

THE MAGAZINE FOR GYPSIES, ROMA & TRAVELLERS
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TRAVELLERS TIMES



KUSHTI

**BETTY BILLINGTON CARVES A PLACE FOR
DORSET'S GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS**

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• TEGAN NEALE • THE CAN CARAVAN • KICK IT OUT

TRAVELLERS TIMES



PHOTO:
THE NEW TRAINEES
AT THE TTV
INDUCTION COURSE
IN BIRMINGHAM
© DAN
HAWORTH-SALTER

TT VISION

Welcome to this Kushti Autumn/Winter edition of Travellers' Times.

For over 20 years, Travellers' Times has made sure Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have their voices heard. We challenge negative media & discrimination and celebrate history, culture and achievements and by 2025, Travellers' Times' ambition is to be fully independently owned and lead by the people it represents.

In issue 69 we told you about TT Vision, a unique opportunity to be part of that vision through the TT Vision training programme.

We are thrilled that our first cohort of trainees started with us in September with a two-day induction course hosted in Birmingham at the Aston University Conference Centre.

Successful applicants are taking part in paid training, delivered by highly skilled

EDITORIAL

professionals with a mix of online and in-person learning with work placements, mentorships and education pathways available too.

The second cohort will start with us in January 2023 and all our TT Vision trainees will get the opportunity to become the journalists, organisation leaders and creators of the future.

"I'm really excited to be on the TT Vision course. I want to learn how to shoot and edit video well and develop my existing skills in creative writing into writing factual pieces. I applied as I'm fed up with how Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, especially women are, depicted in the mainstream media and I can't wait to create content for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people!" says Gemma Lees, TT Vision trainee.

You will be able read, watch and hear all the content produced by our trainees on our Travellers' Times website where they will all be giving regular updates about their progress.

Our next issue of the TT magazine is due to be posted out in Spring 2023 so wishing you all a great Season's greetings and a Happy New Year in advance. In the meantime be sure to keep up with the TT by visiting our website at

www.travellerstimes.org.uk where you will also find links to our social media platforms.

Julie Colman
Travellers' Times Project Manager

NEWS

BELOW: A HOME IN ROVER WAY, CARDIFF. THE SITE SUFFERS FROM POLLUTION FROM NEARBY INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND SEWAGE WORKS
© KATHARINE QUARMBY. **RIGHT:** © JOHANNA PRICE



WELSH GOVERNMENT URGED TO ACT ON LACK OF SITES

The Welsh Government is failing to force councils to address the lack of Traveller sites, said a Senedd report released in August this year.

The report, from the Senedd (equivalent to Parliament in the UK Government), called on the Welsh Government to act, citing racism and lack of political will as factors in Welsh councils' failure to build more sites.

Henry Price, from South Wales, welcomed the report but was sceptical about whether the Welsh Government would act.

"It's good the Senedd have looked into this, but I really think that things are no better than they were 20 or 30 years ago despite all the promises and the new laws," he said.

The Senedd also found that many sites are situated at the side of dangerous roads or far away from services and amenities, with no facilities for children or the elderly.

Leeanne Morgan, who organised a group of West Wales Gypsies and Travellers to meet with the Senedd, said that the inaction and language of councils in their area made her feel like a second-class citizen.



LAWYERS LAUNCH HIGH COURT CHALLENGE

Lawyers from Community Law Partnership have launched a High Court challenge against the new 'anti-Traveller' law, or section 60c of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

The new law makes trespass with vehicles a potential crime with a punishment of up to three months in prison and the seizure of the vehicles if the occupants do not leave when directed.

The legal challenge is on behalf of a Romani Gypsy and an Irish Traveller. Both have no alternative but to resort to roadside and unauthorised camps due to the lack of authorised stopping places. They are challenging the new offence on the grounds that it is unjustifiably discriminatory and vague and in breach of the Human Rights Act.



GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS GRIEVE FOR THE QUEEN

Gypsies and Travellers and supporters across the UK have paid condolences to Queen Elizabeth II, who died peacefully on the 8th September, bringing an end to a historic 70-year reign.

On Traveller and Gypsy recipes and tips Facebook Group, one of the most popular groups for the community and their supporters, many posts were published mourning Queen Elizabeth's passing.



COVER PHOTO: BETTY SMITH BILLINGTON AND THE DORSET LEGEND POLE © BELA VARADI

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ABOVE: TRAVELLER PRIDE AT TRANS PRIDE BRIGHTON © BELA VARADI
RIGHT: A YOUNG TRAVELLER CHILD AT HOUSING RALLY IN LONDON © NATASHA QUARMBY

TRAVELLER PRIDE SAYS IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

Traveller Pride were at the Gay Liberation Front 50 years of Pride Anniversary event in London on the 1st July.

Two weeks after that, Traveller Pride were also at Trans Pride Brighton.

Traveller Pride has not marched together since their launch at London Pride 2019, so it was good to be back!

"We chose our events well this year," said Tyler Hatwell, Traveller Pride's founder. "We wanted to avoid some of the bigger more corporate events and stay to things that felt important to us as a community: fighting for and alongside trans people and commemorating the historical struggle so far."

"When I first came out, we didn't think that there were 20,000 trans people in the whole country, so being in a crowd of 20,000 trans people, and their friends and families, with all my Gypsy friends too, was amazing," said Traveller Pride member Percy.



DISCRIMINATORY 'GYPSY STATUS' PLANNING DEFINITION CHALLENGED

Hopes have risen after a legal challenge to a planning law which 'abuses the human rights of Gypsies and Travellers' was heard in the Court of Appeal in London, in July this year.

The court decision, which, at the time of going to press has yet to be handed down, could determine that the government's planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers (known as 'gypsy status'), which is used to determine whether a Traveller can develop or live on a designated Traveller site, is unlawful.

Campaigners say that the planning definition, which was changed to its current form in 2015, now discriminates against elderly and disabled Gypsies and Travellers because to get 'gypsy status' you have to prove that you are able to continue to travel to look for work.

RIGHT: CHERRY VALENTINE © THE DRAG ADVENTURES



REST IN POWER 'OUR GEORGE'

George Ward, who performed as the drag queen Cherry Valentine, has died at the age of 28.

Born and raised as George Ward in the Traveller community in Darlington, they starred in RuPaul's Drag Race UK and presented a BBC documentary about their life, Cherry Valentine: Gypsy Queen and Proud, in January this year.

Traveller Pride, who George spent time with during the filming of the documentary, were among the first of many to pay tribute to "our George".

Traveller Pride tweeted: "... so much of the success and growth of Traveller Pride over the past year was down to Cherry Valentine. Being open on Drag Race and then later the film, an enormous impact. We will be forever grateful."



MAIN: MARY STREET, BRADFORD. KATHLEENANNE BOSWELL LOOKS OUT OF HER WINDOW AT THE LOCAL TIP AND RECYCLING CENTRE © KATHARINE QUARMBY
INSET: MARY STREET, BRADFORD. IN THE SHADOW OF THE LOCAL TIP AND RECYCLING CENTRE © KATHARINE QUARMBY

DUMPED BY THE SEWAGE How the planning system places sites near environmental hazards

Kathleenanne Boswell, the senior youth officer for Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, understands full well the issues that confront residents of Mary Street, the site where she lives in Bradford. "The main problem is we are living in an industrial area. And it's the air quality, the smell, the dust and the sound ... the recycling centre is just behind us – and the sound, the noise is a problem ... and we also have a big problem with rats."

This is just one of the multiple problems facing so many Traveller sites around England, Scotland and Wales. I mapped 290 socially rented sites throughout the three nations to show the proximity of sites to unpleasant places, such as sewage stations, recycling centres, industrial areas and motorways and rail-lines, as well as near water, which can flood or bring vermin. I found that 39% were within 50 metres of the hazards, with over half (54%) being within 100 metres.

A grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Ideas and Pioneers Fund allowed me to investigate the unjust processes that explain the scandal of why Gypsy and Traveller communities have been and continue to be placed in areas which are polluted, noisy, and vermin infested. This is a form of environmental injustice that affects the mental and physical health of residents.

I made Freedom of Information requests about planning history and 20 Environmental Information Regulations requests about current concerns. I visited Mary Street in Bradford, Yorkshire and Rover Way in Cardiff, Wales, interviewing residents and representatives of Gypsy and Traveller organisations. The planning history of the sites showed that council officials were aware of the risks of the locations for sites. The requests revealed a hidden housing scandal. Residents raised concerns about sites plagued by insects and vermin, as well as odour, vibration, noise, dust and air pollution.

Jasmine Jones, Co-ordinator of the charity Gypsies and Travellers Wales, and I visited residents at Rover Way. Each pitch is spotless, but the road beyond the site is very busy. A red dust, thought to be from the nearby steelworks, sticks to the trailers. It has to be hosed off every day. Jasmine Jones says that: "The location of the current site is appalling." Julie Price, a grandmother, told me when I visited: "I can cope with the rats, but not the flies ... I can't live where I can't cook in my own home in the summer."

Residents from both sites told me about the vast numbers of flies. One resident from Rover Way told me: "The shops run out of fly paper around here in the summer. We can put a paper up in the morning and it's black within the hour with flies." A resident from Mary Street said, simply: "They wouldn't expect anyone but a Traveller to live here."

By Katharine Quarmby

COVER STORY

KUSHTI BOK CARVES A PLACE FOR DORSET GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

MAIN: A DETAIL FROM THE LEGEND POLE
© BELA VARADI
LEFT TO RIGHT: THE LEGEND POLE UNVEILED,
WITH THE REVEREND JONATHAN HERBERT (LEFT) AND
CARVER GARY ORANGE (RIGHT) © JAKE BOWERS.
BETTY SMITH BILLINGTON READY TO UNVEIL THE
LEGEND POLE © JAKE BOWERS

A chainsaw-carved Legend Pole has been unveiled by the charity Kushti Bok in Dorset to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are made more visible.

"We were always the forgotten people," says Betty Smith Billington, Chair of Kushti Bok. "We were the forgotten people of the Holocaust and we make sure that we are no longer forgotten."

The Legend Pole, made by wood carver Gary Orange, has been erected in the beautiful Garden Area of the Kingston Maurward College grounds.

With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Kushti Bok have worked closely with the college and Dorset History Centre to create a new pole that will stand on the college grounds for many years



to come, replacing the original legend pole, created in 2004, that had fallen into disrepair.

Betty Smith Billington said, "This is a brilliant opportunity for all Dorset residents to become more aware of the beautiful culture and heritage of the Travelling communities."

"This project is an opportunity to collect stories and memories and share them with Dorset-based repositories, so they can continue to reflect Gypsy & Traveller culture and heritage, added Betty Smith Billington. The Legend Pole project is also an opportunity to increase involvement in Kushti Bok, gaining new supporters and committee members, and mapping a path towards further fundraising."

The unveiling party was a huge success, with over one hundred Gypsies and Travellers in attendance. Music was provided by duo Tom and Jean Orchard, who entertained guests with a selection of songs, tunes and step dances.

Notable attendees included former Chaplain to the Gypsies and Travellers, Reverend Roger Redding MBE, Chaplain to Gypsies, Travellers and Showmen, Reverend Jonathan Herbert and Romani filmmaker, Jake Bowers.

Kushti Bok will use the Legend Pole to hold community events both physically and virtually to increase connection and engagement within the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller communities.

LEVI-GEORGE HOLLAND IN LOVING MEMORY FOR HIS GRANNY



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF VEE DUFFY



When Levi-George Holland survived a rare health condition that his granny had already died of, he decided to climb the highest mountains in the UK to raise awareness of the condition, and to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Levi-George and his team of supporters – some from the Gypsy Traveller community and some not – successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge in June, this year, and he has now handed over the money raised to GAIN, a charity that supports people suffering from Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Ryalla Duffy, a well-known Gypsy campaigner, died from Guillain-Barré syndrome in March 10th, 2021, aged 62.

Soon after, Ryalla's grandson Levi-George was diagnosed with the same syndrome.

Guillain-Barré syndrome is a very rare and serious condition that affects the nerves.

It mainly affects the feet, hands and limbs, causing problems such



as numbness, weakness and pain. It can be treated, although it can occasionally be life-threatening and some people are left with long-term problems.

"My son came down with it in September last year," says Ryalla's daughter Vee Duffy. "It's very rare and not heard of very often to have two members of same family to get it."

"Levi-George was fully paralysed for six weeks and then began physiotherapy to get back to health," adds Vee.

"He had a very good recovery and climbed the Three-Peak Challenge in just under 36 hours on the 17th to 19th June this year, along with

19 other members of his family and friends."

The Three Peak challenge involves climbing the highest three mountains in England, Scotland, and Wales – Scafell Pike in England, Ben Nevis in Scotland, and Snowden in Wales.

Vee adds that the decision to climb the mountains to raise money and awareness of Guillain-Barré syndrome was made as Levi-George was in hospital not knowing if he would ever walk again.

"It was done in loving memory for his granny," said Vee.

By Julie Colman and Mike Doherty



APPLEBY FAIR 2022 WHY WE GO

The importance of Appleby Fair to my community is immeasurable.

It's a unique gathering of Gypsies and Travellers as well as a celebration of our history and culture like no other.

If you have been you will already know exactly what I mean, it must be seen and experienced to be truly appreciated and the fact is there is nothing I have ever seen on TV or read in the media which comes anywhere near close to capturing the true spirit and soul of it.

Misrepresentation of our people is widespread but the lies and falsehoods around Appleby Fair are especially damaging and unjustified.

For many families, like my own, it is a much honoured and cherished part of our heritage and traditions and one which we are desperate to preserve and hold onto.

As a community our people experience shocking discrimination and prejudice but Appleby Fair is an opportunity for salvation and an unrivalled expression of the pride and joy in our culture and identity.

In today's fast-paced world, it is a link to the past and a way of life which is increasingly under threat of censorship and criminalisation.

If we do not fight for the right to maintain these traditions and our way of life Fairs like Appleby will be lost forever.

By Drive2Survive board member Sally Barter

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF APPLEBY FAIR 2022 © BELA VARADI



FILM 'HURJASA – WE WILL FLY'



STILLS FROM HURJASA COURTESY OF PROUD ROMA

Roma across the Western Balkans are being encouraged to stand up and be counted in a new short film made by a team of Roma journalists, activists, and filmmakers from across Europe. The film, entitled Hurjasa, which means "We Will Fly", is made entirely in the Romani language and features over 30 Roma role models who are thriving in their respective professions and homes. It was released on July 22nd this year.

The film has been written, produced, and directed by British Romani journalist Jake Bowers and is directly inspired by the Black American poet Maya Angelou's civil rights anthem "Still I Rise". The epic poem looks at the troubled history and roots of the Roma as coming from India before powerfully calling on Roma people to match the success of all the Roma role models featured in the film. Shot by award-winning British cinematographer Stuart White, the film is a beautiful cinematic portrait of Europe's largest and most misunderstood ethnic group.

"For me the line 'instead of going onwards, it is upwards we must go', describes the challenge Roma people across Europe now face to educate, integrate and liberate ourselves from outdated stereotypes that simply hold us back," says Jake Bowers. "We filmed over 30 amazing role models in the Western Balkan region in just eight days and we just sampled the variety of amazing Roma role models living in Belgrade, Skopje, Prizren and Tirana."

The film features Roma thriving in a dazzling diversity of professions like lawyers, doctors, government ministers and journalists, but also covers the long-standing Roma contribution to the arts by featuring actors, musicians, and artists. The central importance of Roma homes and family is also underlined by featuring Roma grandparents and children living in Roma mahallas (neighbourhoods) across the Balkans.

The incredible access into Roma communities was only made possible by a team of Roma producers and production assistants living at the heart of the Western Balkan Roma community.

The film was produced in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council Roma Integration and the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, as part of the Proud Roma, Free Europe campaign.

'Hurjasa – We Will Fly' is available to watch on YouTube; just type Hurjasa into the YouTube search bar to find it.

OPINION WHY I BECAME A JOURNALIST



MARTIN WARDE COMPERED THE 2022 FRIENDS FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS AWARDS. PICTURED BELOW WITH SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER JOHN EDWARDS © LAUREN MATTHEWS

I was not always interested in journalism. I originally started off wanting to work in Traveller and LGBT+ rights movements, which is why I studied sociology and politics as part of my university degree. Alongside that, I was lured away from activism by the enticing feel of a stage underneath my feet. I became a stand-up comedian and was the first from my community to do so. Much like journalism, performing spaces tend not to have been seen as welcoming spaces for GRT people, which is why we need to encourage more of us to push the boundaries and force their way into these spaces. I have now also finished writing my first theatre play too, titled 'The Dead House', which is a story of a Gay Traveller man returning home on the day of his grandfather's wake.

When the pandemic descended, I lost all of my ticket sales and was at a loss as to where I should go next as a writer. Then my grandmother died in March 2020. This was a big moment in my life because for the first time I realised that the stories and words of wisdom of our elders will only remain whispers suspended in the past, unless we write about them. That year, the Dublin Inquirer asked me to write a column for them and I chose to write about my granny, Maggie Mongan. That column was met with a great reception, and within a few days the Irish Times asked me if I would allow them to reprint the piece. Since then, I have written for the Irish newspapers on several occasions and this was a step forwards towards claiming our own narrative. I then set out to find out whether there



were educational opportunities in journalism. With the kindness of the University of Limerick, I was awarded the first Traveller scholarship and I started a Master's degree in journalism.

I hope this is a spark that ignites the interest in journalism within the GRT communities. My one bit of advice to GRT people today is to tell them to write what they feel, what they see and what they want to be read. Rather than us always being the story from the perspective of a middle-class writer with no first-hand knowledge of us, let us start to shape our own narratives and write more, show more, become more.

By Martin Warde

A large background image of Johnboy Smith, a male triathlete, wearing a bright yellow Giro helmet and an orange Under Armour cycling jersey. He is sitting on a blue and black carbon fiber road bike, looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

INTERVIEW COMMONWEALTH GOLD FOR JOHNBOY SMITH

Set on the second day of the Commonwealth Games where the men's T53-54 marathon took place at 7am in the streets of Birmingham. This is where Johnboy Smith won his first Home Nations Athletics Medal after competing in a 26.2 distance wheelchair marathon. Shortly after his win, Travellers' Times interviewed Johnboy Smith to find more about the dedication behind the victory.

We asked Johnboy how he prepared for his win, to which he simply replied: "I prepared for this in any way I could". After Commonwealth Silver on the Gold Coast in 2018, Johnboy Smith physically trained for 16 months in the back of his garden in a single garage containing exercise bands, medicine balls and a set of dumbbells. At 4am he would start with strengthening and conditioning exercises up until his children woke up. After a day with his family, he would get back to training in the afternoon. In the last 10 weeks of training he increased the intensity of his regime and was training every day, three times a day for two to three hour sessions.

Part of Johnboy's approach to training includes making the most out of his environment to better his racing form. Where he lives provides a quarter mile long hill route to Formula 1 race track, Brands Hatch, and a cycle lane next to a dual carriage way with an estimated distance of 100 yards. Using his racing chair, Johnboy would train by going from top to bottom with 20-25 pounds or 10 or 12 kilos strapped to the back of the chair.

This isn't a rags to riches story, instead it's a story based on resilience and resourcefulness. Johnboy Smith describes himself as an "old fella from Kent who put his head down and tries to do his best". His dedication and triumph is an inspiration to all who find themselves facing adversity. From his training to his state of mind, Johnboy believes that anyone can achieve what he has achieved. "It doesn't matter what you are it's about how hot the fire is burning inside of you," says Johnboy Smith – and there's no doubt that the fire will continue to burn as Johnboy prepares for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.

By Liza Mortimer

© BELA VARADI

INTERVIEW TEGAN NEALE



IT'S LIKE BEING IN A FROZEN DESERT ON THE MOON

MAIN PIC: TEGAN NEALE CROSSING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. PICTURE COURTESY OF TEGAN NEALE.
INSET: TEGAN NEALE DURING AN EXPEDITION THROUGH THE PANAMA JUNGLE. PICTURE COURTESY OF TEGAN NEALE

"It's like being in a frozen desert on the moon and the drifting snow, which was dry, was like frozen sand," says explorer Tegan Neale, who recently assisted-led an expedition across the Arctic Circle. "When the frozen air hits your lungs, it takes your breath away and it was a struggle to breathe sometimes and it could feel like sharp stabs in your chest when you do. It was like being on a different world, and probably the most beautiful I have ever seen."

Some of the magical moments for Tegan on her trek were when she met people from the indigenous nomadic Sami tribe. "There would be little Sami camps dotted around as we walked," says Tegan. They would travel around like that with their dogs."

Tegan Neale, 26, has travelled the world as an adventurer and professional expedition leader assisted-led an expedition across the Arctic Circle earlier this year, and raised £30k for a cancer charity in the process. "It's in my blood to escape what otherwise could be a life in what feels like a claustrophobic society," says Tegan.

Growing up in Somerset on her grandparents' piece of ground, Tegan was always told to follow her dreams and for Tegan this meant exploring the world.

"My grandma always pushed me," says Tegan. "She was scared for me on my travels, but she always pushed me." However, Tegan waited until her grandmother had died before she came out as LGBT at the age of 18. "I felt like it was the right thing to do," says Tegan.

With her gran and mum's encouragement, at the age of 16 Tegan ventured to South Africa and at 18 to Nigeria, and since then she has

been to Iceland and the Panama Jungle. And leading expeditions, for which she gets paid, is fast becoming Tegan's "bread and butter" career.

Tegan is already planning her next expedition. "I want to lead an expedition to find the Lost City of El Dorado in the Amazon jungle in South America, or Paititi, as it is also known," says Tegan. "We have already discussed it with other researchers and hopefully we set off at the end of 2023."

"It's somewhere in the Amazon, and I want to explore that area and find that legendary city," adds Tegan. "To be an explorer is hard today, there are not many new places to find and not many challenges left to conquer. Your team is your life out there. When you are away from civilisation it very much reminds you of what the important things are in life."

By Mike Doherty

YOUTH TRAVELLERS' TIMES

#YTT COMMUNITY



MAIN PIC: DESTINY, JIMMY, KATHLEEN, INA, CHERISSE, TOMMY © MIKE DOHERTY. **INSET:** 'I LIKE THE WAY THE COMMUNITY HELPS' – AN INSIDE SPREAD FROM THE CAN CARAVAN. PICTURE COURTESY OF CHILD'S PLAY

THUMBS UP FOR THE CAN CARAVAN

The Can Caravan picture book for children aged 4-9, written by Romani Storyteller Richard O'Neill and illustrated by Cindy Kang, celebrates the traditional Traveller virtues of resilience, adaptability, loyalty and independence.

The Travellers' Times contacted the publisher Child's Play, and asked them to send some copies of the book to Crays Hill Primary School, Essex, who kindly supported some of their pupils to review it. Crays Hill Primary School and its dedicated staff serves the parents and children of a large local Irish Traveller community.

The Can Caravan is about Mrs Tolen who broke her hip and Janie wants to help, writes Cherisse in her review. She helps by making a new caravan out of recycling, writes Destiny. Janie did not want Mrs Tolen to go into a care home so she built her a can caravan, writes Ina. Mrs Tolen, who broke her hip has to go into a care home. However, Janie is building her a new home, writes Jimmy.

I like the way the community helps Mrs Tolen, writes Destiny. Kathleen agrees and writes that she liked the team-work and kindness.

When asked if there was one thing they would like to change, Cherisse and Destiny wanted something explaining what some of the Romani



words used meant, and Jimmy, Kathleen and Ina were sad that Mrs Tolen broke her hip. However, Tommy came up with a brand-new alternative ending to The Can Caravan. Mrs Tolen broke her hip, then she got better and fell in love with Janie's grandpa, wrote Tommy!

All in all, it was a big thumbs up for The Can Caravan from our young reviewers at Cray's Hill Primary School.

The Can Caravan can be purchased direct from the Child's Play website at:

www.childs-play.com
By Mike Doherty



MAIN PIC: ANWAR UDDIN SHOWING THE YOUNG TRAVELLERS A VIDEO OF HIM SCORING A GOAL FROM THE HALFWAY LINE! © MIKE DOHERTY. ALL OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS © JOHN HENRY PHILLIPS/FFT



KICK IT OUT!

England C Team coach and ex-West Ham player Anwar Uddin MBE recently visited St Michael's Way Traveller site in East Sussex, along with anti-discrimination charity Kick It Out, for football games and knowledge-sharing with young Irish Travellers.

During the well-attended visit, the young Travellers turned out in the kits of their favourite teams, with the former professional footballer and Louis Bamgboye from Kick It Out kindly donating footballs, goalposts, and other equipment.

Speaking about the football session, Tommy Buck, Projects Coordinator at Friends, Families and Travellers said that the visit was a learning experience for the young Travellers.

"Our youth outreach team has

been working with local young people for a number of years, making positive impacts with mental and physical health through football," said Tommy Bucks.

"Meeting Anwar and working with Kick It Out was a great opportunity to meet an ex-professional footballer and learn how to make a career out of sport from someone who has lived it for real."

Anwar spent time answering questions about his career, shared photographs, and videos of his personal highlights (including a cup final at Wembley Stadium!) and even went through some of his training drills.

Anwar Uddin said that they had received a warm welcome at St Michael's Way.

"This is the first time we have had the chance to work with young Irish Travellers," said Anwar

Uddin. "We can't wait to get back and expand on what was a very positive afternoon."

Before wrapping up an exciting and inspiring afternoon, the group enjoyed a football match which ended with a nail-biting penalty shootout finish!

Future plans include match day and behind the scenes visits to Falmer Stadium, the home of Brighton & Hove Albion, as well as a chance to play on the team's state-of-the-art 4G training pitch.

Kick It Out are keen to work more closely with Traveller and Romany communities up and down the country, and if you know of a site wishing to get involved then get in touch with Kick It Out through their website address at

www.kickitout.org

By John Henry Phillips/Friends, Families and Travellers

HELPLINES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER NATIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS

GATE HERTS

Community Lead Organisation for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers

01707 247 088

gateherts.org.uk

hub@gateherts.org.uk

FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS

Work to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

01273 234777

fft@gypsy-traveller.org

www.gypsy-traveller.org

LEEDS GYPSY AND TRAVELLER EXCHANGE

Confidential support and advocacy for Gypsies and Travellers living in or passing through West Yorkshire

0113 240 2444

LGBT TRAVELLER PRIDE

Advice and support for LGBTQ+ Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

07395 355066

travellerlgbtpride@gmail.com

www.lgbttravellerpride.com

ONE CALL AWAY

Gypsy & Traveller Mental Health and Support

Onecallawaytoday@gmail.com

PRIDE OF ROMANI

Community-lead organisation based in Cheshire

prideofromani@gmail.com

REPORT RACISM GRT

Report Hate Crime against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

reportracismgrt.com

ROMA SUPPORT GROUP

Supporting and empowering the Roma community

07949 089778

info@romasupportgroup.org.uk

DRIVE2SURVIVE

A national GRT led campaign charity set up to oppose the new anti-Traveller laws. For advice and information call

07840 979302 or

07903 198022

www.drive2survive.org.uk

TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

Providing support and advice nationally to Gypsies and Travellers visit our website

www.travellermovement.org.uk

0207 607 2002

info@travellermovement.org.uk

TRAVELLING AHEAD

Support & advice for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across Wales

0808 802 0025

travellingahead@tgcymru.org.uk

COMMUNITY LAW PARTNERSHIPS TRAVELLERS ADVICE TEAM

Legal advice and support for Gypsies and Travellers facing eviction

0121 685 8677

GENERAL

SAMARITANS

116 123

www.samaritans.org

CHILD LINE

0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

WOMEN'S AID (DOMESTIC ABUSE)

www.womensaid.org.uk

MIND: FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

0300 123 3393

www.mind.org.uk

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

0800 9177 650

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Providing physical, financial and emotional support to people living with cancer and their families.

0808 808 00 00

www.macmillan.org.uk

7 days a week, 8am-8pm

Travellers' Times has loads of other useful advice and support numbers on our website visit **www.travellerstimes.org.uk/advice**

