

# Travellers' TIMES

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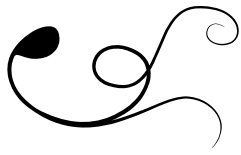
THE ONLY MAGAZINE  
FOR GYPSIES, ROMA  
AND TRAVELLERS



## JADE SMITH & LISA SMITH EXCELLING IN EDUCATION

P2 NEGOTIATED STOPPING | P3 NEWS | P6  
APPLEBY FAIR | P12 STROKE AWARENESS  
P14 MAJOR CHANGES TO PLANNING LAW

TT ONLINE – YOUR VOICE ON THE INTERNET



# FROM THE EDITOR

HELEN JONES IS FROM LEEDS GYPSY & TRAVELLER EXCHANGE

*Guest editorial by Helen Jones*

PHOTO BY: MARY HUMPHREY



IT REALLY IS STARTING TO SEEM A BIT SHOCKING THAT OTHER AUTHORITIES ARE STILL SPENDING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POUNDS ON THE OLD PUNITIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH GYPSY/ TRAVELLER ENCAMPMENTS.

cost argument had proved itself to be correct. Within a couple of years the council declares that it is saving £2000 every week: yes, every single week, compared to the previous practice of evictions. This is without considering the non-cost benefits of goodwill and community cohesion.

No wonder that the London Assembly Housing Scrutiny recently recommended to Mayor Boris Johnson that negotiated stopping should be tried in London. The Lloyds Bank Foundation have recently recognised the significance of this work in their Yorkshire and Humber Change Champions award to Leeds GATE. It really is starting to seem a bit shocking that other authorities are still spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on the old punitive way of dealing with Gypsy/Traveller encampments.

When we began negotiated stopping in Leeds we heard about all sorts of disaster scenarios that might happen. But, like laughing at cycle helmets, who is laughing now?

It's a lovely feeling to watch an idea that no-one thought would work begin to take hold. Like cycle helmets for example. I remember when we all laughed at cycle helmets. We really did. But now, thank goodness, cycle helmets are everywhere.

In 2010, Leeds GATE suggested to Leeds City Council that they should try a different policy towards roadside families. We called that policy 'negotiated stopping'. We suggested that negotiating with families about the things that make encampments intolerable for settled people – namely household and human waste – and then allowing them to 'stop' for a negotiated period of time. It'd be a lot cheaper than the constant evictions which had cost the authority over £2million in less than a decade.

It took a lot of work by Leeds GATE, by leading Councillors, and by Council staff to persuade objectors that this would be a better solution. And so it was a year later when the first pilot 'negotiated stopping' site took place for three months in Holbeck, Leeds. This first camp was followed by another, and another, until we reached a tipping point where our

DAMIAN LE BAS is stepping down as editor of Travellers' Times after four years in the job. He is looking forward to staying involved as an advisor to TT. Damian said: "This work has been a privilege. It's an important time for our people and I look forward to seeing Travellers' Times keep thriving."



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EDITOR: Damian Le Bas | CO-ORDINATOR: Julie Colman | ASSISTANT: Lucy Murtagh

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

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COVER PHOTO BY DAMIAN LE BAS: Jade Smith (left) and Lisa Smith (right) of Worcestershire. Jade recently passed an impressive seventeen GCSEs and Lisa is studying for a Doctorate in Education (she already has a Master's degree). Both have been working closely with teacher Kay Poole. Watch an interview with Jade and Lisa at [travellerstimes.org.uk](http://travellerstimes.org.uk)  
PHOTO OPPOSITE BY DAMIAN LE BAS: Richard O'Neill making traditional Gypsy pegs





# INSIDE TRACK

*News from your world – in brief*



AS Travellers' Times went to press, the government backtracked on withdrawing the 2006 guidance on unauthorised camping, after a challenge from the Community Law Partnership – but so far it has refused to back down on the new definition of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Read more about this on pages 14 and 15 of this issue of Travellers' Times. The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups has started an emergency legal appeal to raise funds to challenge the government on the new law: you can contact them on [natglg@outlook.com](mailto:natglg@outlook.com) or call **01629 732744**. A major, peaceful protest is being planned to take place in London next March. Travellers' Times will do our best to keep readers posted about developments.

TWO much anticipated world title fights involving Travellers have been postponed. Tyson Fury's bout with Wladimir Klitschko for the WBA, IBF and WBO World Heavyweight titles was due to go ahead on 24th October in the German city of Dusseldorf, and was called off after Klitschko complained of a calf injury. It is hoped the fight will now take place on 28th November in the same place. Billy Joe Saunders was due to fight Andy Lee for his WBO World Middleweight title on October 10th in the first all-Gypsy world title fight in history. As Travellers' Times went to press, promoter Frank Warren was hoping to reschedule it, also for late November.

ERIC Pickles is set to receive a knighthood in January, a year after a High Court judge found that his policies racially discriminated against Gypsies and Travellers. Mr Justice Gilbart said Pickles's actions broke English and Welsh law, common law and European Human Rights law.







# "NO TRAVELLERS"? NO MORE.

SAY LAWYERS WHO FOUGHT WETHERSPOON AND WON

*By Martin Howe*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TRAVELLER MOVEMENT



- Tide turns against "No Travellers allowed" after Wetherspoon cases
- Mobile phones put the power to get evidence in your hands
- Lawyers win compensation for Travellers turned away due to race
- "We want to hear from victims of blatant racism", say Howe & Co

"The last bastion of acceptable racism has come crashing down. It is dead." These are the headlines that greeted the landmark legal victories of Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers against the pub giant Wetherspoon, the largest pub chain in the UK with over 930 pubs.

We all know this has been going on for years: pubs, restaurants, hotels, clubs, taxis, bowling alleys and other businesses refusing entrance and service because you're a Traveller or

Gypsy, or even because you're a friend or associate of Travellers.

"Sorry boys, can't serve you today." "Sorry ladies, no entry today I'm afraid." It happens so often that some Gypsy and Traveller people just accept it as part of their lot in life. "Don't bother going in there, you won't get a pint."

But being refused service because of your race is not your lot in life, it is against the law. These recent court judgements show that at last, judges are starting to understand the grinding, everyday racism that Gypsies and Travellers have to put up with. Compensation is being awarded. We are the lawyers who won the case against Wetherspoon, and if you've experienced discrimination like this and can prove it, read on, because we can help YOU.

Make no mistake about it, the fight for equal treatment for Gypsies and Travellers has had an almighty boost from the case of The Traveller Movement and others v JD Wetherspoon plc handed down on 18 May 2015. Wetherspoon made another admission of unlawful race discrimination two weeks later in a second case brought by Irish Travellers in Cambridge. It's like buses – you wait for years for a good case to come along and suddenly there are two of them!

The facts are typical of cases where businesses discriminate against Travellers. In November 2011 the Traveller Movement held its annual conference in north London in a building next door to a Wetherspoon pub, 'The Coronet'. At the end of the conference delegates left the conference hall to go for a social drink next door. The first group to approach the pub included two Traveller women, a priest,

a solicitor, and a policeman. Bouncers blocked their entrance with words to the effect of 'you're not coming in because you're from the Traveller conference'. In court Traveller and Gypsy witnesses, with immense dignity, exposed gut-wrenching raw emotions of what it is like to have shouldered years and years of blatant racism.

The judge got it. He understood what it is all about. He said it all came down to "stereotypical assumptions", to "racial stereotyping" by the manager of the pub. The judge said that such attitudes assumed that whenever Irish Travellers and English Gypsies go to public houses violent disorder is inevitable because that is how they behave.

The judge found the pub guilty of direct discrimination on the grounds of race and awarded each refused person £3,000 compensation for their hurt to feelings for "being temporarily denied a social occasion in the most convenient venue". The pub chain has to pay out damages totalling £24,000. It's a wake-up call for service providers to stop their racist treatment of Travellers and Gypsies.

In the second case a group of Travellers went out in Cambridge on 27 February 2015 to celebrate the birth of a child and two birthdays. Several of them approached the doors to The Tivoli pub to be told "No Travellers tonight", although at first the bouncers and manager claimed there was a "bookings only policy" – how often are lame excuses used to mask the real issue of unlawful race discrimination. On the back of the court win in the first case, Wetherspoon caved in. They openly admitted unlawful direct discrimination, offering each person refused entrance £3,500 in compensation.

Enough is enough. We all know of too many examples of wedding receptions cancelled at the last minute, of restaurants taking money up front, of restaurants happy to take your money for a take-away but not prepared to let you sit down, of pubs and clubs refusing entrance or throwing you out. No longer do you have to move on to the next pub or the next club in the hope that someone will let you in. No longer do you have to be embarrassed and humiliated feeling somehow second-class. No longer do you have to hide your proud identity.

My law firm, Howe & Co in London, won the two Wetherspoon cases. I was the solicitor barred at the doors of the Coronet pub in the first Wetherspoon case, as I had been at the conference because I am a member of the board of the Traveller Movement. Howe & Co is absolutely committed to stamping out this prejudice wherever it raises its ugly head.

We have set up a powerful campaign team in Howe & Co to fight these cases. We want to hear from anyone who has been the victim of blatant racism and help them win compensation and get formal apologies. We take on these cases on a no-win no-fee basis, or with the help of Legal Aid.

You can help. Mobile phones are providing a revolution in proving discrimination claims. If you are a victim of discriminatory behaviour immediately record the incident on your phone. Take a video of what is happening. Make a sound recording. Ask the person discriminating against you if it is because you are a Traveller? Record the reasons given for the refusal of service. If there are independent witnesses to the incident ask for their details.

The team of lawyers working on this campaign at Howe & Co includes our three partners – Martin Howe, Kieran O'Rourke and David Enright. Together we can bring an end to this nasty soul-destroying prejudice and if service providers persist in their unlawful conduct we will make them pay in compensation, costs and loss of reputation.

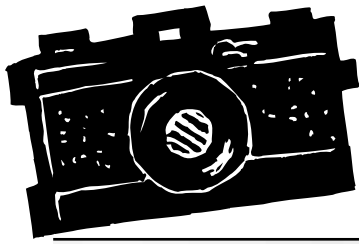
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# APPLEBY FAIR

*Photos by Natasha Quarmby*



Photographer Natasha Quarmby was at this year's Appleby Fair. Here are a selection of her pictures from the biggest and best-known Traveller horse fair of them all.









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# YOUR VOICE – TRAVELLERS' TIMES ON THE ROAD AGAIN

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**T**ravellers' Times has been on the road with its Your Voice workshops, teaching Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people about the media and why it's important. We paid visits to groups across the Midlands and the North of England to talk

about everything from complaining to newspapers when they step out of line, to making films on an iPad. Here are some pictures from our recent workshop at the City of Derby Academy, where a group of 75 young people made three films in just four days!

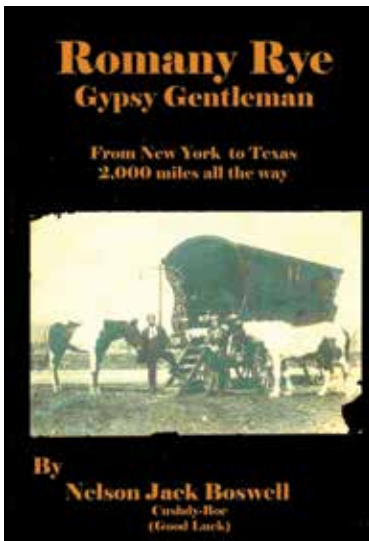


PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY STUDENTS





# BOOK REVIEWS



## *Romany Rye*

BY  
NELSON JACK BOSWELL

This ambitious novel is a rollicking tale about 'Adam Boswell' who embarks on a journey from New York to a boom town in Texas in 1868. His thoughts regularly go back to the past in England, including Hereford – home of Travellers' Times – and many of the stories are real, based on true events from the lives of the author's

ancestors and the book includes family photos which are a lovely addition and help bring it to life.

From Blackpool to Scotland to New York to Texas, from present to past, we are drawn into the world of Adam Boswell, his family and the colourful characters they meet along the way including Wild West gunfighters, con artists, a Mafia beauty, evangelists and gamblers.

The author's pride in and knowledge of his history shines through, with a wealth of knowledge on horse-trading, dog-breeding, boxing, fortune-telling, customs and traditions enriched by the use of many Romani words which are usefully explained in English.

This 300-page novel is packed with adventure, romance, fights, travel, culture and animals and should appeal to adult readers of all ages.

Romany Rye is published by New Generation Publishing [www.newgeneration-publishing.com](http://www.newgeneration-publishing.com) and is available to buy at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



## *Jamie's Prayer*

BY  
SAMSON RATTIGAN

Jamie Johnson (year 5) won a prayer competition run by his school (Green Oaks Primary, Godalming, Surrey). The prayer will now be read at the beginning of every school Church service. The Bishop Of Guildford came to meet Jamie and he

presented him with a gift. Jamie said he really enjoys school and that English is his favourite subject, but he also likes the experiments in Science. He has a stallion called 'Tiny Tim' who he plans to ride with his wagon. As well as horse riding Jamie enjoys playing golf in his spare time.

Jamie's winning prayer:

DEAR GOD,  
HELP US THROUGH OUR DAYS OF EDUCATION.  
LET US BE KIND AND RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S  
BELONGINGS.  
GUIDE US AND HELP US DO THE RIGHT THING.  
THANK YOU FOR OUR FRIENDS FAMILIES AND TEACHERS.  
AMEN

Jamie Johnson

PHOTO BY NATASHA QUARMBY



## *From The Horse/s Mouth*

BY TINA CARR AND  
ANNEMARIE SCHÖNE

Full of visually stunning photographs showing the lives of Gypsy, Roma and Travelling people, focussing on the UK and Hungary. The shadows

of the Holocaust and grinding modern-day poverty creep over vibrant horse fairs and loving, smiling families.

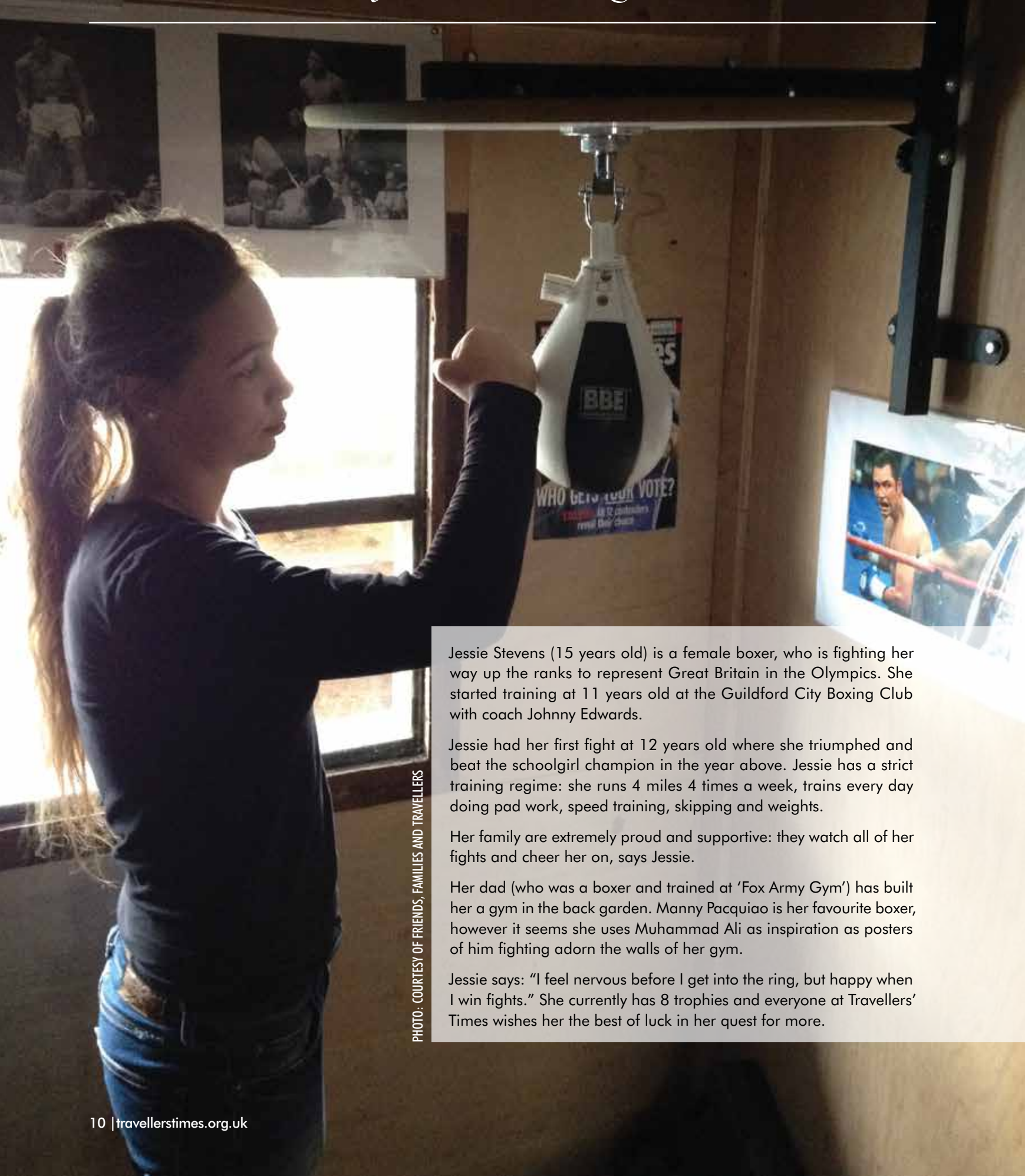
What sets this book apart from other "photo books" about Gypsies are the essays by well-known Roma and Traveller writers and activists. They include Ian Hancock, Ágnes Daróczi, Jake Bowers, Shamus McPhee, Roseanna McPhee and Kathleen McCarthy. The book is 201 pages, hardback, with 250 colour photographs.

Available directly from [www.hexpress.bigcartel.com](http://www.hexpress.bigcartel.com)



# PROFILE: JESSIE STEVENS

*By Samson Rattigan*



Jessie Stevens (15 years old) is a female boxer, who is fighting her way up the ranks to represent Great Britain in the Olympics. She started training at 11 years old at the Guildford City Boxing Club with coach Johnny Edwards.

Jessie had her first fight at 12 years old where she triumphed and beat the schoolgirl champion in the year above. Jessie has a strict training regime: she runs 4 miles 4 times a week, trains every day doing pad work, speed training, skipping and weights.

Her family are extremely proud and supportive: they watch all of her fights and cheer her on, says Jessie.

Her dad (who was a boxer and trained at 'Fox Army Gym') has built her a gym in the back garden. Manny Pacquiao is her favourite boxer, however it seems she uses Muhammad Ali as inspiration as posters of him fighting adorn the walls of her gym.

Jessie says: "I feel nervous before I get into the ring, but happy when I win fights." She currently has 8 trophies and everyone at Travellers' Times wishes her the best of luck in her quest for more.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS





# OBITUARY – DAVEY JONES

*By Katharine Quarmby*



PHOTO: © CIARA LEEMING

PASTOR DAVY JONES  
BORN 1955  
BURIED MONDAY 20 JULY 2015

Davey Jones, the leader of the evangelical Life and Light church, died on 11 July this year. He left behind his wife, Nora, and his three daughters Angela, Lucy and Keilah, and many much-loved grandchildren.

Pastor Jones was buried at North Walsall Cemetery on 20 July. Over 5000 Romanies and Travellers attended his funeral, with some coming from Australia, America, France and Holland. Tributes have flowed in from all over the world.

John Le Cossec, the son of Clement Le Cossec, who founded the church in France, paid tribute, along with his wife, Nancy: "David was surely chosen to be used to reach his people. We

grieve his parting, yet look forward to the day when we meet again in Heaven." Cathay Birch, another church member, remembers how she and her husband Joe came to the church in 1992. "Davey saved so many of us, by the wonderful message that he brought," she said. "God rest his soul, and comfort and encourage his wife and daughters."

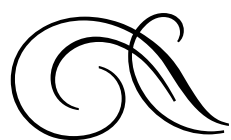
Jackie Boyd, a leading pastor in the church, remembers him with great affection. "Davey meant a lot to all of us. He was a tower of strength and a very wise man. God used him and it's just sad in his passing that people will miss out on the great parts of his life. They will never know what he was like to be with. But you can bury the workman but the work goes on. He built a stable foundation in this country. We have 33 churches and over 100 preachers now. He was just a normal man, willing to be used by God. When you are righteous, you will have enemies."

Billy Welch, the organiser of Appleby Horse Fair and Davey's cousin, said: "I've always looked up to him – he had a wise head on young shoulders, he was very intelligent. You would always go to him for advice. My father thought the world of him." Billy's father brought the Le Cossec family, and the church to Darlington, which is how the church started in the UK. "At the funeral there was a great photograph of him and my father together, with the French Gypsies. People came from all over the world to say goodbye. He was sent off like a King."

Janie and Cliff Codona, other church members, also paid their respects. "It is so, so sad. We have known Davey for over 25 years, and he was a man who had time for everyone. He dedicated his life to God and only worked to help others. We are proud to have known him, travelled with him, and shared part of our life with him."

A few years ago, I interviewed Davey Jones at Appleby Fair, in his chrome caravan. It was called the first church by Life and Light, as the first services were held in it. "Life and Light has been called the silent revival," he said. "In the last few years we have opened 27 large churches in this country alone. My people were in spiritual darkness. Now many of them are experiencing a personal relationship with God for the first time." Last year I saw him again, at the Selby mission, with Nora. We stood outside the big tent and I asked him whether he had ever thought the church he had brought to the UK would grow like this.

Davey looked at the tent behind us, full of his people, praying, and shook his head. "We were just a few then, I had no idea. But that is God's work, not the work of men."



# HEALTH SPECIAL

## *Leanne calls for stroke awareness*



**M**y granny died this May just gone. She was a Travellers' Times fan, we used to send her up a new issue every time we got one. She loved to keep scrap book after scrap book of newspaper clippings about Travellers. She used to say she did it to see how things have either got better or worse for Travellers.

She died at the age of only 72 as a result of high blood pressure over the years which led to a blood clot forming. This led to two strokes which made her brain damaged. I was hoping you could do a story about her and make Travellers aware of how high blood pressure left untreated can have fatal outcomes, and how to spot signs of a stroke. **LEANNE LOVERIDGE**

A stroke is a serious, life-threatening medical condition that occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off.

Strokes are a medical emergency and urgent treatment is essential because the sooner a person receives treatment for a stroke, the less damage is likely to happen.

If you suspect that you or someone else is having a stroke, **PHONE 999** immediately and ask for an ambulance.

Signs and symptoms – act **FAST** and save lives

The main symptoms of stroke can be remembered with the word **FAST: FACE-ARMS-SPEECH-TIME**.

### **FACE**

The face may have dropped on one side, the person may not be able to smile or their mouth or eye may have dropped.

### **ARMS**

The person with suspected stroke may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of arm weakness or numbness in one arm.

### **SPEECH**

Their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake.

### **TIME**

It is time to dial 999 immediately if you see any of these signs or symptoms.

### **WHY DO STROKES HAPPEN?**

Like all organs, the brain needs blood to function properly. If the supply of blood is restricted or stopped, brain cells begin to die. This can lead to brain injury, disability and possibly death.

There are two main causes of strokes: where the blood supply is stopped due to a blood clot (85% of all cases), and where a weakened blood vessel supplying the brain bursts.

There is also a related condition known as a TIA, which stands for transient ischaemic attack (TIA). This is sometimes called a mini-stroke but it is still very serious.

### **WHO IS AT RISK?**

Older people are most at risk of having strokes, although they can happen at any age – including in children.

Smoking, being overweight, lack of exercise and a poor diet are also risk factors for stroke. So are high cholesterol, atrial fibrillation and diabetes.

### **HOW STROKES ARE TREATED**

Most often, strokes are treated with medication. This generally includes medicines to prevent and remove blood clots, reduce blood pressure and reduce cholesterol levels. In some cases, surgery may be required.

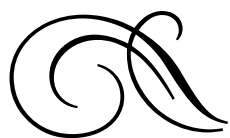
### **CAN STROKES BE PREVENTED?**

You can significantly reduce your risk of having a stroke through a healthy lifestyle, such as eating a healthy diet, taking regular exercise, drinking alcohol in moderation and not smoking.

Lowering high blood pressure and cholesterol levels with medication also lowers the risk of stroke substantially, as does taking anticoagulant medication if you have an irregular heartbeat.

If you have had a stroke or TIA in the past, these measures are particularly important because your risk of having another stroke in the future is greatly increased.





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# GYPSY TRAVELLER SUMMER FAIR RETURNS TO MILE END PARK

*By Mike Doherty*

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PHOTO BY: CRESTON RAINE HAMILTON



**T**he Traveller Movement and the local Gypsy and Traveller community celebrated in style on Sunday 28th June with a Summer Fair in Mile End Park, London to mark Gypsy, Roma Traveller History month.

Rosie Toohey, Traveller Movement intern, who helped organise the day said: "It went really well. After all that work we put into organising it and worrying if anyone would turn up I felt on top of the world when people started arriving and the music started."

The event was opened by Tower Hamlets Mayor John Biggs and headlined by the popular and entertaining Seamus Moore ('The JCB Man') and his band, who played rip-roaring Irish and country music on the main stage, followed by support acts and an open mic competition.

Former Cray's Hill Parish Priest Father Dan gave an interfaith sermon and Tower Hamlets Mayor John Biggs opened the event with a speech. The Traveller Movement is grateful to Tower Hamlets Council, Canary Wharf Group plc and Continental Holiday Homes Ltd, and Howe and Co Solicitors for their generous help and support.

This was a family fun day and there was plenty for the children to do, with a children's funfair, a bouncy castle, pony rides, five-a-side footie and a baby pageant with prizes. There were market stalls selling everything from baby wear to flowers to china and porcelain ware to brand new mobile homes. There were also information stalls showcasing the work of the Traveller Movement and the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit.

Yvonne MacNamara, CEO of the Traveller Movement said: "It was lovely to see so many people turn up from all the local communities. We are so glad that everybody had a good time listening to some great music and browsing the stalls. It was a great day out.

"Seamus Moore, The JCB Man, is a great act with a massive following and we were proud to have him headlining an event celebrating the UK's Gypsies and Travellers. It was a grand craic and we look forward to meeting you all again next year."



# NEW DEFINITION OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – SO WHAT NOW?

*By Community Law Partnership*



PHOTOS BY: DAMIAN LE BAS

- Government changed definition of Gypsy and Traveller in planning law on August 31st
- Those who have stopped travelling because of ill health or old age no longer to be classed as Gypsies or Travellers
- Further restrictions on Traveller sites in the Green Belt and open countryside
- Government backtracks on withdrawing 2006 guidance on unauthorised camping – but won't go back on new definition of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Readers will recall that, on the bank holiday weekend on August 31st, the government introduced disastrous changes to their policies with regard to Gypsies and Travellers. This included changing the definition of Gypsies and Travellers for planning purposes.

It meant those Gypsies and Travellers who had ceased travelling permanently due to old age, ill health and disability were no longer within the definition. The government also withdrew the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2006 Guidance on Unauthorised Camping, which aimed to stop authorities dealing inhumanely with unauthorised sites.

CLP were instructed to challenge the government on both these issues by a Romani Gypsy woman and we sent a pre-action letter. In response the Government Legal Department have stated:

*Whilst my client was careful to have due regard to his PSED [Public Sector Equality Duty] when considering and resolving on his position in respect of the wider process and package of measures, the Secretary of State accepts that he did not have regard to that duty when he decided to cancel the 2006 guidance, only, and should have done so. Accordingly, and for that reason only, my client has today reinstated the guidance pending a review on its continued status.*





We have asked the Secretary of State to ensure that he writes to all local authority planning officers to inform them of this decision (as he did regarding the original decision to withdraw the guidance).

We are still very keen to hear from any Gypsies and Travellers affected by these issues and by the other changes brought in on August 31st with regard to the Green Belt, open countryside etc. Please phone us on our advice line which is **0121 685 8677**.

We are very pleased indeed that the vital 2006 Guidance has been reinstated and well done to our client for bringing forward the challenge.

Unfortunately in the same letter, the Government Legal Department have refused to withdraw the new definition and, thus, we are now seeking legal aid for our client to challenge this matter.

We'd like to remind our readers exactly what the changes are. In the Annex to the new Planning Policy for Traveller Sites the government explains that any reference in the policy to – "gypsies and travellers" means:

*"Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including*

*such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such"; and to "travelling showpeople" means:*

*"Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above."*

By replacing the word "**permanently**" with "**temporarily**", it follows that Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who have stopped travelling permanently for example, because of ill health or old age, will no longer be able to seek planning permission for a caravan site to meet their accommodation needs. The changes to the planning definition will have a very damaging effect upon the most vulnerable members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

In our view it is vital that people who could be affected by these changes take steps to challenge the government's new definition in the courts on grounds that it is discriminatory and breaches their rights to respect for their family life, their homes and their traditional way of life, an integral part of which involves living in caravans, rights protected by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**TAT ( Travellers Advise Team ) operates a national Helpline for Travellers on 0121 685 8677, Mon - Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm. CLP's website is at <http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk>**





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