less profitable and the working boatmen – whose journeys could take weeks – gave up their houses and brought their families to live with them on the boats. Some of their descendants still live on the canal and Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood came from a boat-dwelling family.

## Born on a boat

Bee, ten months old, was born on the canal near Hackney. Her mum, Tara, explains: "It was a three-day labour and all our friends were there. There were visiting midwives as well who were wonderful."

"I have always felt like a traveller even when I lived in a house," says Tara. "Water travels, so if you live on water then you are a sort of traveller yourself."



PHOTO: Mike Doherty



## Looking for Jimmy Kelly

I am looking for James Kelly (Jimmy) born around 1957/58, he lived at St Michaels Road. He has blonde hair and blue eyes, lived and worked in Warwick in 1977/78 and maybe from Ireland. I believe his dad was also called Jimmy, and at the time he had a wife and kids. It is very important I contact him as soon as possible as there is a message that he needs to receive. If you know Jimmy Kelly or have any information please get in touch.

**If you're reading this and want to get in touch through Travellers' Times, then call us on 01432 344039 and we'll help you make contact.**

## Looking for a new challenge

"Hi, I'm a 20-year-old boy from an Irish Traveller background. I was wondering how or what I could do to get involved with Travellers' Times? I enjoy writing. I completed secondary school with eleven GCSEs. I enjoy writing about current affairs and I would love to do anything to help. If there is anything I could do, please get in touch. Hope to hear from you soon. Thanks."

**Good to hear you're interested in working with us. There are basically two ways to get involved with Travellers' Times.**

**You could do a two-day media course with us through our Travelling Voices project. It's a starter course in doing community journalism from a Gypsy or Traveller perspective. If you're interested in this then give our office a call on 01432 344039 and ask for Shanterlena. The course is free and we pay for your expenses so it won't cost you a penny.**

**The other way is to just write a piece for us on a topic that you're passionate about. This could be a news story, an interview with someone who's done something notable, or an issue you want to write a comment piece about. If it's any good we'll publish it on our website and possibly in the magazine. Email [damianl@ruralmedia.co.uk](mailto:damianl@ruralmedia.co.uk)**



# BIG

## DISCOUNT SALE

**£500  
OFF ALL  
PRICES**

**BEST QUALITY HOMES**

**END OF  
SEASON  
SALE**

✦ AVAILABLE 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS **£27,750**

✦ ALSO 36' TWINS **£40,000** AND 45' TWINS **£45,125**

✦ ALL FULLY FURNISHED AND FITTED

2-4 BEDROOM HOMES ALL SIZES EX-DISPLAY BARGAINS.  
Hire statics from £75PW. RE-FURNISHED MODELS  
ALL SAFETY TESTED. BEST TRADE PRICES  
FOR YOUR OWN LAND.

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

email: [info@masterman.co.uk](mailto:info@masterman.co.uk)

**01953606202**

000490

**The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Group's Heritage Project (NFGLG)** is working towards a diary of Gypsy Traveller events using key dates from January through to December, including International Roma Day in April and the Gypsy & Traveller history month in June. We are working at the moment with projects in the North East, South East and the Midlands. Including the establishment of a Holocaust exhibition and a heritage website.

### Part time Gypsy Community Heritage officer

**Salary: 18 hours per week. NJC Scale 5 Pt 22 p.a. plus travel expenses**  
**Fixed term: 2 year contract.**

The worker will work with Gypsy & Traveller organisations across the Regions and Wales to develop and manage heritage projects developing a diary of heritage events for example, celebrating the Commemoration of the Liberation of the camps, International Roma Day, Roma Gypsy Traveller history month. The ideal candidate should be flexible, enthusiastic with good communication skills, have a knowledge of Gypsy and Traveller cultures and history and some experience of organising events. The worker will be expected to assist local groups in identifying funding streams to assist their work. To request an information and application pack please ring 01629732744, leaving your name & address clearly or e mail [info@nationalgypsytravellerfederation.org](mailto:info@nationalgypsytravellerfederation.org) The packs will be sent out the first week of June to be returned by 21st of June. Post kindly funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

000498



Kelly Lee and Talia Smith

# The fame of the Rose

The country music scene has been shaken up by the arrival of Travellin Rose, a powerful female duo that brings its unique Gypsy perspective to country music. Shanterlena Knowles spoke to the Gypsy community's very own twin-axe Roses to find out what their rise to musical fame has had in store.

*By Shanterlena Knowles*

KELLY, 27, has been playing pubs and clubs since she was 16 and Talia, 30, first found her love for country music when she got introduced to it by her in-laws when she was 16.

After meeting through a friend and spending only 6 months together, they formed Travellin Rose and decided to showcase their ever-growing catalogue of songs.

Destined for success they have already stamped their mark on the music scene as their first single "Made up My Mind" shot straight to #2 on the Hotdisc Top 40 US chart.

This success doesn't stop them suffering the same prejudice and racism that many others will relate to. "Some venues won't book us because they're worried that Travellers will attend," said Talia.

Reminiscing about when they left for America they spoke of how difficult it was to leave their children behind with their families

but the worst part was the scrutiny from other Travellers. "People were talking about us saying 'look at them two going off' but at the end of the day we've been trying so hard and for a long time."

"There's more to life than cooking and cleaning, and even though I didn't get my GCSEs, which I regret now, I've always been eager to learn and been helped by my mom," Kelly said.

Family is very important to the girls who say that it's their families who inspire them the most as they always push them to do better, but their musical inspiration comes from classic country singers like Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn. "It's hard to find a Traveller who doesn't like country music!" said Kelly.

And the future is certainly looking bright for the duo who have been picked to represent the UK in June at the CMA Ariston Global Show

in Nashville, and there's even talk of their own TV show in the pipeline. "All we want to do is show a positive view on Travellers," said Talia.

Understanding how difficult it is to do something out of the norm they want to encourage young Travellers with ambitions to keep their eye on the goal and go for it. "A big problem is that they don't have the confidence, and get put off by other people back-biting or discouraging them. But they are only jealous and they need to know that they can do it."

Excited about their debut album release this summer and their upcoming shows and festivals throughout the year Travellin Rose are starting to find their feet just as their music career is taking off.

**For more info about their gig dates visit [www.travellinrose.com](http://www.travellinrose.com)**

## George Mudford & Sons Ltd 01777 703489

- We supply caravan awnings, kitchen utility frame tents 4 x 4 ft, 5 x 5 ft or 6 ft x 6 ft.
- Gas bottle covers, clear plastic by metre or full rolls, wind breaks, table cloths,
- Ropes, poles and dollies. Also fairground covers made to measure.

000497



## David Phillips and Partners, Solicitors 24/7

Top ten provider of DEFENCE services 2009, 2010, 2011.  
**Call 0800 5335 382** for confidential advice and assistance at Police Station interviews and representation at Court across England and Wales

**Meet Jeremy Newell in the Marquee at Appleby Fair on 8th June**

000492



# interiorsitalia

....luxurious contemporary living....



79A DARLINGTON STREET WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 4JD. Tel: 01902 428 489

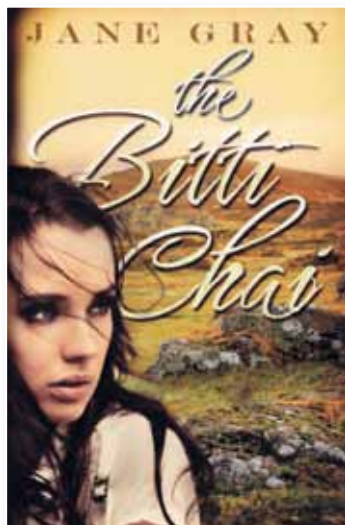
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 9am - 6pm SUNDAY 11am - 4pm

Website: [www.interiorsitalia.co.uk](http://www.interiorsitalia.co.uk) Email: [interiorsitalia@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:interiorsitalia@hotmail.co.uk)

Find us on



000487



## The Bitti Chai JANE GRAY

ISBN: 978 1906236 731  
SilverWood Books (2011)

*Review by Doreen Johnson*

This story has it all: jealousy, prejudice and passion. It's a great story for everyone to enjoy, young and old.

Reigneth finds herself leaving the place she has called her home most of her life, leaving behind her family and way of life to start a new life in a wonderful place.

This is where her powers are discovered and she would be joined by her soulmate, Johnny. It was foretold in Reigneth's dreams that she would meet Johnny and they were destined to be: he will help her through the hardest parts of life.

So romantic and compelling, *The Bitti Chai* is a must read.

## Gypsy and Traveller Tales

ALEXANDER J. THOMPSON

ISBN: 978 1908596 918  
Grosvenor House Publishing

*Review by Shanterlena Knowles*


*Gypsy and Traveller Tales* is a fascinating book bursting at the seams with true short stories, told by a Traveller man on the road through the UK and Ireland to the continent with only one certainty in life – he has to keep moving!

I was totally hooked from page one and couldn't put it down until I'd finished it. You find yourself drawn into his travels, laughing out loud at the situations Gypsies and Travellers get themselves into and reaching for the tissues at a hard goodbye.

This book is a roller coaster of emotions, from missing out on a fortune twice and a few bouts of bare-knuckle fighting to coming face-to-face with boxer Chris Eubank and being moved on by the authorities. Nothing is ever simple and every day an adventure!

You go through the highs and lows of his life, trying to scratch a living, searching out his next meal and wondering where he will next lay his head for the night! This book is a raw and honest window into the extraordinary life of a Traveller and a must read for anyone who is from our community, or wants to find more about our rich heritage.





**HODGSON COULTHARD & CO**  
SOLICITORS

**24 Hour Criminal Defence Specialists**

Highly experienced specialists in all aspects of Criminal Defence work.  
We understand how important your rights are to you, and are actively involved in the representation of the travelling community in the North East of England.  
Legal representatives will be available throughout the duration of the Appleby Fair 2012.

**Contact Mr Robin Ford (Partner) 07789771300**

10 Church Street, Houghton le Spring, DH4 4DN  
0191 584 3333 000

000480



**BritishRedCross**

## Circles Project

The British Red Cross Circles project provides floating housing related-support and assistance to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities living in Birmingham. For more information contact

Tel: **0121 772 7340**

Email: **vwilliams@redcross.org.uk**



**To advertise in Travellers' Times, call Jan on 01432 344039 or visit [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)**

# 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**















# Cool threads!

The Travellers' Times online shop is now stocking a cool range of quilted jackets and sweatshirts – as well as stylish waterproof dog coats! Don't delay – log in today and sport the Travellers' Times brand now. You can also buy subscriptions, back issues, DVDs and key rings securely in our online shop. Go to Travellers' Times online at: [www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk) and at the top of the page click the 'shop' tab – and the doors to our **chic online shop** will open!



## GET YOUR COPY OF TT DELIVERED TO YOU...

## Subscribe today from just £14 per year!

Why not give someone special in your life a subscription to Travellers' Times. At just £14 per year, we will make sure it is delivered to their door, and ensure they never miss an issue.

**You can guarantee your copy, post-free, for just £3.50 per copy. We've also introduced discounted rates. Call Travellers' Times on 01432 344039 for details**

Call us for Overseas Rates

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

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

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL NO

EMAIL

SIGNATURE  DATE

**Please return your order form to:**

**Travellers' Times,  
The Rural Media Company,  
Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street,  
Hereford, HR4 9HG**

Charity number: 1041335



A woman gestures by a camp of Roma people near the House of Continassa, in Turin, Italy, 11 December 2011 after an attack by locals from the district Vallette following the complaint of rape by a sixteen-year-old girl which then proved false.  
PHOTO: EPA/Tonino Di Marco

# The unknown hatred

Ignorance fuels hatred, and those who don't know CAN hurt us. In a special opinion piece for the 50th issue of *Travellers' Times*, *Jobie Newland* considers the ugly spectre of anti-Gypsyism in Europe, and the very real threat it poses to the continent's largest ethnic minority



*Jobie Newland*



*“Gypsies are a proud race of people,  
proud of what they are, but they  
might be the only race in the world  
that has to hide what they are.”*

ROMANY GYPSIES in Italy are being persecuted for being what they are today as much as in any other civilised country in Europe. Gypsies are constantly made scapegoats for crime in the press. Two such stories while I was researching this hatred really stuck out to me. The latest was that of a 16-year-old Italian girl who had accused two Gypsy boys, from the local camp in Turin, of raping her. Once news had spread of this indecent attack the local villagers started to spread a note with the words ‘Facciamo bruciare gli Zingar – 18:30’ which translates as ‘Let’s Burn the Gypsies – 18:30’. Before they knew it a 500-strong gang, armed with baseball bats, iron bars and petrol bombs, advanced upon the Gypsy camp and did what they set out to do. They set fire to everything in sight. As luck would have it no one was hurt. When the police questioned the 16-year-old girl who had made the accusation that had led to the mob rampage, she confessed that she had lied about being raped: she had slept with her Italian boyfriend and made the false claim so as not to disappoint her strict Catholic parents. No one was charged.

The next story is from a hot summer’s day in 2008. Two Gypsy girls, aged 10 and 11, go down to the local beach to play in the sea. The 10-year-old little girl gets caught in an undercurrent and swept out. In panic her friend calls the emergency services from her mobile phone. After an hour of no one turning up the 11-year-old tries to save her friend and suffers the same fate. Approximately three hours after the initial call, the emergency services turn up to find the bodies of the little girls washed up on the beach covered over with towels. While all this was going on

an Italian couple in their twenties sat and watched while sunbathing. When the lifeless bodies came to shore they simply just covered them over so they didn’t have to look at them. Two little girls lost their lives because the couple on the beach did not care. They were just Gypsy children.

These two stories may sound like something from the last century and not today’s time, but it is happening today. Italy may be a ‘civilised’ country, but it is home to uncivilised views on the Gypsy people. In Italy now there is a law in place that means every Gypsy (Italian born and foreign) must be fingerprinted, photographed and placed on a database, including women and children.

If I am not mistaken didn’t Germany have a similar system for the Jews and Gypsies back in the 30s and 40s, only using tattoos instead of databases? How long will it be before the Italian government just rounds up and places the Gypsies in ‘labour camps’? No other ethnic minority in the world would be allowed to be put under such a system as to being practically arrested for their ethnicity, so why should we?

Racial tensions towards the Gypsies are already near boiling point. The story I mentioned first about the camp is not the first time something like this has happened, but still nothing is being done about it. Italians don’t consider Gypsies as people but as an infestation that must be taken care of, a mind-set that is slowly spreading across Europe.

I often hear of people in England setting up protests because they don’t want Gypsies living in the area. It’s now nine years since twelve people were arrested on race hate charges in Firle, East Sussex, for burning a

caravan displaying a number plate that read P1KEY, with a dummy inside dressed as a stereotypical Gypsy. It was a bonfire night celebration: children laughed and pointed, their parents clapped and jeered. These individuals may claim they are not racist but if they have friends from different ethnic backgrounds, would they do such things to them?

How long will it be before other countries adopt the Italian system on Gypsies? In England now the balance is slowly tipping that way. Gypsies cannot say what they are as it affects their personal life and work: most people would never employ a Gypsy. I used to do roofing work and I had to keep what I was a secret or I would never get work. Every other day I would work for people and they would say to me, ‘Bloody Gyppos wanted to do this for me but I called you instead’ and other racist things. Even though they’d had a Gypsy do the work for them and were more than happy with the job I had provided, I only got to do it in the first place because they didn’t know I was one.

Gypsies are a proud race of people, proud of what they are, but they might be the only race in the world that has to hide what they are. It’s no secret that Gypsies are hated the world over, but the people that hate us don’t know why they do. In a world ruled by political correctness, we are excluded. According to the rest of the world what Gypsies are is a choice and not a race of people. As humans we are all genetically made to advance forward, but if the unacknowledged hatred towards the Gypsies gets any worse then the people of this world will just regress back to savages.

# Classic Furniture

Italian Furniture Specialists

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



This sofa price was £2600

**NOW only £1300!!**

**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: [raj@classicfurniture.biz](mailto:raj@classicfurniture.biz)

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