

Travellers' TIMES

The only magazine for Gypsies and Travellers

WINTER 2012 | Issue 52 | £3.50

Young yoga

How Rosie uses yoga to help her stay healthy

PAGE 13

Win a Royal Crown Derby Coal Scuttle!

Beautiful collector's piece worth £995 could be yours!

PAGE 9

Online and on your guard

How to stay safe when using social websites

PAGE 21

Going for a song

Folk singer Sam Lee on the magic of Travellers' songs

PAGE 30



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

www.travellerstimes.org.uk



THE RURAL MEDIA COMPANY

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: Rosie Toohey practicing her yoga

Law protecting travelling parents may be scrapped

A GOVERNMENT GROUP tasked with "tackling inequalities faced by Gypsies and Travellers" is considering whether a law that defends parents whose children miss school because they're travelling should be scrapped.

Now, some schools are braced for change. North Somerset Council has told schools to get ready for "imminent changes to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils' absence from school".

The law in question is part of section 444 of the 1996 Education Act. It states that families who are travelling for the purpose of work have a legal defence if their child misses some school but has attended at least 100 days (200 "sessions") of school during the school year.

But if the law is repealed, the parents of children who miss school because they're travelling will have no legal defence, which could deal a massive blow to the travelling way of life.

Brian Foster has over 18 years' experience in helping Travellers with their schooling. "I think it's not a particularly helpful law, but on the other hand it is one of the few laws which recognises the nomadic existence," he said.

"It's a law that's not well understood. Some attendance officers say, 'Well,

Travellers only have to go to school half the time", but actually anyone who's travelling can use it.

"I'm worried this might be a crowd pleaser for the government running up to the next election. They don't think there should be any separate laws for Travellers."

Stevie Cook is from Gravesend. Her two daughters were recently excluded from primary school for poor attendance, even though she had written to the school in advance to inform them she and her husband were travelling. "We were away and we came back to this letter. We couldn't do anything about it," said Stevie.

What if the law gets even harsher? "It'll just ruin everything," said Stevie. "That's how people live, it's how they do their work. All right, they're not working in the fields any more but they still go calling. You can't change the way we are."

"Can you imagine telling Travellers they can't go to the fairs, can't go travelling? Travellers won't put their kids in school."

A Department for Education spokesperson told Travellers' Times: "We are looking at the impact of this legislation following the report of the cross-departmental ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers."

Grants for Groups: new funding from Travellers' Aid Trust

IF YOU'RE PART of a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller group working with the community then you can apply to a new grants program funded by the Esmée Fairbairn foundation and delivered by TAT.

They're offering grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 per year (for up to 2 years) to projects that will either work on literacy, improving young people's skills, or with

offenders. TAT expects to award between 7 and 10 grants a year.

The scheme starts in January 2013 and will run for 2 years. For more information email Susan Alexander at info@travellersaidtrust.org or visit www.travellersaidtrust.org

Sterling silver: new calendar for 2013 from Derbyshire Gypsies

GET YOUR HANDS on the new Silver Anniversary calendar from Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group. It's packed with Romany memories and celebrates 25 years of DGLG's fight for Gypsy rights.

Price £7.50 including postage and packing. Please send name, address and number of calendars required with a cheque or postal order to: **DGLG, Office Unit 3, Molyneux Business Park, Whitworth Road, Matlock, DE4 2HJ**



Travellers celebrate 'Gypsier' billboard victory

By Mike Doherty

GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND supporters met to celebrate the advertising watchdog's decision to ban two of Channel 4's billboard posters for *Big Fat Gypsy Weddings*. The demonstration outside Parliament was joined by Lord Avebury, veteran Gypsy and Traveller rights campaigner.

The banned posters featured pictures of Traveller children and young people with the

tagline 'Bigger, Fatter, Gypsier' emblazoned across them. The Advertising Standards Authority decided that the posters were likely to cause prejudice, were offensive and irresponsible and that Channel 4 was guilty of producing a sexualised image of a child.

The controversial posters appeared in February and attracted 372 complaints. The campaign against them gathered pace after

the London Gypsy and Traveller Movement organised a demonstration outside Channel 4's headquarters.

The landmark ruling finally came following an appeal by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain after an initial decision not to investigate the complaints was overturned.

David Enright, the solicitor who worked for free to push the ITMB appeal through, said: "The ASA's powerful findings represent a fundamental turning point in how Travellers and Gypsies can be portrayed in the media. No longer will it be acceptable for the media and broadcasters to portray Travellers and Gypsies in racist stereotypes without regard for the quantifiable harm done to those vulnerable communities."

Sophia Vale, English Gypsy, ITMB worker and co-complainant said: "We hope that the ASA decision will mean that most people will now decide that Channel 4's *Big Fat Gypsy Weddings* brand is one big, fat, racist turn-off."

Channel 4 apologised for offending some of the Gypsy and Traveller community but did not comment when the Travellers' Times asked them if they accepted the ruling in full.



Victory demo outside the Houses of Parliament with solicitor David Enright and members of the ITMB. PHOTO: Mike Doherty



One of the offending posters. PHOTO: Elisabeth Blanchet



Adversane site

Whose site is it anyway?

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY Council has 10 council-run Traveller sites within its borders. But soon it may not be managing any of these, as it plans to put the management of the sites out to tender next year.

In a letter that went out to site residents, the Council said it will be "inviting persons to express an interest in leasing the sites early 2013," though it expects it will be some time before any sites are sold.

With council budgets under pressure due to cutbacks, the moves may be seen elsewhere in the UK.

Esther Quarm, Gypsy and Traveller Team

Manager for West Sussex County Council, has said there will be safeguards in place to protect residents. There should be no "excessive rent increases" and the sites "will remain for the benefit of the Gypsy and Traveller community and not sold for redevelopment," according to the letter.

Meanwhile, four District Councils in the area are looking at providing new transit and permanent pitches after recent research looking at the local need, with transit sites potentially being located close to the A27 and A259 roads. These are two of the main transport corridors through the region.

Unlimited fines for unauthorised sites?

ERIC PICKLES, the minister tasked with looking after communities, is planning to give councils "greater freedom to stop unauthorised traveller sites being set up and prevent long, drawn-out stalemates like Dale Farm."

This would include new "Temporary Stop Notices", which councils could issue straight away "without having to wait three days for a Stop Notice, or 28 for an Enforcement Notice to come into effect."

Those who breach planning controls

would also be liable to "a fine of up to £20,000, which can be increased to an unlimited fine, on conviction on indictment in the Crown Court," said a statement from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

PHOTO: Mary Turner



Restored to Greenbelt by the council?

19th October 2012 was the one year anniversary of the largest eviction of Travellers seen in this country. *Candy Sheridan* looks at Dale Farm one year on.

WHAT HAS ACTUALLY been achieved and is it now all over?

Has the old site been returned to Greenbelt yet? And what does 'Greenbelt' even mean?

To many people, 'Greenbelt' means a green field, but grass cannot grow on the deep hollows, pits and large bunds (walls) of tarmac left after the £7.2 million eviction came to an end.

Soon afterwards, residents contacted the Environment Agency, who conducted three days of soil testing in August of this year. It was the first time the EA had investigated 'possible contamination by a Local Authority'. Ironically it will be Basildon Council that foots the bill, as it was the eviction that caused the contamination.

I personally witnessed and signed for over 2000 soil samples and we were promised that the detailed report would be out by the end of September. As TT went to press, the results had not yet been made public.

The residents are ready to return to court if any contamination is proven, but Basildon Council will likely fight against any further costs. Meanwhile the weeds grow, and residents have now spent a year living on the road outside the lawful site next door, without any sanitation.

Perhaps the contamination report will finally bring some sort of closure for all those families, one way or another. Meanwhile, another winter is looming at Dale Farm, with more babies born on the roadside in 21st century Britain.

PHOTO: Alex Teller



ISPCA calls for ban on sulky road racing in Ireland

THE IRISH SOCIETY for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) has called on authorities for a total ban on sulky road racing in Ireland.

The ISPCA said that the dangers imposed by illegal sulky road racing to innocent road users, participants and the horses used are immense.

In May this year, footage of sulky racing appeared on YouTube, with sulky drivers racing along the N20 Cork-Mallow road in heavy traffic and with the police in pursuit.

A pitch in time

New sites are on the horizon in Leicestershire, with Leicester's Mayor saying there is a "very powerful argument" for smaller sites. But further south, in Surrey, a council has given the go-ahead for a big increase in the capacity of a site that already holds 50 pitches

LEICESTER CITY MAYOR, Sir Peter Soulsby, told news website This Is Leicestershire that meetings about three new sites in the area had brought up good ideas about site planning.

At the meetings, Travellers "argued for smaller sites, rather than the large, multi-family sites.

"They say smaller sites are easier to manage for both them and us.

"That is a very powerful argument," said Sir Peter.

He also said there is a need for short stay transit sites for more mobile Travellers. "Transit sites could be further away from amenities," he said.

Two sites are planned for the Beaumont Leys area and one for

Mowmacre Hill. A local residents' group has collected 700 signatures for a petition against the sites. Councillors have also complained.

Sir Peter said that he wished they would "spend less time complaining and more time looking for possible sites themselves".

Further south, meanwhile, it has been confirmed that New Acres Caravan Park in Cranleigh, Surrey, will be upgraded to hold the equivalent of 35 more pitches, although the size of the Park will not change.

Waverly Borough Council said the 10-acre site was well managed and suitable to be made bigger. Three parish councils objected.



BERLIN, GERMANY - OCTOBER 24: A Roma musician plays a guitar at the inauguration of the "Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered Under National Socialism" on October 24, 2012 in Berlin, Germany. In addition to targeting Jews during the Holocaust, Hitler also sought to exterminate the Roma population in Europe and estimates of the number killed range from 220,000 to 1,500,000.
PHOTO: Photo by Sean Gallup/Getty Images

Memorial to Romanies murdered under the Nazis finally unveiled in Berlin

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, has finally unveiled the Berlin memorial to Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Europe.

MORE THAN 67 years after the end of hostilities in Western Europe, and after years of disputes around the content of the memorial, Romani survivors of the Holocaust looked on as the Chancellor of the Federal Republic declared the memorial officially open on the 24th October.

The memorial consists of a circular pool of water in black stone, engraved with the poem 'Auschwitz' by Italian Romani musician Santino Spinelli, with a rising and falling triangular plinth in the centre upon which a new flower will be placed every day.

It was sculpted by the Israeli artist Dani Karavan, whose other works include the Negev monument in Israel and the Charles de Gaulle Esplanade in Paris.

The leader of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Romani Rose, told Agence France-Presse that opening the memorial 'sends an important message to society that anti-Roma sentiment is as unacceptable as

anti-Semitism.' 13 members of Mr Rose's family were murdered by the Nazis.

In Germany, where the Nuremberg race laws decreed 'Gypsies' ('Zigeuner' in German) an equal threat to the Jews, Romani people were pursued ferociously: however, the German government did not acknowledge the genocide of the Sinti and Roma until 1982.

Even after this time, the families of Romanies who were forced to work as slaves for some of Germany's biggest companies, including Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz and Siemens, continued to struggle for compensation.

The campaign of genocide was Europe-wide. Mass shootings of Romanies took place across Europe, from Western Russia to Bavaria, and Romani people were interned in camps from the southern tip of Italy to the south west corner of France. In Croatia, virtually the entire Romani population was annihilated.

Romanies were not always referred to as 'Zigeuner' in official Einsatzgruppen (killing squad) documents, but often simply as thieves or 'remainder to be liquidated'. As a result, it is difficult to estimate accurately exactly how many Romanies died during the Second World War. Estimates by historians vary from 220,000 to 1.5 million.

'Sinti' is a name the Romani people of Western continental Europe use to refer to themselves: in France many also use the name 'Manush' or 'Manouches'. It is believed by experts that the Romany Gypsies of Great Britain are descendants of the Sinti, due to similarities in the way they speak the Romani language. The term "Roma" is much used among Romani people from Eastern Europe.

O Porraimos ("The Devouring" in the Romani language) has been called "the forgotten Holocaust."



Dear Violet...

I am a recently divorced woman. I have a small child and have (as was expected of me by my family) moved back to live near them.

I have got a plot on the same site and pay all my own bills.

I just feel like I am trapped, if I stay in the trailer then I am "moping around"; if I go out anywhere then my child is being dragged up and I'm being talked about. If I buy anything, "I'm not thinking of my child running around wasting money". They have also got it into their heads that I want my ex back and comment if he rings me, or worse they keep making comments like "can't wait to see what the dossier magnet brings back next."

I haven't had a night out even to chat to the girls in over eight months. I am going stir crazy here; I am a middle-aged woman, but my family are treating me like I'm 12.

**Please help,
Cornered in Coventry**

Dear Cornered in Coventry...

I am sorry to hear about the breakdown of your marriage. Many Gypsy and Traveller women feel like they have somehow failed when this happens. I am telling you that you have not failed. It is a lot more common than you would believe: you are not the only Gypsy or Traveller woman to walk away.

Now I am sure that emotions are high on all sides and this is where the problems lay.

I would suggest that you sit down with your family and talk things through without sniping; try to see it from their point of view. When you were single, you and your parents knew the rules of how single girls behave. Then you got married and again, you, your ex-husband and your parents knew the rules of what all sides should expect.

Divorce is relatively new territory for Gypsy and Traveller people. We don't have any hard set "rules" on how a divorced woman should behave. What you and your parents need to do, is step away from Gypsy or Traveller for a moment and decide what is right for your family.

I am sure you will quickly realise, you are all on the same side and want the same things - a happy and healthy life for you and your child.

If that fails you may want to think about moving away from your family, but I wouldn't do that lightly as this will have other implications on your life.

**If you need some advice, get in touch with
Violet at: Cannon's Counsel, Travellers' Times,
Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street,
Hereford HR4 9HG**

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE AND STUNNING CARAVAN SIMILAR TO THE ONE PICTURED?

Roma Caravans Limited manufacture the UK's finest coach built caravans. Each caravan we produce is built to exacting standards and according to the specific requirements of the customer. We only have a limited number of build slots remaining for this year. So if you would like to own one of these amazing caravans please call **01525 864090** to discuss your dreams with one of our experienced staff.



We will consider part exchange on new purchases. We will also consider buying your Roma. Anything considered but no silly prices.

We have an extensive stock of pre-owned high quality trailers all of which have been lovingly refurbished by our master craftsmen. This means that you will be getting a high standard of quality whether you're buying a new or used caravan from Roma Caravans.



To find out more or to view our range please check out our website

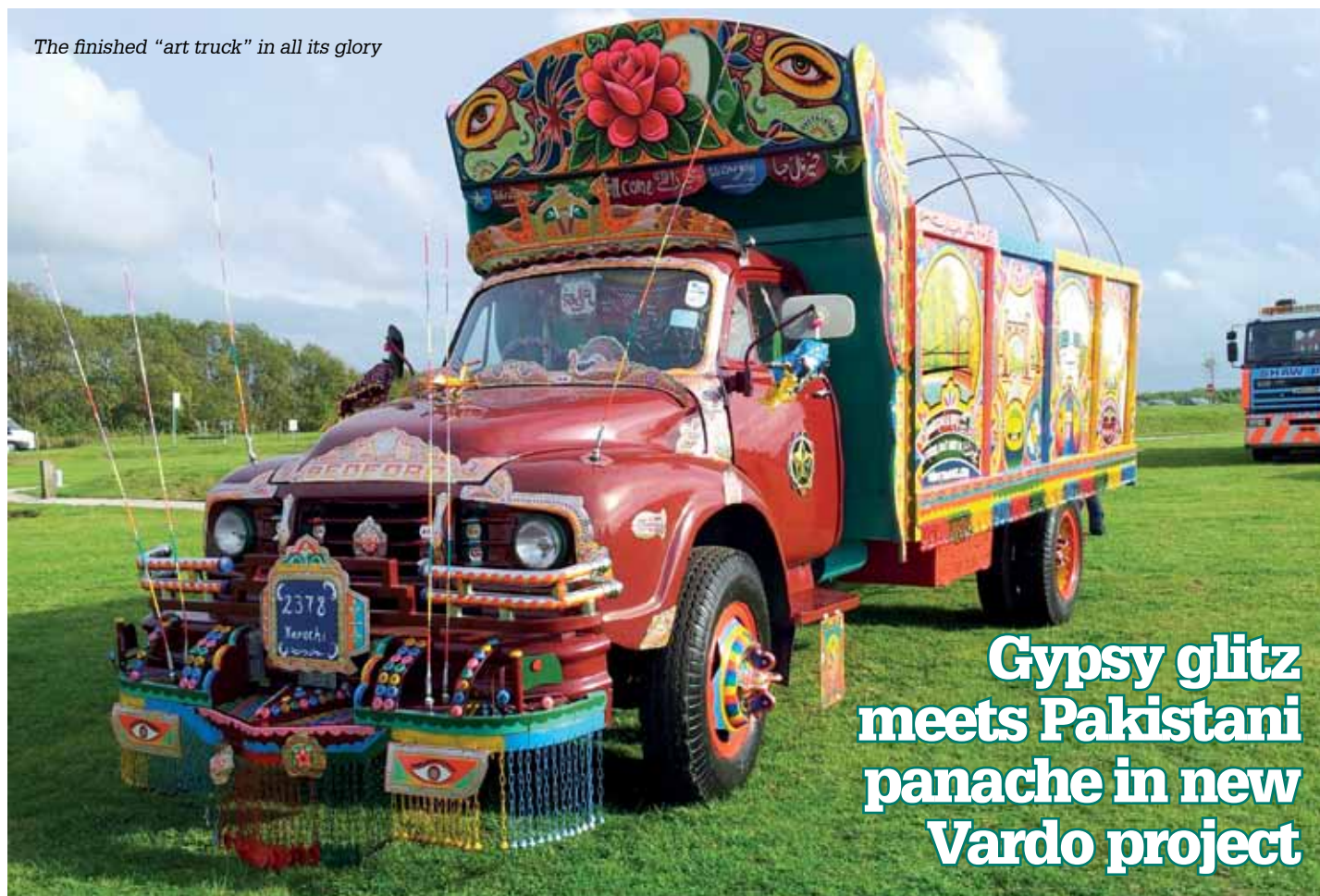
WWW.ROMACARAVANS.COM

or email us at info@romacaravans.com.

Alternatively give us a call on 01525 864090 to arrange a visit.



The finished "art truck" in all its glory



Gypsy glitz meets Pakistani panache in new Vardo project

Young people are learning the skills and techniques of Vardo decoration through a new project which will see a bow-top wagon transformed into a piece of art where east meets west in a fusion of Pakistani and Romany style.

THROUGH THE PROJECT, they'll also learn about the culture and heritage of Romany people. The Romany journey westward from northern India is reflected in the way Pakistani truck painting styles, or "Truck Art", complement traditional Romany wagon painting in the UK.

They will be working with professional wagon builder and painter Rory Coxhill. In 2011 the youth team worked with Rory and internationally recognised truck artisan Haider Ali to transform an old Bedford TJ type into a colourful and vibrant art truck. The traditional Traveller's favourite, the Bedford lorry, is also popular in Pakistan.

RE-Created, a group of young people aged between 11 and 25, has worked with Rory to hone their skills from painting and mixing colours to scroll work and scumbling.

The group started decorating the bow-top wagon at Stockwood Discovery Centre on 22nd October, with lots of painting taking place over the half-term week.



A student works on a gilded scroll with Rory Coxhill



The Bedford TJ lorry before its facelift



The bow-top wagon awaiting its makeover

Artur is king of the camera



Artur Conka

Artur Conka was born in Slovakia, but nowadays the UK is his home. Armed with a degree in photography and some serious skills in camera-work and filmmaking, he told Travellers' Times how he plans to use the camera as a tool "to stir up debate".



PHOTO: Artur Conka

"I'M 22, AND I was born in Kosice, Slovakia, in a district called Lunik IX. Apparently it's now the largest Roma ghetto in Slovakia. It's rife with poverty, and it's kind of a mess really, it's horrid.

"I left when I was young, and travelled through Germany, Holland, Belgium, and France. I came to Britain in 1998, when I was 8.

"I had my first camera at 14, but when I did A-Level photography I started learning more about photographers and their work.

So I did a Bachelor's degree at the University of Derby."

I made a film about Lunik IX that attracted a lot of interest, and I've had six exhibitions so far with two more on the way, in London and the Czech Republic.

"I'd like to make documentaries with big institutions like the BBC, but also working with the EU, using photography to promote a better understanding of the culture. I'm planning another trip to Lunik IX with a

colleague, Julia Johnson, to give cameras to children and teach them to photograph what they do day-to-day.

"This poverty has to be highlighted because it's not all smoke and mirrors."

You can help sponsor Artur's next project online at www.sponseum.com/project/my-gypsy-culture

Primed for the press: 98 Travellers take to the media with Travelling Voices



THE RECENT CONTROVERSIAL TV programmes about Travelling people have brought more Travellers to our Travelling Voices Media Skills courses around England. From Brighton to Bristol, London to Leicestershire, ninety-eight Gypsies and Travellers, ranging from early teenagers to those in their 60s, have done basic media training since the project started in 2010.

There are eight more courses to go, and there'll be a special celebration of people's work in London next Spring. To check out some of the amazing radio work produced by our trainees, look for the iPod player (Audio Stream) on the TV Training page of Travellers' Times website www.travellerstimes.org.uk

TT Survey Prize Winner

TRAVELLERS' TIMES IS pleased to announce we have a winner for our TT Big Survey prize draw!

Michele Taylor is from East Malling in Kent and her winning survey was picked from the hundreds of TT readers who responded.

She gets her copy of TT in the post and told us what her favourite things were about the magazine.

"I like the stories about the children, you know, the youngsters," she said.

"I also like the pictures of the olden days, how they used to live, like how my mum and her family used to live."

"I'm proud of who I am," said Michele.

Many thanks to everyone who completed a Big Survey questionnaire to let us know what they think of Travellers' Times. We'll be reporting back the results in the next issue.



Winner Michele Taylor PHOTO: Patricia Knight

Rom's the Word as Church hosts Roma festival

More than 70 people gathered at Beech Hill Methodist Church in August for 'Festa Romani 2012', a three-day Christian festival for Luton's growing Roma community.

By Martin Burrell

ROMANI CHILDREN WERE welcomed as they ran beneath a specially commissioned banner and played percussion instruments. The Revd. Martin Burrell, Chaplain to Luton's Roma Community, led everyone in a variety of lively songs and Christian reflections in the Romani language.

After lunch, there were 'Mother Tongue Literacy' sessions for the toddlers; arts & crafts for the five to 12-year-olds based on the theme 'We are made in the image of Christ'; and the sharing of Biblical teaching and testimonies amongst the adults. There was also advice on quitting smoking for adults.

Thursday 2nd August marked Roma

Holocaust Remembrance Day, when the festival included reflection on 'the forgotten voices of the Holocaust'.

Karen Campbell, who helped organise the festival, said it was 'a huge adventure', and was made possible by 21 volunteers from Luton and beyond, with support from Christchurch, the Bury Park Beech Hill Council of Churches, and Grassroots.

For more information about supporting Luton's Roma community, please contact Martin Burrell, 07791536713 / mburrell51@googlemail.com



*A unique piece to add to
your collection...*

**Win a beautiful Royal Crown Derby
Old Imari Solid Gold Band Coal Scuttle,
valued at £995.**

The shape of this new addition to the Royal Crown Derby range has been kept traditional with an open top slanted for pouring out coal.

The 16 cm coal scuttle is exquisitely decorated in our Old Imari pattern of rich iron red and cobalt blue and of course plenty of hand applied 22 carat gold. This really is a truly stunning and unusual piece.

For a chance of winning, please tell us in no more than 20 words why you should win this Old Imari Solid Gold Band Coal Scuttle.

Please post your answer to **Travellers' Times Competition, The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh Street, Hereford HR4 9HG. Closing date 1st February 2013.** Please remember to include your full address and contact telephone number or enter online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ttcrownderbycs

Terms and Conditions

- Only one entry per person – entry implies acceptance of these conditions.
- Entrants must be at least 18 years of age and UK residents. Entrants must not be employees of The Rural Media Company, Travellers' Times or Royal Crown Derby, their dependents or anyone else connected with the promotion. For full terms and conditions go to www.travellerstimes.org.uk

By entering this competition, you are consenting to receiving marketing communications from us about products and services provided by Travellers' Times and The Rural Media Company, and selected companies who partner with us to provide products and services, via email and text, unless you have advised us otherwise.

At last! Government requires local planning authorities to provide pitches for Gypsies and plots for Travelling Showpeople

THE SETTLED COMMUNITY has always enjoyed the benefit of their Local Planning Authority making provision for their housing needs: now Gypsies and Travellers should get equal treatment. Under the provisions of Government policy for Traveller sites all local planning authorities are now required to provide a 5-year supply of pitches/plots.

Each local planning authority is now required to undertake a needs survey called a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment or GTAA. If you have a site which you think would be suitable for your own use or for general provision, now is the time to contact your local planning authority and promote it.

Equally, if you have an unauthorised site, now may be the time to seek to legitimise it through the local planning process.

If you have been refused planning permission or are subject to enforcement and the local planning authority have made no provision, then there may be a presumption in favour of your site in the absence of provision by the local planning authority.

Cunnane Town Planning has many years' experience of advising Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. We have a database of all local planning authorities in England and can advise what the Councils' policy is now and what policy they are proposing to adopt for the next five years and can assist in getting new sites allocated or legitimising existing unauthorised sites.

Call us on 0208 943 4032 (London) or 0161 282 9290 (Manchester) for advice or email reception@cunnanetownplanning.co.uk

cunnane
town planning

PHOTO: Bill Laws

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

Gypsy Rugs

**BEST QUALITY
WASHABLE RUGS**

**Sets or singles at
sensible prices**

Gypsy Rugs

2 day delivery or collection

07974 349490

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Three cheers for Travellers as project wins award



Travellers Iona Burke and Bernadette Williamson with Jess Smith at their award ceremony for Project of the Year

YOUNG GYPSY / TRAVELLERS from Scotland, many of them still travelling, have received the *Herald Society Equalities Project of the Year Award* for their project *Young Gypsy / Travellers' Lives*.

It was established to give the young Travellers a voice so that they can build bridges between Gypsy / Travellers and people from the 'settled community' by raising awareness of their culture and traditions, getting involved in decision

making processes that affect them and challenging the racism they experience on a daily basis at the hands of the media.

Author, storyteller and singer Jess Smith was patron of the project, which was part of the Article 12 in Scotland initiative. National Co-ordinator of Article 12 Lynne Tammi said:

'Scottish Gypsy / Travellers swim daily against a rising tide of prejudice and discrimination, a tide fuelled in great part by some sections of the mainstream media's

reportage, which serves only to reinforce negative myths and stereotypes and further marginalise the community.

"Unlike other minority groups, Gypsy Travellers do not enjoy the support of high profile 'celebrities' willing to campaign on their behalf. Nonetheless, the young people involved in the *Young Gypsy / Travellers' Lives* project have demonstrated the tide can be turned by the community itself - particularly the young people."

Not a care in the world?

There's plenty of caring going on in Scotland's Gypsy / Traveller community, but not all carers get recognition - let alone a helping hand.



A REPORT ON caring amongst Gypsy / Travellers in Scotland has said that while plenty of caring goes on in the "incredibly strong" families of Travelling people, the amount of support they get falls short of where it should be.

The report, which was done by MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project) states that "carers were surprised by the project - most did not identify as a carer or use the term carer to describe themselves.

"Very often, families had got into a routine of 'muddling through' or 'making

do'," says the report. So even when support is available, Travellers don't always ask for it.

It added that in spite of strong Traveller families, "not everyone was able to draw on support from the extended family." This meant that Travellers not accessing social care services were left alone to bear the brunt of caring for relatives.

Trust was part of the problem when it came to finding out where to get help.

One Traveller woman, who remains anonymous in the report, said: "With

country folk it is hard. You need to know a person, trust them like, know they'll treat you normal... I can't explain that feeling when you think they might know who you are. It is like a churning inside, you see it in their eyes even before they've said anything."

For more information, or to find out about help for carers in Scotland, call Michelle Lloyd at MECOPP on 0131 467 2994 or email michelle@mecopp.org.uk

Happy learning history

HAPPY VALLEY Pre-school in Newhaven had a unique way of celebrating Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History Month by inviting Romany Gypsy Lena Smith to come in and talk about her culture.

Lena, whose son Bill and granddaughter Nellie attend the nursery, brought in special items such as Crown Derby plates and animals for the children to look at.

"The staff and children really enjoyed celebrating GRT History Month this year. They played with play trailers and wagons, made Crown Derby plates and read stories which reflected GRT culture," said Jennie Hill, Early Years Co-ordinator.

A display of all the children's hard work is proudly on show at the nursery.

"The Traveller children showed the Gorjer children the culture and years ago this didn't happen. Now they'll all know each other better and become friends," said Lena.



Children from Happy Valley Pre-school have fun while learning about GRT culture



Armani with her miniature trailer



Joe with his horse Rose



James with the family cooking pot

YOUNG TRAVELLERS Armani, James Golby and Joe Watson had a great week learning about Gypsy, Roma & Traveller culture at Bedmond Village School, Herts.

They made everything from cardboard box trailers to Crown Derby designs, and then had the chance to listen to some traditional stories.

Head teacher Emma said "The activities that the children have taken part in have greatly enhanced their understanding and learning of one of the most significant cultures in our school."

Joe brought in his horse called Rose for the day and James brought in his family's cooking pot, whilst Armani decided to showcase her miniature trailer.

James said, "The project made me feel inspired. It's the first time I've celebrated something in school with my family. It was scary doing the speech but after I was really proud of myself."



Bedmond School Project



Davy's story

Here is a fantastic story that Davy Gray, aged 9, who attends St Mary's Catholic Primary School wrote about World War II for his project:

"TODAY I HAD a bath for an hour and it was really, really cold.

In the war it is very hard. It makes me feel scared.

It's hard to hold my gun because it is very, very heavy for my arms to get my gun on target.

When I eat my food it is very cold and it makes me sick. I wish I wasn't here because it is very hard and I can't leave this army.

If I could I would, but I'm at war now. Goodbye".



Derron does well

MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS TO Derron Jones from Brakenhale School, in Bracknell, Berks, for his outstanding achievement in his GCSE exams.

Earning a total of 9 A* - G grades, the clever teenager was shocked when he more than doubled his predicted grades.

"We couldn't be more proud, especially when he was predicted only 3 A* - C," said Derron's family.

Derron is doing a two-year diploma in sport. His ambition is to coach one of the football teams that sponsor the course he is on.

Mr Salter, Derron's head teacher said: "We regard Derron as one of our greatest successes in terms of what he has achieved. It was a privilege to see him mature and grow as he moved up through school. The great results Derron achieved at GCSE will open up many doors for him in the future, and I'd like to wish him every success with his future plans."

Rosie's resolutions



I'M ROSIE TOOHEY, a young Traveller girl in London.

I currently don't go to school and have been permanently excluded; they called me a "school refuser".

When I did go to school all the English children were calling me "pikey" this and "pikey" that and it used to kick off in fights.

I am now trying my hardest to get back into education; I'm still only 14... I can get wherever I want to - the sky is the limit.

I want a career in life; I have a good relationship within the community. I try my best to keep out of trouble and to get into as many positive activities as I can.

I do volunteering at an elderly people's home, painting nails and massaging hands for the elderly service users. Helping others makes me feel happy.

I also do yoga at the Special Yoga Centre as I have a medical condition which affects my lower back.

I do drama at the Tricycle Theatre; for someone my age I feel I do a lot within the community.

In my opinion I feel that *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding* has given Travellers a bad reputation, especially for young girls in our community.

Everybody that knows my background does not want to give me a chance because of me being a Traveller.

Everyone deserves a second chance...right?

Marvellous mentors

A BIG WELL-DONE to four young Gypsies Jodie, James, Courtney and Lala from Merthyr Tydfil who completed a Level 2 Introduction to Peer Mentoring Skills course which is designed to train up them so they can support other peers who work alongside them.

They've learnt how to help other young Gypsies and Travellers in situations where they might be out of their comfort zone.

Jodie, James and Courtney, who are at school full-time, hope to help other young Gypsies and Travellers in school, while Lala who is home tutored wants to mentor and support young Gypsies outside of school.

"The young people worked extremely hard and are looking forward to starting mentoring and receiving their qualification certificates," said Lucy Harris, Peer Mentor co-ordinator.



Lala, Jodie and Courtney



Gary gets his goal



CONGRATULATIONS TO eleven-year-old Gary Beckett from Scotland who was chosen out of hundreds of boys to attend an elite performance school in football.

After being scouted for pro youth football two years ago by Hamilton Accies, determined Gary pursued his passion for football although suffering from type 1 diabetes for which he receives insulin pumped therapy.

Come 2020, some of the boys may be top footballers, so talented Gary now trains every day with a top coach in the hope that he is one of those boys.

"Gary is proud of his roots and never hides what he is. The only time he misses his football is when we are down at Appleby and even the coaches know where he is!" said his dad Gary.



Gary Beckett, first from right, with Darren Fletcher of Manchester United.
PHOTO: www.snsgruopscotland.com



Gary and family enjoying a day at the fair

*You've said "Yes" to the man
of your dreams...now it's time to
find the dress of your dreams*

Should it be straight, fishtail, silk, satin or lace?

What colour to choose, ivory or white?

Come and visit our store with one of the largest selections of dresses in the UK. Our fully trained bridal consultants have all been personally trained by Miss Losner and are here to help and advise you every step of the way.

We feature gowns by My Lady, Maggie Sottero, Mori Lee, Ronald Joyce, Ellis, Marc Leslie, Dizzie Lizzie, Essence and our own in house designer Ricky Summer. Please call and make an appointment and join us for a glass of Champagne to help celebrate your big day and let us help you pick the gown for your special day.

Brides by Losners have been making brides' dreams come true for over 60 years. Come and enjoy the experience for yourself.



232 Stamford Hill London N16 6TT

0208 800 7466



e-mail: stamfordhill@losners.co.uk

www.losners.co.uk

TT Storytelling Competition: we have a winner!



Drummer boy.

PHOTO: Underwood & Underwood, circa 1900

Travellers' Times is pleased to present the first part of our winning story, 'Drummer Jack'. Its writer, Stephen Adams, is a great grandson of the famous Charles Faa Blyth who was crowned King of the Kirk Yetholm Gypsies in 1898.

"If I win an iPad please send it to my daughter," said Stephen. "I am in prison and can't have it here and more importantly I'm not able to give my 10-year-old much at all."

Drummer Jack by Stephen Adams

By the time Stephen was eight years old, his granddad Jack was bed-ridden, and he didn't leave his trailer again until he was in a coffin. But before he passed away, Jack - who had once been such a tyrant - mellowed out and opened up to his grandson. This is the story he told...

Jack had been sat outside a bar with his brothers in the snow and the cold. They were waiting for his father, who was inside the warm inn and much the worse for several jugs of beer. The boys knew a belt would probably hit their hides that night, but they would never dream of moving without a firm order or job to do for their "Pop". The acrid stench of smoke hung in the air, the boys sharing discarded cigarettes they scoured the slushy mud for. Inside, their father was reciting tales of exploits in the Transvaal, and tall stories of the fearsome Zulus who he'd almost fought 21 years before.

Listening outside the open window, hearing the loud laughter and ever more fanciful stories, Jack's eyes opened wider and wider as he imagined himself leading the charge, fighting the savages and enemies of his Queen. He and his brothers played out the battles of Ashanti and Khartoum: he'd have saved Gordon, he was a hero. The games of boys no different through the ages. Just the names and places change.

It was while he was caught up in this patriotic fervour that the idea took root in his head. The more he'd thought about it, the more it seemed the right thing to do. He would earn some real money for his family, not just the coppers he managed to get now for odd jobs and scavenging. He would get adventure and the chance to be a hero. It was the best idea he'd ever had, or so he thought at the time.

That night he'd told his brothers what he'd decided. They'd laughed so loud it had woken his dad who'd shouted something loud and obscene before he started snoring even louder than before. The old man slumped in a drunken stupor in front of the open fire. The boys had been tasked to keep it burning throughout the night, with the promise of a morning's sleep in the caravan as a reward. The travelling life was hard, but it had its good side: no regular hours and no school. As it turned out they didn't move camp the next day, nor again for several weeks. The snow had come thick and deep putting all thoughts of fresh fields out of their minds, to be replaced with cunning plans of how to get their Christmas treats out of the local villagers.

Jack didn't mention his idea again, he'd learnt not to push his luck. So instead he'd made some enquiries and salted away the things he'd need. Then, early one morning, about a week after first deciding, he put his pack on his back and set off to the town.

By the time he arrived at the inn the sun was shining in a clear blue sky, a good omen he'd thought. Taking a deep breath, pulling up his trousers and tucking in his shirt, he pushed through the door with all the confidence he could muster. The stifling smell of old stale ale, tobacco and sweat almost made him gag. He was glad no-one was there to see his less-than-elegant entrance. But he hadn't seen the man, and when he heard a deep growling "Wha ye want Gypsy boy?" he almost wet himself. Not a good start.

"Please sir, I want to do my duty," he managed to squeak out.

"Well boy," said the voice,

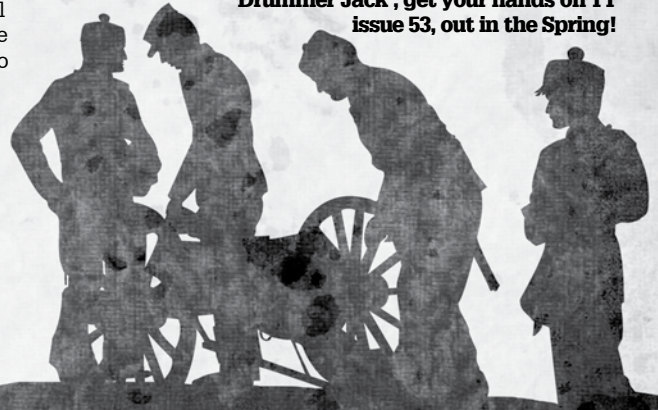
"Do ye think ye can kill a man for your Queen, do ye?"

"I'm sure I could," he'd automatically replied, "and sir, I could lead a charge, too."

And that's how he'd been recruited into the Durham Light Infantry. He'd been sent to Sunderland for kitting out and some very basic training. He'd lied about his age of course, he was big for his age and stronger than most twelve-year-olds from the outdoor travelling life, so passing for fourteen had been easy, especially since the recruiters were keen for their bounty and often seemed to have specks of dust in their eyes.

Before setting sail he'd asked the scribbler to send a letter to his mother, telling her he was safe and well. He asked her not to worry, he'd be back with his fortune before she knew it. He told her all about his splendid uniform and new friends. He'd been placed into a group of other boys all around his own age: they were to be trained as drummers during their sea voyage and would learn to pass messages, an important job. She could be proud of him.

To find out what happened to 'Drummer Jack', get your hands on TT issue 53, out in the Spring!





WANTED



Roma, Buccaneer, Westmorland or Vickers caravans bought for cash.



Any age or condition considered – good, bad or ugly • Sensible prices paid
No withheld numbers. No timewasters. No stupid prices • Supply pictures to speed up any deal

**Please contact Vivienne or Yeslin at Roma Caravans on
01525 864090, or email us at info@romacaravans.com**

000552

NEW

'Lucky in Love'

The Gypsy Fortune Teller
at Cambridge Midsummer Fair



February / March
2013
delivery



The NEW
Royal Worcester
Gypsy Figurine
Beautifully hand painted

LIMITED
EDITION
600

The last
Royal Worcester
Gypsy Fortune Teller
Figurine sold out
within a few weeks!
Order your
'Lucky in Love'
now!

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

Royal Worcester have created this very special double Limited Edition Figurine that features Hannah consulting Gypsy Rosie Lee-Smith for her fortune to be read at Cambridge Midsummer Fair. This NEW Royal Worcester figurine 'Lucky in Love' is again issued in a limited edition of just 600 to ensure it is very special and very collectable. 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 £52 or 1 x £260
Product No. 018625

We have just a few of the last matching figurines 'Shared Treasures at Epsom Derby' remaining - **but you need to act quickly to secure one of the last few!**
Available Now

A LOVELY IDEA
Many families order each new edition for their children or grandchildren

PETER JONES, Dept. 2467,
22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB
Order Hotline 01924 362510

HURRY
only a few left
for sale

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

Available
Now

£250 Height 7"
Product No.
014281



LIMITED
EDITION
600

Beautifully hand painted

ORDER FORM To: Peter Jones, Dept. 2467,
22 Little Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1LB.

☐ Lucky in Love £260 (018625)

☐ Shared Treasures at The Epsom Derby £250 (014281)

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. _____

000548

16 TRAVELLERS' TIMES | WINTER 2012 | ISSUE 52



Danny Hilding

Danny and Rod are right to the rescue

For Gypsy life crew members Danny Hilding and Rod Bradnam it was when they were off duty that they were needed the most... *By Shanterlena Knowles*

DANNY, WHO WE featured in the spring issue of TT, was on his way to a fishing trip with his father-in-law Rod when they witnessed a horrific accident between a car and a motorbike carrying a man and his wife.

Rushing over to the scene, Danny stabilized the man whilst Rod performed CPR on the woman as she slipped in and out of consciousness whilst they waited for the paramedics to arrive.

"When it happened I wasn't scared, the training I had kicked in and I had to see it through to the end," Danny said.

"Being a Traveller you wouldn't think Traveller boys could do this, I'm just happy the woman came round and the helicopters arrived."

Mandy, who was a member of the ambulance crew on scene, said: "I have no doubt that the actions of Danny and Rodney saved that lady's life. They were all amazing and deserve the highest honour possible for what they did throughout the incident, they were a huge help. I've since heard that the lady has suffered no brain injury, only lung contusions and minor injuries so she should make a good recovery."



The crash site
PHOTO: Romney Marsh Herald

Into the West: Health check up for Somerset's Travellers

A TEAM OF travelling people from different backgrounds- Romany Gypsies, Travellers and Showmen as well as "Boaters" (or barge-dwellers)- will be out and about in Somerset this Winter to check up on the health of their people and see what extra help they might need.

The survey will cover Bath, North East Somerset and North Somerset.

Early in 2013, groups will meet to talk about questions that have come up in the survey, for instance whether health workers will come out to unauthorised sites or towpaths.

They'll also look at how much doctors and health staff know about Traveller cultural matters and whether they need more training.

"This study is a chance for all the communities listed above to have their say about their health care needs, and if these are affected by their accommodation (or lack of it)," says the team organising the survey.

For more information, or if you're interested in having your say about Travellers and healthcare, please leave a message with Jackie McPeak 01493 603029, Sylvie Parkes 07732 628077 or Margaret Greenfields 07788 545777. The research is being overseen by Buckinghamshire New University.

Romany Guild's good deeds



Baby Bill

ROMANY WOMEN of all ages are coming together in support of raising money for sick children through a new Facebook group; 'The Romany Women's Guild'.

The group, which has grown to over 8,000 members worldwide, raises funds by raffling and auctioning things such as Crown Derby, baby clothes and figurines.

Young people are getting involved too, like Belinda Armstrong who collected £4,000 from a Christian convention in Australia.

With the goal of registering the group as a charity, members are currently raising money for two-year-old Bill who is on a 24-hour oxygen machine as he was born prematurely with heart, lung and muscle problems.

Falomas Valler, who co-founded the group with Adelaide Webb, said "We wanted a name for Romany people that will stand out and as we are strong like a guild we thought it was perfect."

"We're all Travelling women, we didn't stay in education and we're not getting any money out of this. We're doing it out of the goodness of our hearts and to show that not all Romanies are bad people."

By Shanterlena Knowles

MIND OUT FOR MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA

It's more important now than ever to get the measles jab after GPs have warned about the outbreak among Gypsies and Travellers across the UK.

Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) is highly infectious with serious health complications so it's vital that you get your child vaccinated against the virus.

For more information visit
<http://tinyurl.com/c5ybcbz>

Are you a Gypsy or Traveller doctor? If so then get in touch!

We are looking out for a doctor from the community who wouldn't mind giving advice to our TT readers. Call us on 01432 344039 and ask for Travellers' Times.

Family Album

SNAPSHOTS OF YOUR LIFE

Annie's Photo Album

Margaret Anne (Annie) Cooper was born on the 15th January 1948 at number 1 The Quay, Poole, Dorset, to Sam and Louie Cooper, she was their 5th child of 8.



Annie's great grandparents John and Louisa Barnes who also used the name Sherwood. Left to right Louisa Barnes (1858 to 1935) formerly Willett repairing the trousers of Horace Cooper her grandson who is over her knee, with her daughter Nancy Cooper and husband John Barnes (1853 to 1940) looking on.



Maisie Charity Cooper, (1914 to 1943) sister of Annie's father she married Sam Sherwood.



Annabella Crutcher mother of Matilda Crutcher (1839 to 1923) She lived some time on the Isle of Wight and legend has it she dukkered at Osborne House.



Annie's mothers parents: Samson Jeff (1897 to 1959) and Eliza Freedom (1899 to 1963) formerly Jeff (on their wedding day in 1918), Sam Jeff served as a Driver in the Royal Engineers WW1. Sam's parents are Job Jeff and Maisie Charity formerly Barnes.



Samson Cooper born 4th November 1918 at the Bourne Hill Encampment, Kinson, Dorset, Sam died in 1959 when Annie was 11 years old, Sam served during WW2 as a Private in the Hampshire Regiment. On Annie's birth certificate he is described as a Hawker.



Sam (Sonner) Jeff, Annie's Grandfather



Annie's mother Louie Cooper formerly Jeff outside the house in Arne Avenue in 1951 with children Sammy, Libby, Ginger (Joyce) and Violet. Many Travelling families were housed by the Poole Council on the Arne Avenue Estate as they attempted to clear the camps. Annie's grandparents were Walter Cooper and Nancy formerly Barnes, the Barnes family also used the name Sherwood.



Sinfoy Jeff formerly Lee (1875 to 1911) daughter of Martha Lee and John Smith with her son Job Jeff.



Sadly this is the only photo we have of Annie's granfer Walter Cooper who was born around 1883 and died in 1937, served as a Private 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.



Here's the Fun Photo. Left to right Joseph (Uncle Joby) Hughes holding Tom Cox, Aunt Caroline Hughes formerly White, great granny Matilda Hughes formerly Crutcher, Bella Cox formerly Hughes, we think the other 2 children are Bella's (love the Boots on Uncle Joby).

The 1936 Funeral of Nancy Cooper, Annie's grandmother, Nancy was born 25 Feb 1885 at Redhill, Kinson.



Thanks to John Russell for sharing these wonderful photos with TT. John has recently created a facebook page called **Romany Heritage**. It aims to try and give as good an image of Gypsies as possible by the use of family photos old and new, showing fairs and other aspects of Gypsy life. It also includes photos shared with Romany Heritage by other Travellers - so far the page already has over 1300 likes. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/Romany-Heritage/239756389434356

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

interiorsitalia

....luxurious contemporary living....

Dining Table Sets From £899



Sofa Sets From £999



Bedroom Sets From £899



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

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

Website: www.interiorsitalia.co.uk Email: interiorsitalia@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on



000547



Traveller girls say: You need to **STAY SAFE** online

By Bill Laws and Emma Johnson

A TRAVELLER DAD has called for curbs on Facebook after his daughter went off with a man she met on the social media website. "My daughter became pregnant through this man who is actually married and has children," the father told TT.

More recently a 15-year-old Canadian girl killed herself after being bullied online. Amanda Todd was persuaded to send someone, thought to be a 32-year-old man, a photo of herself topless. Amanda committed suicide after he circulated her picture on the internet.

Tracy (not her real name) posted on TT's Facebook page: "This bloke told me he was from Cheshire, and knew my family. Later it turned out he wasn't using his real name. He was married and already had a little girl. Two days before I went out with him I found out he had been done for GBH too. These men! They ain't worth the stress!"

One Traveller girl from Cambridge ran off with a feller from Derby after meeting him on Facebook. Her cousin told TT: "She was only 15, but said she was 16. He claimed to be 19, but turned out to be 21."

Ban Facebook?

Is it time Traveller parents banned Facebook? As the Traveller Dad at the start of this story says: "Something needs to be done about it. These poor girls are vulnerable."

Like • Comment • Share

Mutual Friends

If you've got family all over the place, Facebook's great for keeping in touch. 'Lou' says: "Before I accept anyone I check how many mutual friends they have got. If they only have 5 or under I don't usually accept unless I know them."

Like • Comment • Share

Just use it properly

"I know one 11-year-old boy whose family wouldn't let him use Facebook because of the risks," says Emma. "In the end his sister set him up, checks it with him every now and again, and he's been safe and sound ever since. Facebook and other social media websites are moderately safe to use – so long as you use them properly."

Like • Comment • Share



TOP TIPS FOR SAFETY

- Adopt a nickname. Don't use your real name.
- Only Add A Friend that you know.
- Never give out your password.
- Think before you post something. It's going to be there for a very long time!

Soap star supports online safety campaign

EastEnders star Shona McGarty who plays Whitney has been in a film to warn young people about dodgy blokes who groom young people. www.youtube.com/watch?v=DffaZFK5m6Y

This is the Facebook page of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre www.facebook.com/clickceop

Here's a useful site for Mums and Dads too.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Shona McGarty.
PHOTO: Chris Hall

No friend of mine

Alarms bells should ring if you get a Friend Request from a man asking how old you are and where you live. "Don't just add someone: ask around your mates and family first," advises Emma. "And if you've added someone you're not happy about block them."

Like • Comment • Share

Be aware

Change your password from time to time and check your general security regularly. Facebook say you should complain if you see anything that worries you. In Emma's experience, this isn't so easy. "When we tried that in the past Facebook didn't do anything about it. In the end it's just best to play safe."

Like • Comment • Share

Church's grave actions draw protests from Travellers

MRS THERESA MILLIS is leading a second protest at a church's actions in relation to the grave of her late husband, Tony Millis.

Mr Millis is buried in St Mary's churchyard in Pulborough, West Sussex. Mrs Millis was forced to remove the railings from around her late husband's grave.

The next peaceful protest will be held outside St Mary's Church on the 9th December from 11am and Mrs Millis says anyone

concerned about this issue is welcome to attend. Around 50 Travellers gathered for a first protest in October.

"I had the plans drawn up and showed them to Father Paul and he said, "Oh that's lovely, yes, you can have that." So as far as I'm concerned he's given me permission hasn't he?"

"So we got them all made and he came here one afternoon and asked me if I would do him a favour and not put them up just yet, as he was

having a lot of trouble at the churchyard.

"I think they've got a problem altogether with Travellers. The vicar says he hasn't but he has. It's all wrong.

The Diocese of Chichester released a statement saying: "The Church of England has a robust mechanism for the granting of permission for headstones within our churchyards.

"Each Diocese applies regulations as laid down by the chancellor of that Diocese."

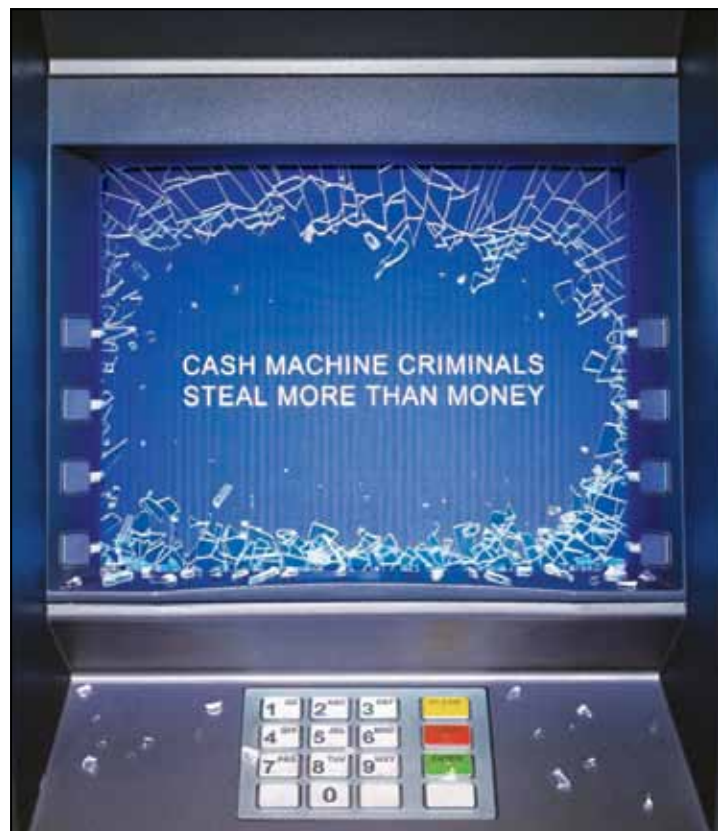


Tony's grave. PHOTO: Damian Le Bas

In memory of Ted Jones

TED JONES DIED peacefully on 28th September at the Marletts, East Preston, aged 86 years. Ted was born and spent most of his life in Broadwater, near Worthing, Sussex and was well known in the area.

Ted was a much loved husband to Julie, a dearly loved Dad, brother to Sheila and "Nandad" to all his Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Great Great Grandchildren. The funeral service was held at St Mary's Church, Broadwater on Monday, 8th October. Ted is at peace now with his son Raymond.



**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

 **LINK**

Haringey Irish Travellers fight to save services

By Mike Doherty



Haringey Traveller Liaison Officer Janet Allen, Bernie Corcoran and Patrick Doherty.
PHOTO: Mike Doherty



Mr McDonagh and letter to council.
PHOTO: Mike Doherty

IRISH TRAVELLERS FROM north London are leading the way in the fight to save Haringey Travelling People's Team from being cut by their local council.

The deletion of the community social work team was announced in July by Haringey Council in a bid to cut spending. Furious at losing the much loved and trusted social work team, Haringey Irish Travellers joined forces with campaign organisation, The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, and managed to force the council to call an emergency public meeting about the proposed cuts.

Even with only a few days notice to organize, 60 local Travellers and supporters turned up; much to the surprise of the Council Officers who may have been expecting a poor turnout. The meeting was even covered in the local press.

Bridget McCarthy, an Irish Traveller from Haringey, said that at the meeting the Council promised to think again. She also says that the council promised to consult with the Travellers but has gone back on its word.

Mrs McCarthy has handed a hand-written letter into the Council offices to complain: "They have made no contact. I identified myself at the meeting and that I was a housed Traveller; my address is on their computers and they never even sent a letter saying whether the consultation is going ahead or not," she said.

It seems that the council has got a fight on its hands as Bridget McCarthy is not the only Traveller to complain to the council.

Both Mr Patrick Doherty and Mr Martin McDonagh who live on the Borough's two Traveller sites, have also written letters and

are determined to make the Council listen. They want the council to keep Janet Allen, the Traveller Liaison Officer, and Michael Ridge, the Community Social Worker, the two experienced workers that make up Haringey Travelling People's Team.

"Janet's work and help is needed very much with the Travelling people and I am speaking on behalf of myself and all my family and hundreds of other Travelling people who will be very sorry to see her go," said Mr McDonagh.

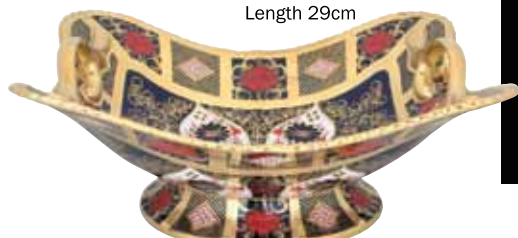
"I have known Janet for twenty two years, she's one of the family to us," said Mr Doherty. "Her and Michael, the social worker, have done a lot of good work for Travellers," he said.

"We will do whatever it takes to save them from being cut," says Mr McDonagh.

Come and see our wonderful selection of Royal Crown Derby gifts and other quality items



**Gold Aves
Two Tier Cake Stand**
Height 11cm
£190



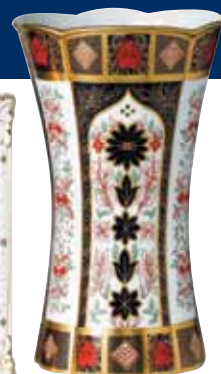
**Old Imari Solid Gold Band
1919 Basket** £2500
Length 29cm



**Old Imari Solid Gold Band
Coal Scuttle** £995 Height 16cm



**Royal Antoinette
Picture Frame** £525
Height 35cm



**Old Imari
Solid Gold Band
Column Vase** £985
Height 28.5cm



**Old Imari
Badger** £150
Length 14cm

194 Osmaston Road
Derby, DE23 8JZ
Tel: 01332 712833
royalcrownderby.co.uk


Royal Crown Derby
MADE IN ENGLAND SINCE 1750
Factory Shop and Cafe

**Special offers available
in store and on line**

Let The Roma Youth Be Heard!

Young Roma people have been learning to tell their stories digitally through a new project, *Let the Roma Youth be Heard!*

THE MEDIA DIVERSITY Institute has teamed up with young Romani people to make 'digital stories', sound recordings illustrated with photographs, telling the story of the best and worst days in their lives.

12-year-old Robert Cazacu said, "The best day of my life was when I went on the London Eye and had a spin on the wheel. I felt very excited being so high, but at the same time I was a bit scared. I saw the whole of London, the big buildings, and all of the ships around us."

The worst day in Robert's life was when his football coach gave him the boot. "Maybe in the last weeks I didn't play very well, but they kicked me out so quickly!" Robert said.

"The way Romani and Traveller people are represented in the media is often very bad, but young people already have the equipment needed to challenge the way they are reported," said one of the participants, Jamal Heredia Jimenez.



PHOTO: @plus 7 dni

Queen of the Gypsies?

PHOEBE LEE'S GRAVE still stands in Feckenham village church, in Worcestershire, witnessed this summer by a group of local young Travellers.

With archive film from the 1960s, provided by Media Archive for Central England, and some media training from Richard O'Neill and Jake Bowers, young people have produced a DVD, exploring past and future, myths and truths of the Romany people of Worcestershire.

The project was set up by Worcestershire County Council's Gypsy Roma Traveller Education Team, and a copy of the DVD and specially written teacher's notes will be given to every school in Worcestershire.

The "Now, Then and in the Future" DVD is a Worcestershire County Council Archive Project



Richard O'Neill interviews Henry Johns



Young Travellers working on the film

Peddalling the past

By Tom McCready

"A FEW YEARS ago, me and a very good friend of mine, a Gorjer man, were in a museum in Luton, when all of a sudden I saw something on a wall. I said "Come here, have a look at this."

He said "What is it?"

I said "It's a grinding bike."

He said, "What's a grinding bike?"

I explained it to him. A grinding bike is a bicycle with a grindstone mounted on the front and a stand on the back. Gypsy men would use them to go around sharpening knives and scissors and shears. There was no outlay, only hard work, so if you were stuck you could always get a few shilling.

Until I'd seen this one now I'd never realised that the grinding bike had gone from my life. I couldn't remember when it went.

I told my dad about it, and we remembered one winter when we were stopping in a wood called the Boundary. We had a grinding bike then: we had two bikes, but only one had a chain, so when my dad and my grandad went out hawking and grinding, one of them had to tow the other. But we got through a very bad winter with this grinding bike.

Suddenly my dad said, "I'm going to make one."

As it turned out, it was really hard to make one now, in modern times, because you couldn't find a proper, old fashioned sit-up-and-beg bike to make one on.

In the end my dad found an old bike, and the rim off an old Silver Cross pram to run the string on. He found a blacksmith that'd make him the framework to hold the stone at the front, and got a stand made up to fit.

Eventually he got this bike made and put together, and it was lovely to see him on it again.

Not long after it was completed, my old dad passed away. I put the grinding bike in my shed, and odd times I'd take it out and run it up, just because it was my dad's.

Then someone said, "You should take it down to the Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month." So I took it there, and it was lovely for people to see it and talk about my dad. The Mayor came and had a look at it, and it turned out like a celebration.

It's nice that my kids get a chance to see how life used to be, and how things was for me, for my dad, and for his dad. Perhaps it was just a coincidence that I saw that bike in the museum in Luton that day. Then again, perhaps it wasn't."

Watch Tom McCready's digital story about the grinding bike at www.travellerstimes.org.uk



Grandad Sam



Tom McCready Snr (Left) working on a Bedford engine



Preparing the bike



The grindstone



The power source!



Tom McCready Snr on the finished grinding bike



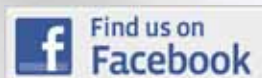
Tom McCready with Amar Nath, then Mayor of Derby

Beautiful Furs and Accessories

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



Posh Furs



poshfrocks cannock

www.poshfrocksandfurs.com
Sales Line: 07919 500234

Shop open strictly by appointment

PHOTO: Nihad Nino Pušija



Gabi Jiménez was born in Paris in 1964. Now based in the town of Marines, France, from where he's always on his travels, he is a Gitano man who loves a freshly cooked hedgehog and a strum on the guitar (he is an accomplished flamenco guitarist).

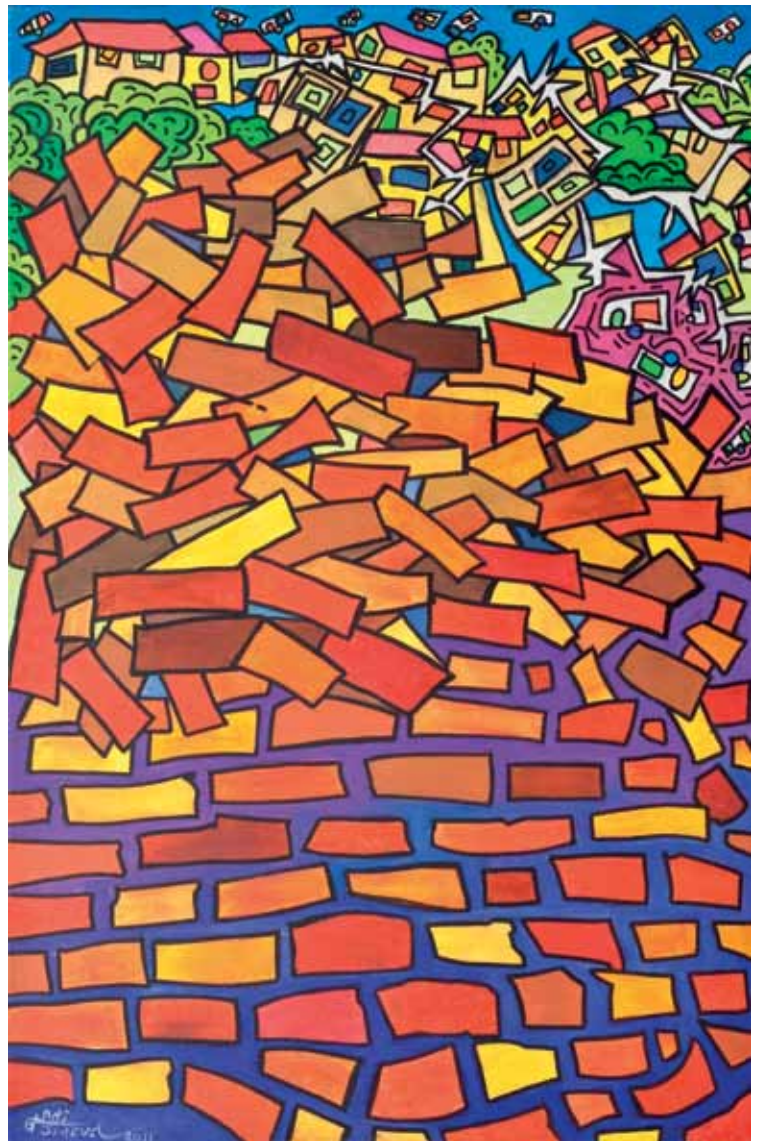
But Gabi is a Gypsy with a difference: he is also a brilliant painter whose sought-after works range from violins and guitars given a vibrant, Gypsified paint job; to re-imagined Van Gogh scenes where Gabi uses his paintbrush to cheekily pull a few trailers onto the rustic landscape. By doing this, our view of three things changes: the land itself; the way it's shown in art; and Gypsy people's place in both of these.

Travellers' Times is pleased to present a selection of Gabi's work, including works shown at the recent 'Gypsyland' exhibition at Gallery Kai Dikhas in Berlin (which means "The place where we see" in the Romani language), the only fine art gallery in the world dedicated to Romani art.



Aquí me mataron. Federico García Lorca, 2010 - 2010.

PHOTO: Courtesy Gallery Kai Dikhas, Berlin © Marcus Gründel TP



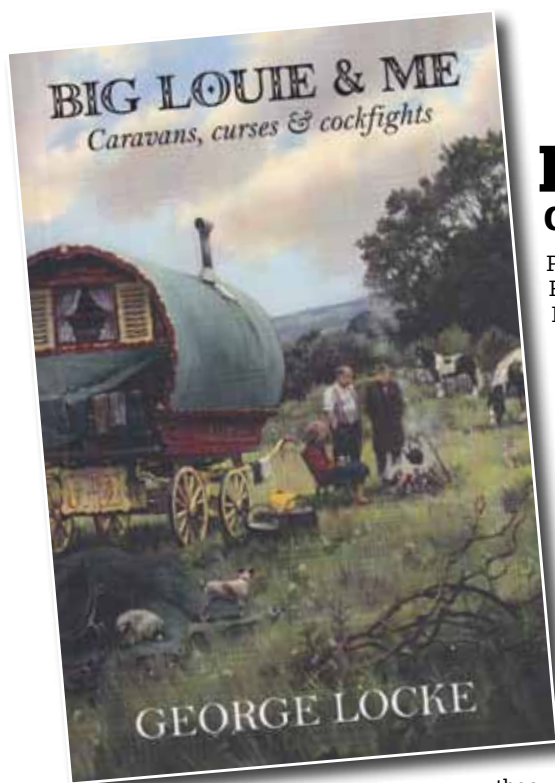
Krematorium IV, 2011. PHOTO: Courtesy Gallery Kai Dikhas, Berlin © Marcus Gründel TP



Ça Va Se Savoir! PHOTO: Gabi Jiménez



From Gabi's joint exhibition with Damian Le Bas Snr, 'Gypsyland'. PHOTO: Nihad Nino Pušija



Big Louie & Me

GEORGE LOCKE

Published by University of Hertfordshire Press

RRP £8.99

ISBN 1907396829

Review by Doreen Johnson

WHAT A GREAT story! I enjoyed every page of it and I couldn't put it down. Three words that sum this book up are love, loyalty and prejudice. It's a powerful book.

I personally think gorgers (non-Travellers) should read this book because it shows that Travellers aren't monsters and that we are no different to them.

We have our beliefs as well as they do. We look after each other in our community as they do in theirs.

The author tells how times were back then with good descriptions. It's interesting to see how times have changed.

In the old days Travellers wouldn't think of even talking to a gorgers, never mind marrying one, and it's interesting to see how Travellers are today. Travellers are marrying gorgers nearly every day.

The author also tells how hard life was: making hard choices, wondering if they are right ones.

It would be brilliant if there were a film like this book for everyone to see. Everyone should know how Travellers used to live, then maybe they wouldn't judge us before knowing us.

George Locke should be so proud of his accomplishment with this book and how truthful he has been throughout. It's so nice for a writer to give us what we want.



Doreen Johnson. PHOTO: Emma Johnson



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



000550

Give Travellers' Times as a gift to someone special this Christmas!



Stuck for a present idea this Christmas? 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.

GET YOUR COPY OF TT DELIVERED TO YOU!

Subscribe today from just £14 per year...

...and we will also include a limited edition Travellers' Times key ring to make your gift even more special! Hurry while stocks last. Offer open only to new subscribers until 20th December 2012.

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	£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

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

The road is song



“The songs I love are ultimately about the people who have kept them alive”, says Sam Lee, folk singer and song collector. In this special feature, *Mike Doherty* finds out about the magical qualities that keep folk singers coming back to the Traveller music tradition and its Gypsy and Traveller guardians.

“THE PEOPLE WHO have learnt the old songs from ear to ear; mouth to mouth; heart to heart, going back for hundreds and hundreds of years. Sometimes never written down; just remembered. It makes me emotional just thinking about it,” says Sam Lee, whose album ‘Ground of its Own’ was nominated for the Mercury Prize this year.

“It’s so powerful that culture can persist like that against everything that’s thrown at it, particularly in the Gypsy / Traveller community. Their songs are their culture.”

Sam Lee, apprentice to the late Scottish Traveller traditional singer Stanley Robertson, has just come back from a trip around Ireland to collect traditional Irish Traveller songs for The Song Collectors Collective, a new project that is aiming to record and digitalize traditional folk songs in an attempt to conserve them for future generations.

Sam hopes that the people who will benefit the most will be the younger generation of Gypsies and Travellers whose families have kept the songs alive for hundreds, if not thousands of years. “It’s about creating an online song book dedicated to celebrating the people who kept the art alive,” he says.

Sam explains that until recently, it was generally considered that all the great “song-carriers” – in England at least – were dead and that traditional folk songs only persisted on music sheets in libraries, or on dusty reels of tape in sound archives.

However Sam Lee, who ‘likes to challenge everything’, believed that the songs still lived on in the Gypsy/Traveller communities and embarked on a personal odyssey to find them.

Find them he did, with songs like *The Pied Straw* surviving against the odds in the memory of people like Freda Black, a

Sam Lee with his friend and inspiration, Romany Gypsy Freda Black. PHOTO: Karen Robinson

Folk singer and Mercury Prize nominee Sam Lee



“The Gypsy Traveller communities were very integrated before Modern times. The Gypsies would be in the pubs where they would be teaching the settled people songs and the settled people would be teaching them the songs. There was a constant exchange of music and culture.”

Romany Gypsy lady born on Christmas Day 85 years ago in Somerset.

Sam also made another discovery. “The songs are the same in the settled community and in the Gypsy and Traveller communities,” he says, and explains why: “The Gypsy / Traveller communities were very integrated before Modern times. The Gypsies would be in the pubs where they would be teaching the settled people songs and the settled people would be teaching them the songs. There was a constant exchange of music and culture. That’s why we have a universal, a national repertoire of indigenous folk songs; because of the Gypsy Travellers.”

There was, however, a difference in how the songs were sung by the different communities; one that lays bare the historical roots of the Gypsies and other Travelling people. “I hear in the voices of the Gypsy Travellers a distinct way of singing,” he says.

To demonstrate this, Sam sings a version of the song ‘Geordie’ that he learnt from Jasper Smith, a Romany Gypsy from Surrey:

***As I walked over London Bridge, one mid-
summers morning early
There I beheld a fair pretty maid,
lamenting for her Geordie***

“This version has a modality – a scale of the notes – that is not from England, but from India,”

he says. “A thousand years ago the Gypsies started off in the Hindu Kush with an Indian scale of singing that has echoed its way through, and they have taken an English melody and they have given it a slant of the East.”

“It’s the same with the indigenous Scottish, Welsh and Irish Travellers”, he says. Each fulfilled similar itinerant roles in pre-Modern society and each had a distinct way of singing that transformed the songs they sung.

Thomas McCarthy, a traditional Irish Traveller singer who has worked with Sam Lee, agrees. “Back then, we were the indigenous Travelling People of Ireland and the villages and settled clans would welcome us for the news, the tin-working skills and the music we brought with us,” he says.

Thomas McCarthy is a working musician who has recorded an album of his songs and has performed live in concert halls. Most of the songs he knows were passed down from his Auntie. The rest he collected on his travels.

One of the oldest songs on Thomas McCarthy’s album is McKinney’s Dream. “We have the original version of that song,” he says. “Other people may sing the same words, he says, but to a different tune. We have the original tune.”

The song is about a man who falls asleep on the site of the final battle in the failed Irish Rebellion of 1798. In his dream, the battle is refought, only this time the United Irish forces

beat the British and win. When Thomas McCarthy sings it, his throat vibrates on the long notes and his voice haunts the words of the ancient song.

***“They gave three cheers for liberty, as the
enemy all broke and flee
I looked around and could not see one
foeman on the plain
Except the men who wounded lay, on the
field so far away
When I awoke, twas break of day, so ends
McKinney’s dream”***



Thomas McCarthy singing
PHOTO: Peter Laban

If you know of anyone still singing the old traditional songs and you think they should be recorded, then contact Sam Lee at songcollectorscollective@gmail.com

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

W: www.classicfurniture.biz