

PORTRAITS & POEMS



2006

DEROYSHICE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP



MOVING FORWARD

Some Books from the
"Moving On" Series

Monday 10a.m. – 4p.m.

Wednesday 10a.m. – 4 pm.

Friday 10a.m. – 4p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays
we are open for office visits
but would you please call
01629 583300 and make
an appointment first.

D G L G

Winners of the Queen's
Golden Jubilee Award 2003,
Committee Members of
The Gypsy & Traveller Coalition,
Winners of Liberty Award 2004



Edited by Bob Dawson
(retired Head Teacher).

DERBYSHIRE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP

THE
DERBYSHIRE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP



Ernest Bailey
Community Centre,
New Street,
Matlock,
DE4 3FE

Tel/fax: 01629 583300

Email:
info@dglg.wanadoo.co.uk

Website:
www.dglg.org

Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group

The Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group first began in the City of Derby in 1983 when there was a tremendous struggle to try and establish a site, or sites within the city borough. In 1987 a branch started in the north of the county called the North Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group based in Chesterfield. The two groups amalgamated and formed the now Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group.

D G L G

What do we do?

Over the years we have been involved in supporting equal access to education and health care but the main issue of recent years has been and still is the struggle for sites whether these be private or public authority sites. We are in contact with reliable, trustworthy planning experts and we liaise and mediate with County and District authorities especially the Planning and Control departments. We lobby on a national level for the rights of Romany Gypsy People.

- ❖ Seek to ensure stopping times and prevent evictions.
 - ❖ Take families through the planning application system.
 - ❖ Advise County Council and District Borough Councils on various matters.
 - ❖ Produce specific educational material for Gypsy/Traveller children.
 - ❖ Implement better Police training on a national level through the Moving Forward Project in conjunction with Derbyshire Police.
 - ❖ Send representation to local meetings and national conferences.
 - ❖ Work with Gypsy organizations within Europe to bring about better understanding of Romani Gypsy culture
- Gypsy people are a recognized ethnic group under the Mandla Criteria. The Mandla Criteria, which is established in law, is:
- ❖ Along shared history coupled with a sense of directness.

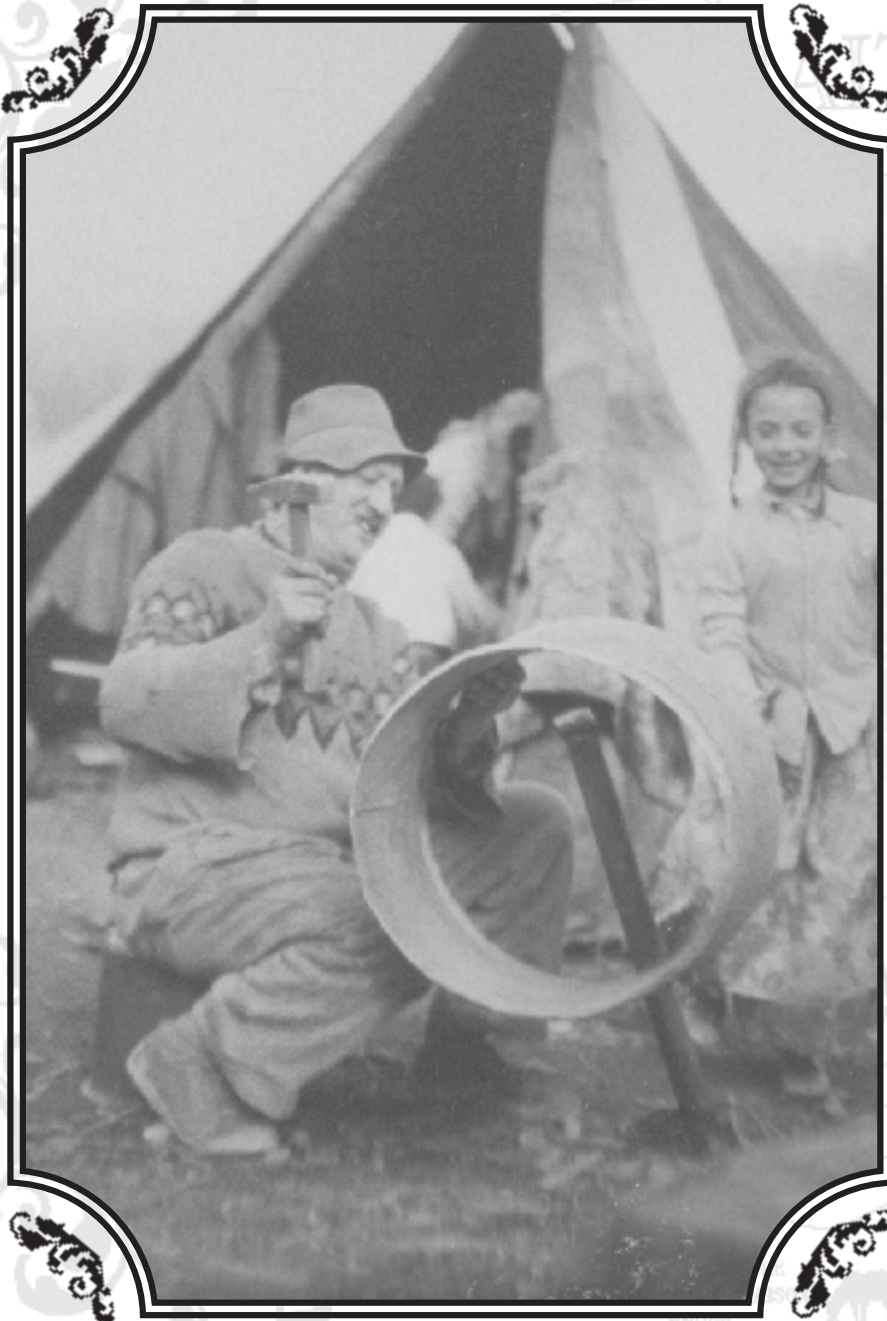
- ❖ A cultural tradition of its own including family and social customs, often but not always, associated with religious observance.



Relevant

- ❖ A common geographical origin or small number of common ancestors.
- ❖ A common language not necessarily peculiar to that group.
- ❖ A common literature including folklore or oral traditions.
- ❖ A common religion different from that of neighbouring groups.
- ❖ The characteristics of being a minority or being oppressed by a dominant group within a large community

JANUARY



Roma in Romania

The Roads of the Roma

Each night, my God, as I close my eyes,
I see before me the roads of the Roma.
But where, my God, is the long-lost road,
The one true road, the one first-travelled?

The countries of Europe are riddled
With roads: across Russia and Poland,
Lithuania and Latvia they weave,
They criss-cross Scandinavia.

These are the roads I roam each night,
In search of the one true road,
The road the travellers first traveled,
The road of the Romani forebears.

Through Germany and the Balkan hills
Of Hungary and Romania I wander,
Reaching the land of that ancient empire,
Byzantium. In centuries gone by.

The Roma migrated here, lived cheek by cheek
With the Greeks, Jews, Slavs, and Turks.
They live here still, still poor and plotless,
Travellers from some distant land.

From Europe I follow the roads of the Roma
Into the Orient: to Armenia and Iran where
The Sassanids once ruled, and before them
The Achaemenids. From here the road leads

To another land where the Indus-river flows
To the land where the Kushans once held sway:
This was called Gandhara, or Roma-land, here lay
The estates of the Sindhu, where are elders walked,

Performing great works in sunlit fields.

Farther my road does not go; it only
Goes backward into time, diving deep into
The centuries. Here, five thousand years ago,
Was a land of thriving towns, Harappa

And Mohenjo-Daro among them, a land whose peoples
Lived as peers, the place where our travels
Began. Everything started here. What used to be
And what will be converge at this point: at the end

Of that first Romani road lies the fate of my people.

By Leska Manus

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

I said a Prayer for you Today



Tom & Julie McCready

LETTERS & POEMS

I said a prayer for you today
For God, to be near you
And keep you safe
I know that he will hear me,
For he proves it everyday,
For days we spend together
In a very special way.

I said a prayer today
For both of us, a thank you
For our friendship
The sharing of pleasures we love

So on this valentines day
Thank you for passing my way.

By Doreen Twigdon

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH

I am the Gypsy



Rene Smith (with permission from Hull GATE)

I am the Gypsy that you saw on the street
And took a broad detour so our paths would not meet
I am the same Gypsy who then knocked at your door
But you sent me away, saying come back no more

I did not call to curse you or steal your children away
Those myths are for wives tales from long yeterday
My hands may be dirty, my clothes are unkempt
Let me tell you what's happened since from bed I leapt

The police came to move us the third time this week
They would give no time for a new place to seek
The bottle was due to feed my small daughter
But as luck would have it we run out of water

There was no money, we did not have much
So I took to the streets selling pegs, lace and such
If I thought someone eager, I would them a charm
It wishes you luck but will bring you no harm

When I got home from my long day of toil
the food must be cooked and the kettle be boiled
My husband had fetched water from three miles away
Then sorted dogs and horses the rest of the day

I fetched the wash bowl so we all could get clean
Clothes piled in the corner no washing machine
No telly, no electric so it's all off to bed
I'm glad this day's over now, I'll rest my head

God I hope we can stay here and folks won't be so mean
As to start up the protests as soon as we're seen
So the next time you spot me out there on the street
Don't be so hurried to take to your feet

Remember my story before it's too late
After all I am human there's no reason to hate
These words are an insight of a typical day
Please keep this in mind before running away

A smile or a nod or a look what I'm selling
two minutes of time listening to tales I am telling
Yes, I am the Gypsy who has done all these things
But now times are different and look what it brings

I see my culture dying due to regulations and rules
The young ones are changing and are going to schools
Communication is essential as is social inclusion
Not to read in the papers of Gypsy intrusion

To be treated as equal, no better no worse
If you want to make changes then let us rehearse
Don't try to conform me to agendas you've set
You don't even know me, we never met

So ask me some questions, let's make a new start
Listen to my voice, let me take part
Let's all stop prejudging one thing or another
And treat with respect like sister or brother

Let us keep our heritage so it's not left behind
Keep minds wide open who knows what we'll find
So remember my friend I've lived your way and mine
And given the choice it would be mine every time!

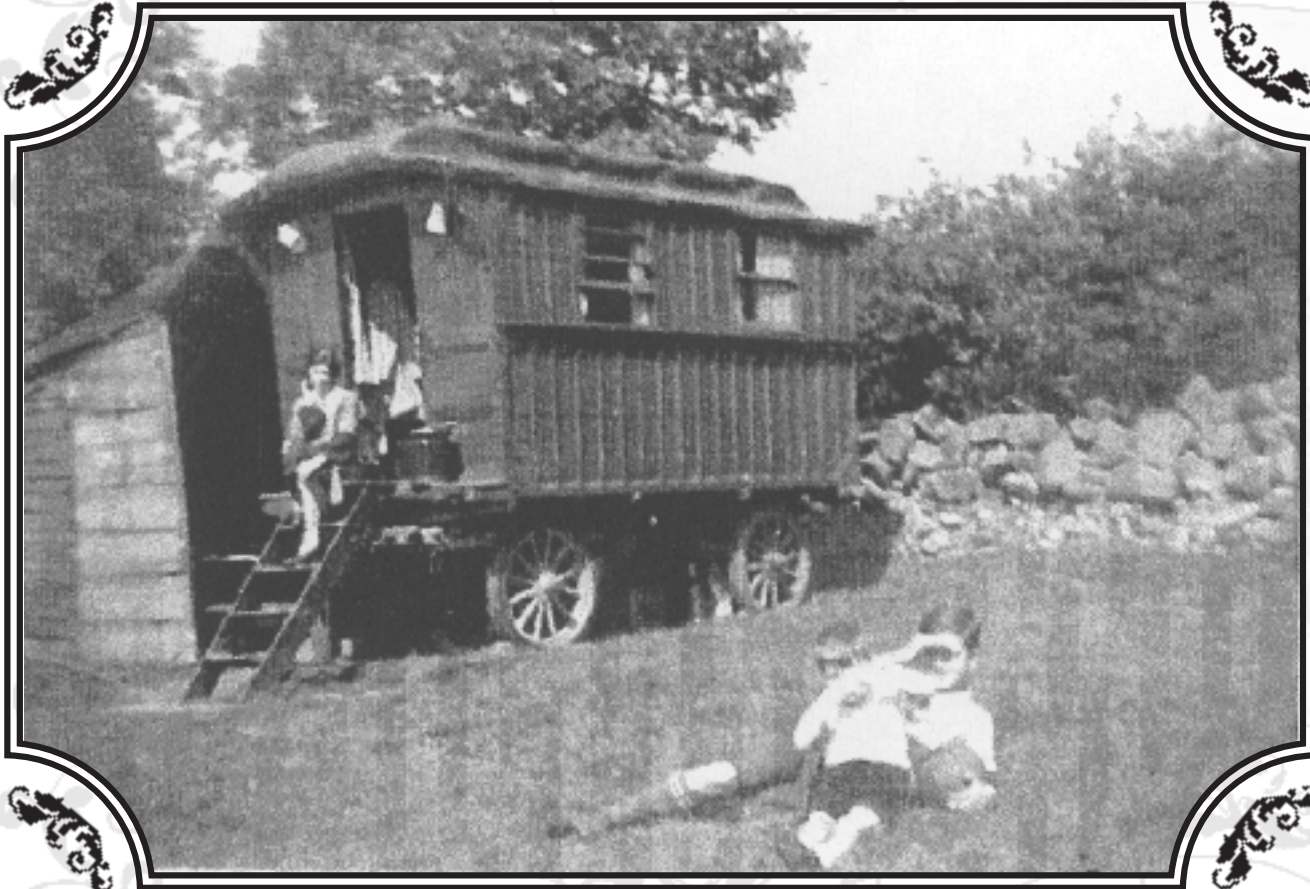
(Mandy Smith, Hull Resident, 2001)

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

PORTRAITS & POEMS



Jean McAllister babysitting her cousin's sons

I am all Around

I am the gentle summer breeze
That whispers softly through the trees
I am the stars in the sky at night
I am the sun in all its delight
I am the tear drops on your cheek
I am the voice when you can't speak
I am the air that you breath in
I am the love that shines within
I am your hope in your worst fear
It's me who is there, Its me who is near
You shall never know
The places I've been
Or the places I go
For you are alive
And I am not living
For you are on earth and I am on heaven.

By Janet Betsy McAllister

Taken from "Remembering Who I Am"
By Janet Betsy McAllister

Available from: Save the Children,
Haymarket House,
8, Clifton Terrace,
Edinburgh,
EH12 5DR

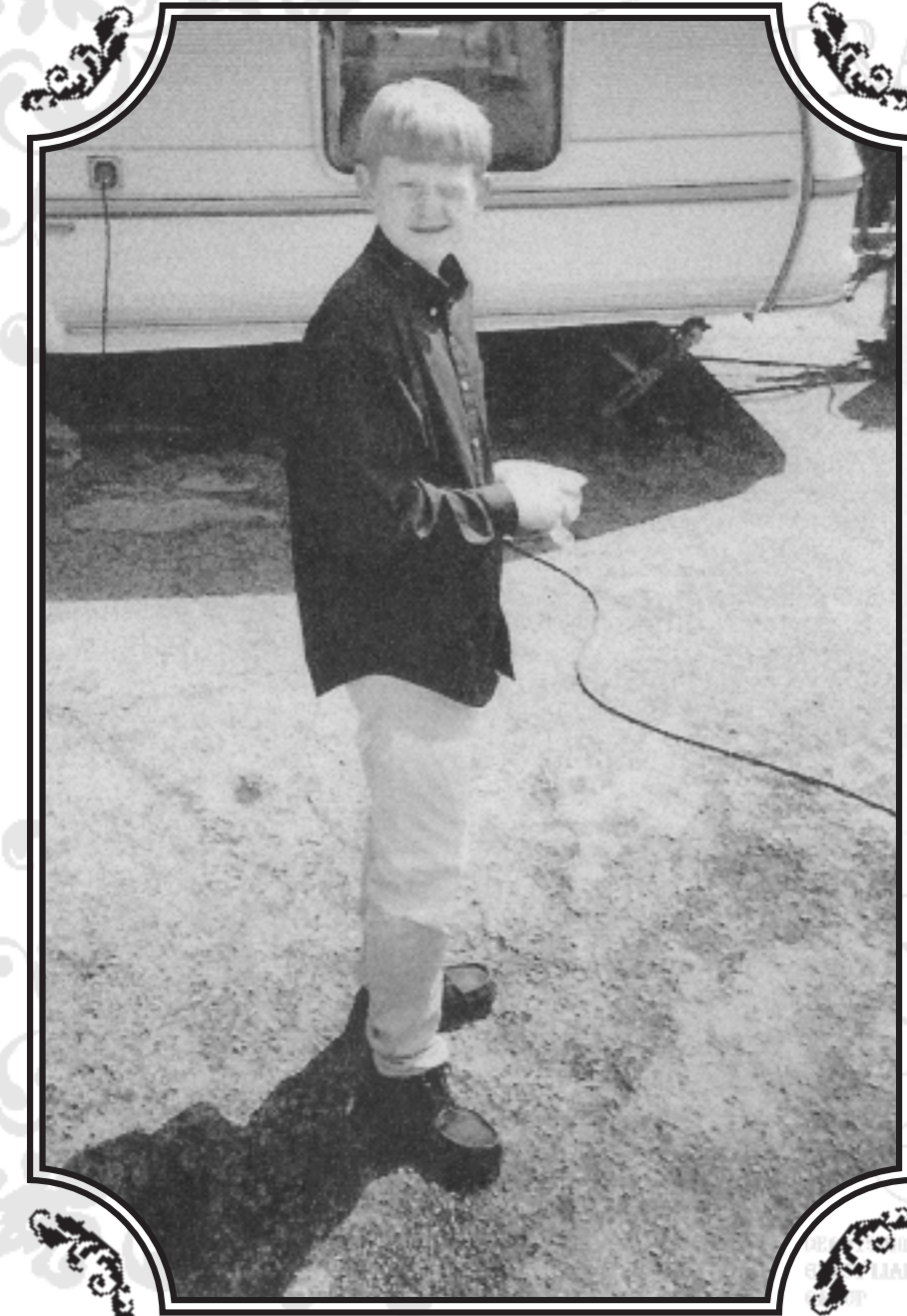


APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY

Johnny



Johnny Delaney

TRAITS & POEMS

My best friend who I loved so,
I was there and watched you grow,
Warm was our heart with so much pride,
When you were there by our side.
The joy and laughter through the years,
We didn't think it would end in tears.
Johnny you're constantly in our thoughts,
The way your life ended left us all distraught.
But I know there's a garden in heaven above,
And it's filled with flowers and eternal love,
All the angels gather for a while just to see your beautiful smile.
In God's care you rest above, in all our hearts you rest with love.
Dear Johnny you were so brave the day your life was taken away,
But we know that this is not the end, goodnight, God bless until we meet again.

By Johnny Manning 2003

THE
LIAISON



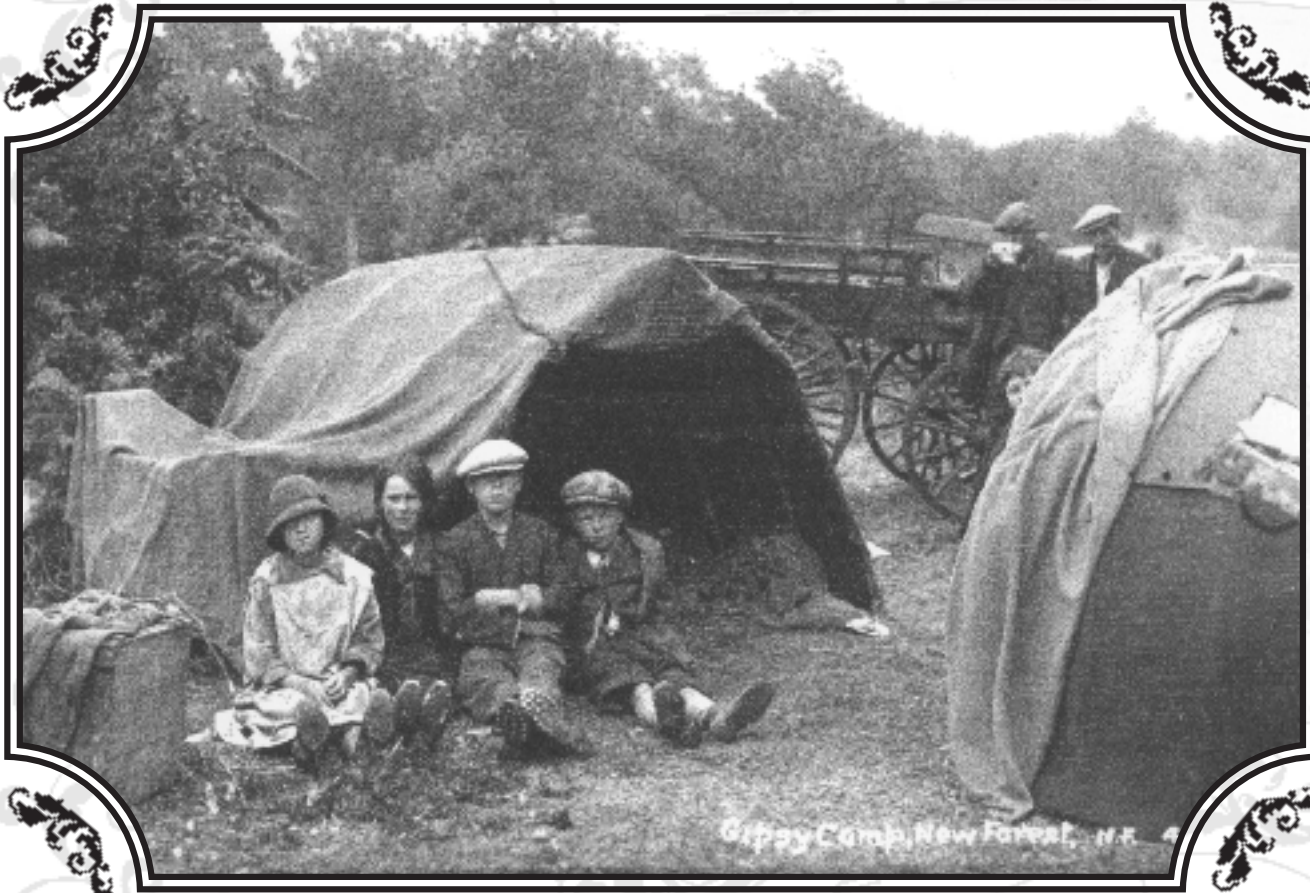
MOVING FORWARD

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE

PORTRAITS & POEMS



New Forest Gypsies at Thorney Hill c1905. Note the “strawberry van” in background. These were often converted into small bow top waggons as the conversion was so easy.

Kings and Courtiers

Once the haunt of Kings and courtiers
Forest courts and canine tortures**
Now the run of deer and ponies
Hare and pheasant, scurrying conies

Gypsies came in Henry’s reign
Fleeting sights in glade and lane
Friends to commoner, farmer, Lord
Their odd “wild dinner” was ignored.

Silent travellers, like the moths
They dwelt in tents of rods and cloths
Tiny fires cooked Forest fare
They left no sign that they’d been there.

Experts with the drab and herbal
Cottage women loved their verbal
Bringing news from place to place
Always greeted as a welcome face.

Rich folk came for Forest scenery
And spotted Gypsies in the greenery
“Dirty Gypsies” was their shout
“We must find ways to get them out”

“Five hundred year history makes no difference,
We don’t want them here on sufferance”
Their slyness and influence won the day
The Gypsies all were driven away

Though silence now at Thorney Hill
Shave Green compound, quiet and still
They reek of atmosphere and wraithlike voices
“WE’D ALL BE BACK IF WE HAD OUR CHOICES!”

***footnote,....dogs that would not pass through a stirrup were “expediated”, that is, had some toes cut off so they couldn’t chase the King’s deer.*



JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY

A Wish on the 21st Birthday of my Son

Health, Love and Happiness is all that I can wish
For you, my son, on this fine day, now your life begins.

I haven't any money to help you on your way
But I ask you to take the things of life
To make a better day.

Take the sun in the morning, the feel of the rain,
The comfort of knowing that you're home once again.
The warm feelings of welcome when friends come to call,

The birth of a child so helpless and so small,
The meadows and hedges, a carpet of green,
The sweet smelling flowers, blossoms on trees,
A starlit sky, the ocean blue, God's colours-
And pictures just for you-

My son, let me give you these treasures of mine

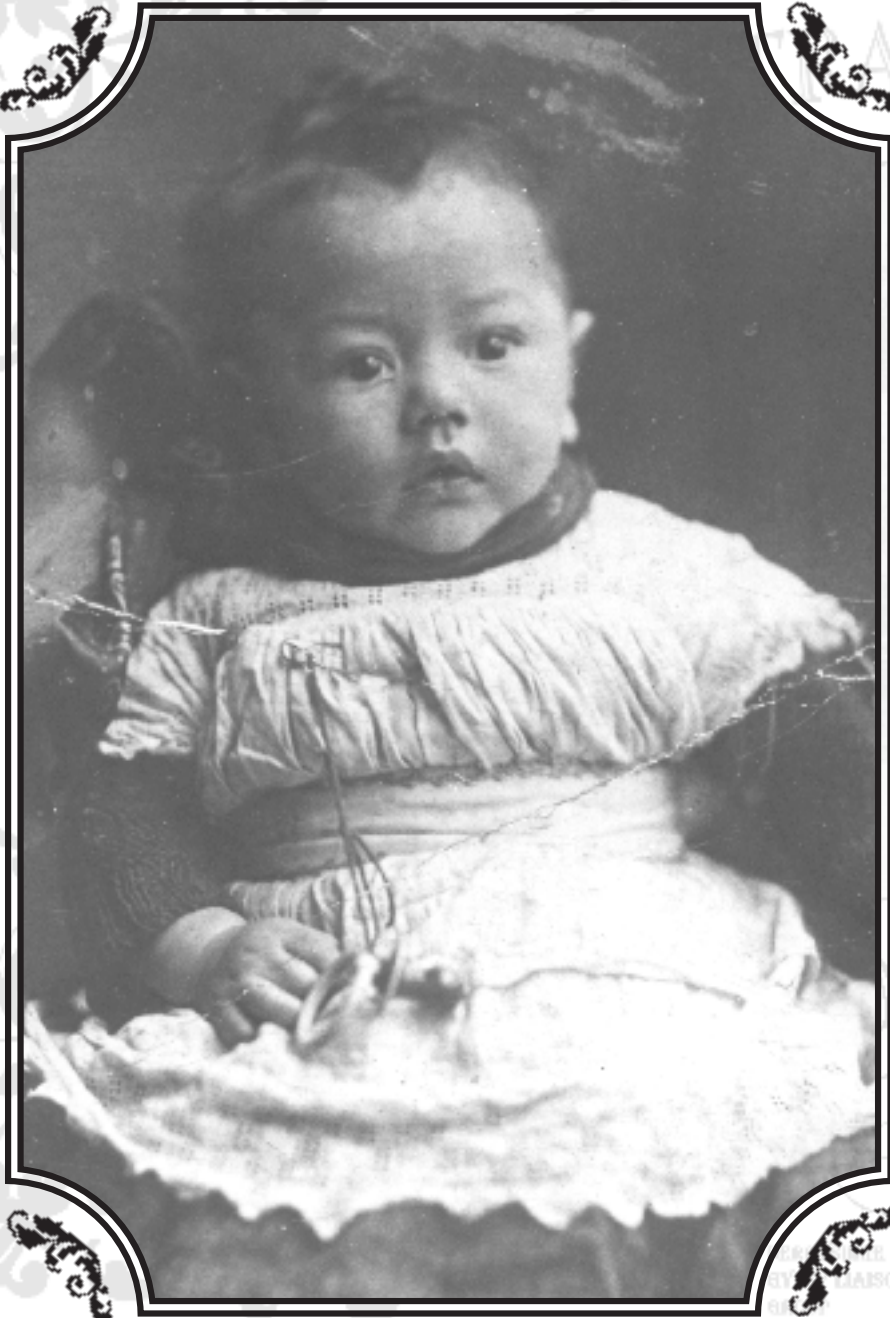
For this is all I have in my lifetime.

They have brought me Health, Love and Happiness

In everything I did

Along the road of life since I too was a kid.

By Josie Townley



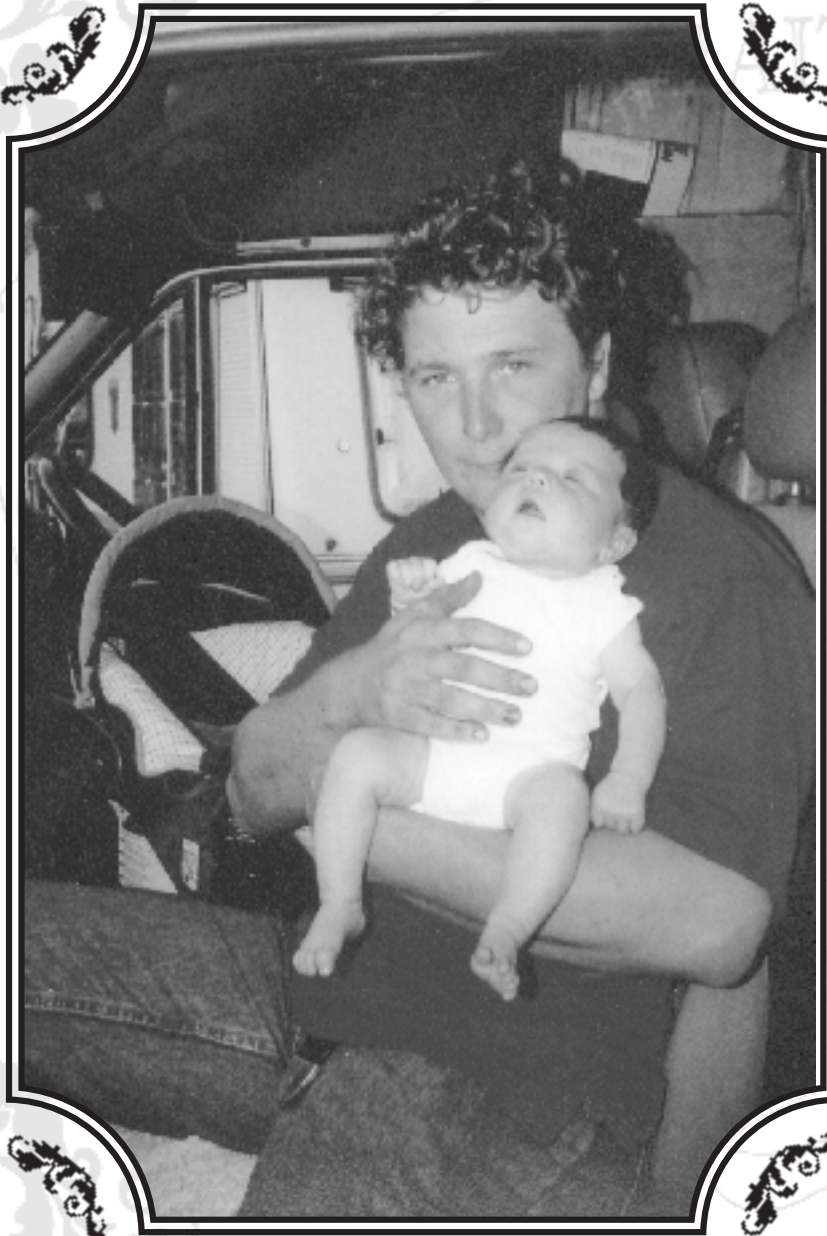
James Winter 1930

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

In Remembrance of George



This lovely lad was Verity's husband, father to Levi-George and Ruby our grandchildren.
Departed this life August 22nd 2004, his loss a tragedy.

Just a simple sunny Sunday
They drove to the shop for sweets
A car, a ditch an accident
I remember and I weeps.

This really can't be happening
It so cannot be true
Oh why are you not with us
George? That person that is you.

You went so unexpectedly
We never said goodbye
We can't reverse events now Lord
However hard we try.

How precious now the memories
Your years but twenty eight
Your curls and smile, that cheeky grin
We sadly miss of late.

Driving your white transit
Collecting scraps and cars,
Drive thrus at McDonalds,
Coke and them Mars bars.

To your wife you were devoted
Of your chavis oh so proud
Your family and your friends George
Their praise of you was loud.

So you are up above George
We think of you each day
Your memory is with us
As we watch your babies play

You taught by your example
To be cheerful, loving, kind
The likes of you George Holland
Are very hard to find.

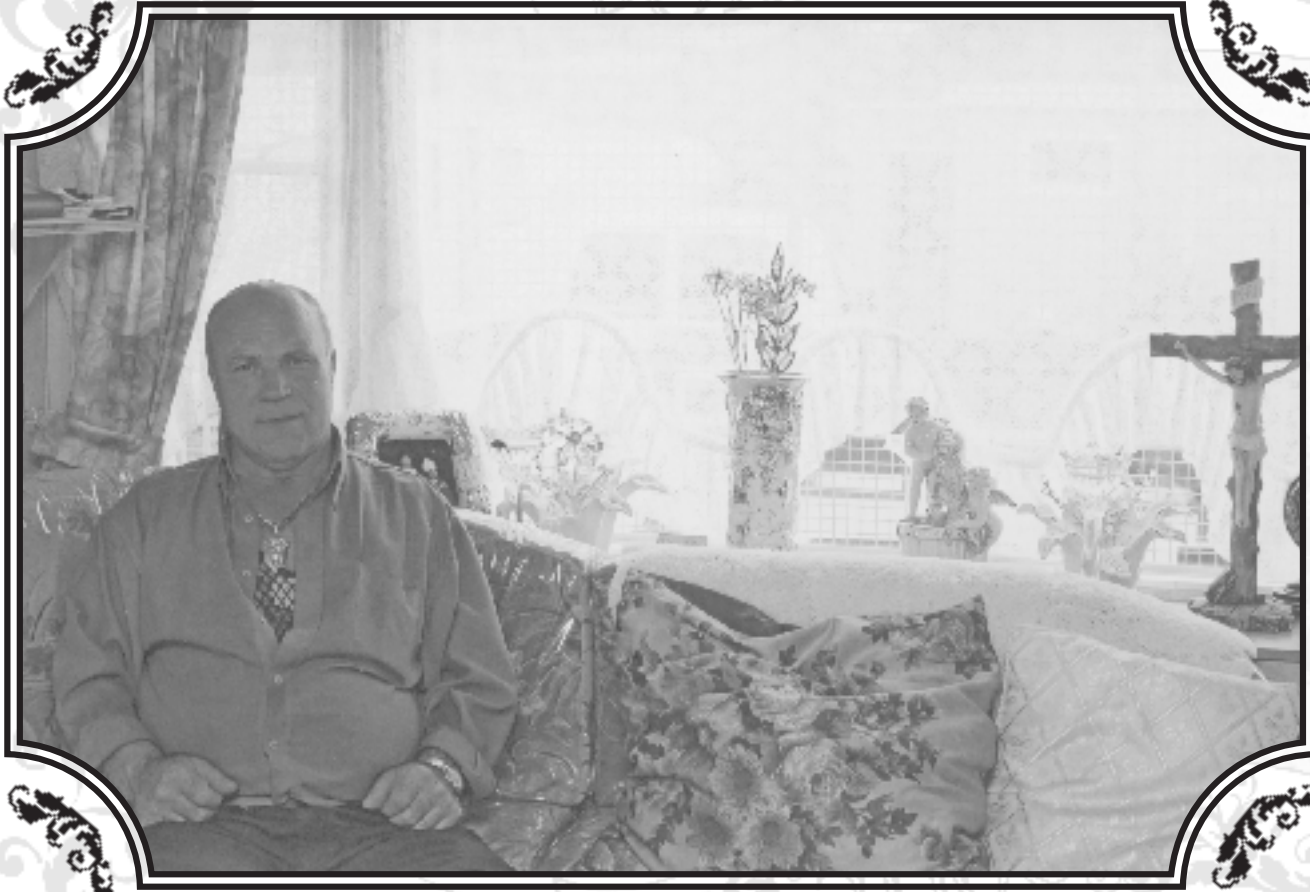
By Ryaller Duffy

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

PORTRAITS & POEMS



Tom Sweeney, Co-Chair ITM. Tom has fought for many years for equal tenancy rights on sites.

Poem taken from "The Roads of the Roma"
Available from: University of Hertfordshire Press.
ISBN No: 0-900458-90-9

Author's note: this poem is about the boulders blocking every traditional camping ground used by Travellers in the Republic of Ireland. The authorities, by use of these stones, have no camping space for the Travellers and have forced the Travellers into houses as a way of getting rid of both them and their traditions..

The Stone

Take away the cruel stone
Longer and larger than life
The black, dark stone
Of envy, death and greed.
Everywhere you go
Before you turn the wheel
It's the black stone you'll meet
Driving you from light
Taking over your life
ruling over your world
burying you deep.

Take away the stone
That holds back our freedom
Killing the only life
We've ever had.
Envy-stone without a heart
Cold and hard, no feelings has it
Haunting us travellers every day.
A chain of black stones
Around the green shamrock:

What once was ours
Is no more
The dark, black stones.
So take away the stones
Free our souls
Let us live in light.
The black is the enemy
Blocking our spirit
In the summer time
Killing our freedom without a gun
Ruling the hearts of everyone.

Born free, but light shines no more
The stones have locked the door
To the hearts of everyone.
Wish to be free
And take away the stones
That watch our wild Irish land
And let the travellers' spirit
The living and the dead be free again.

By Chrissie Ward

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



OCTOBER

It's Getting Late



Edgar Smith

ITS & POEMS

It's getting late, the nights are getting long,
The leaves begin to flutter to the ground.
The summer scene's so quickly gone
And of the lark there's not the slightest sound.

The horse chestnut, a tree of rust against an Autumn sky,
Not long ago was like a chandelier,
It's blossoms like candles, pointing high.
'Twill soon be undressed and stand so bare.

The samaras of the ash glide down to earth
To settle lightly on the leafy mould;
Nature's way of yet another birth.
'Tis wonderful, it's new and yet so old.

Yes, it's getting late and I am getting old.
Another lovely summer's been and passed.
'Twas like a treasure of silver and gold;
I pray to God it will not be my last.

By *Eli Frankam*

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER

The Gypsy Soldier



Painting by Seamus McPhee

You've seen the horse-drawn wagons
The Big Trailers flash with chrome,
You've seen them at the horse-fairs
Or on the door-step of your home.

Well let me introduce one now.
A soldier far from home,
Far from horses that he loves,
The trailer he calls home.

Though he's one in several thousand
Who came to serve his Queen,
Still a Gypsy in his uniform
Is a sight that's seldom seen,

He often thinks of the old days,
The good as well as bad,
The happy days of poaching,
The schools that made him sad.

"keep my boys away from Gypsies"
Was the message teachers had.
And now he thinks of them same folk
The ones that used to frown,

If their precious boys were with him now
In Aden's troubled town.
Though now he is a soldier
And this he says aloud

Three stripes or not he's a Gypsy still
And of that fact he is proud.
So next time when you hear somebody speak
Of Gypsies, full of woe
You can stand up straight and tell them
Of one you used to know.

By Jimmy Stewart

Jimmy Stewart explains what prompted him to write this poem. He says: When I was in the Army I was a platoon Sergeant. The mothers of serving soldiers used to write to me asking me to keep their sons safe, so they could return home. One of the letters was from a lad serving under me in Aden. The same woman took her eldest son out of the school I was attending years ago because I was there, a Gypsy.

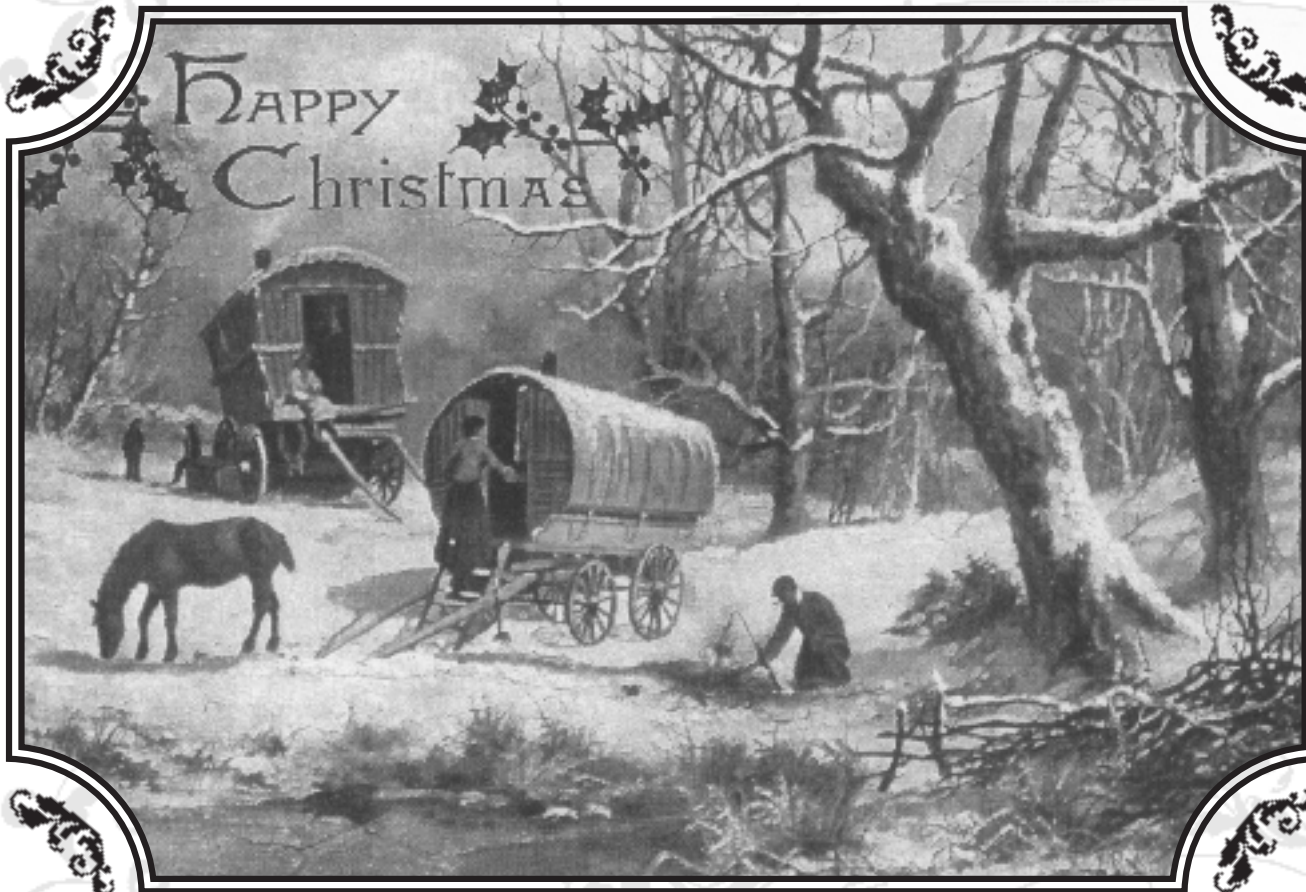
NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

God is a Gypsy

PORTRAITS & POEMS



God is a Gypsy, of that I am sure.
This paradise he made for us, so we could all explore.
He gave us the mountains, the birds and the trees,
All the wild animals, the fish and the seas.
In this world he made for us, nothing ever stands still
He gave to all his children the freedom to travel at will.

But then there is the devil who fills the world with greed,
And now in this world of ours he casts his evil seed.
The Devil says the world is his, he wants every little bit,
He's putting up a big fence, around the whole of it.

Now God's not silly, he sees what's going on,
He wants to help his children so they can travel on.
Now the Devil works hard in country and town.
For every fence the Devil puts up, our God will pull one down.

By Charlie S. Smith

DECEMBER CARD

Available from:

Bob Dawson
188, Alfreton Rd.
Blackwell,
Nr. Alfreton,
Derbys.
DE55 5JH

From: 'Gavvered All Around'

A Collection of Gypsy Poetry
Published by Traveller Education Service (Manchester)

DERBYSHIRE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP



MOVING FORWARD

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Gypsy & Traveller Law Reform Coalition

BCRE parnobal2@smith162.fsnet.co.uk

British Committee on Romani Emancipation; (Len Smith says)

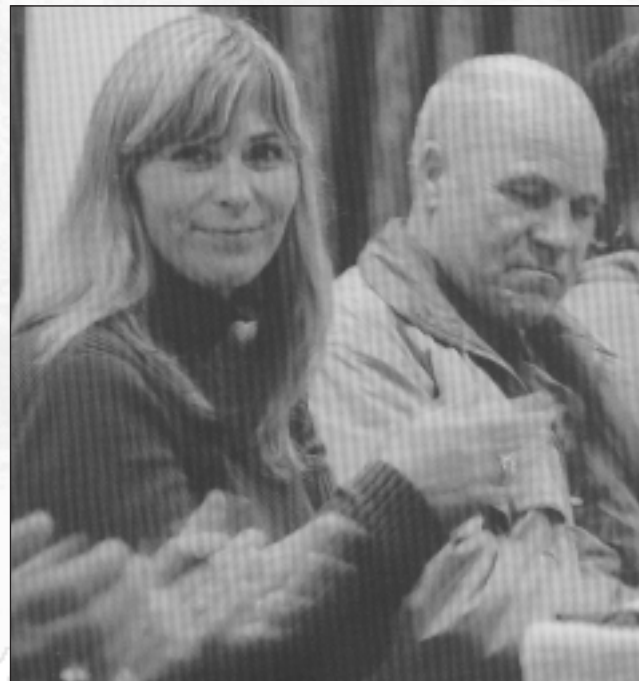
“Is the British arm of the European CRE (ECRE) ECRE was founded in 1998 to create work projects for Eastern European Roma, mainly in Hungary where co founder Hector McNeill is based. We successfully created a basket work co op, and a woman’s sewing co op, which are now independent. We also pressured for improvements in educational provision for Roma children, till then usually placed into special units to attract corrupt grant aid. BCRE was formed to lobby for the law reform with regard to Gypsies and Travellers in the UK. We had some success with the ‘Name and Shame’ page on our website, where we exposed discriminatory practices by councils forcing them to allow as well as create sites. BCRE were co-founders of the G&TLRC. As an activist for 45 years, I am astonished and delighted at how the various groups have come together to work in harmony for common goals, and how just that has been such a significant sea of change in Gypsy & Traveller politics. The G&TLRC is the most powerful force for change that I have ever experienced in this field, and is respected and consulted at the highest levels.

UKAGW **077486 70200**

United Kingdom Association of Gypsy Women has been in operation now for a number of years Sylvia Dunn was the founding member along with Kaye Beard who is now Chair of the Association. UKAGW works Locally, Regionally, Nationally and in Europe. Their motto is ‘Justice, Equality and Freedom for all or none at all’.

ITM **02076 252255**

Irish Traveller Movement has been in operation now since 1999 its main objective is to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the Socially and economically disadvantaged community of Irish Travellers in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society



Win Lawler Irish Community care, Tom Sweeney ITM

ICCM **0151 7074302**

Irish Community care, Merseyside have fortnightly meetings on the Liverpool site Tara Park and they were invaluable with their assistance to the Delaney family after Johnny Delaneys tragic murder May 2003.

www.dglg.org
www.pridenotprejudice.org.uk
www.travellerslaw.org.uk

JFT **0113 2648658**

Leeds Justice for Travellers campaigns to benefit all Gypsies & Travellers in Leeds and the surrounding area. To improve education, health and living conditions. To promote law reform and achieve equal rights.

FFT **01273 234777**

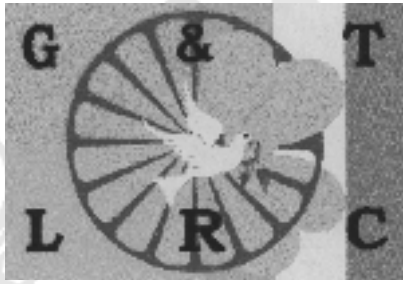
Friends and Families & Travellers was established in response to the passage through parliament of the 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act. The majority of work by FFT is carried out by an advice and information unit based in Brighton.

LGTU **020 8533 2002**

London Gypsy and Traveller Unit became an independent unit in 1998 and has done considerable work amongst young people. Community Development/ Youth Services in East London. Influencing Policy practice in the London Boroughs. Influencing Policy at a regional level.

Hull GATE **01482 331422**

Hull Gypsy and Traveller Exchange group has been around for a little while, it became formal in 2002 and became constituted as Hull GATE in 2004. Its main aim is to promote the good health and advance the education of Gypsies and Travellers who are in conditions of hardship or distress and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between the Travelling community and the settled communities. Hull Gate, along with Leeds Gate and the CRE, set up the Northern Network for Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Showmen Circus people (by blood).



NTAG

01945 430995

Is a Gypsy & Traveller support organisation run by Gypsy & Traveller to help other members of the Gypsy & Traveller community. Work with other service providers and organisations across the UK. We are actively working with MET Police, Cambs Police, Bedfordshire Police, Norfolk Police, and support other organisations who are doing the same. We offer a information/contact point to signpost people to other groups for help and are actively involved in the CRE Gypsy & Traveller Strategy.

Our aim is to help all Gypsy & Traveller to get a home, via council site, private site, house, depending on the persons personal choice, wish to see an end to PEOPLE BEING HOMELESS.

Andrew Ryder, pictured back row centre, Gypsy & Traveller LRC worker with various representatives from groups at a CRE meeting with Sasha Barton in London.



The Gypsy Council

01708 868986

The Gypsy Council is based in London and has been running for a number of years. It is involved in a wide spectrum of support and liaison work, supporting Gypsy families. They liaise and mediate with governmental bodies County and District authorities.



Harry Barnes MP, with Maggie Bendall-Smith DGLG, Kay Beard UKAGW, Siobhan Spencer DGLG, Janey Codona NTAG. Presenting DGLG petition to Yvette Cooper MP on 'gypsy status' in planning law. Romany Gypsy people do not accept the phrase "a gypsy regardless of race or origin" which runs through our law. It weakens Racial Discrimination action and has brought about bad case law.

Canterbury Gypsy Support Group

07765 174141

We are a voluntary Group and work to raise awareness of Gypsy and Traveller issues on education, health and sites provision, We are also involved in diversity training with agencies such as Police, Councils and so on. Other areas we work in are in youth, Bridie has an RSA, in youth care. We also run a help line for Gypsies and Travellers, who need help from evictions, roadside and unauthorised sites, the areas covered, are, Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. We are on several local council committees, we work alongside all other agencies, County and local level, to raise awareness and to try and harmonise Gypsy and Traveller issues, with the wider community. We have seats on many advisory committees.

Atkinson gave the bills its first reading, amongst its many provisions it call for:

- ❖ Every local authority to provide or facilitate the provision of suitable accomodation (temporary and permanent) for Gypsies and Travellers.
- ❖ Non Discrimination under an an amended Race Relations Act for all Travellers.
- ❖ Housing Corporation Funding and new housing association powers for Caravan Site Construction.
- ❖ Security of tenure on Gypsy caravan sites.
- ❖ Greater educational opportunities for Travellers

The Bill and campaign inspired Gypsy and Traveller groups to come together in 2002 and form an umbrella group - the Traveller Law Reform Coalition. Later it was decided to change the name to the Gypsy & Traveller Law Reform Coalition.

In 2004 The Liberty Human Rights Award was awarded to the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition.

The Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition

07985 684 921

The Traveller Law Reform Bill was drafted by the Traveller Law Research Unit of Cardiff University and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The Traveller Community was widely consulted in the drafting process. In 2002 the Conservative MP David

GYPGY LIAISON
GROUP

When I was a Tikna

When I was a tikna (child)
A wagon was my home,
And life was dogs and horses
And country lanes to roam,
And hawking elder flowers
Or making willow pegs,
Women wore the long skirts
That didn't show their legs.

When I was a young mush (man)
Then I lived where I might,
And life was girls and coursing
And music or a fight,
Work was grinding scissors
Or breaking up a car,
Old stuffing or the tarmac,
Or painting with the tar.

When I was newly rummied (married)
In a trailer I did dwell.
And I would bill the houses
And my wife would fortunes tell,
I watched my children growing
To be men the Romany way,
And I didn't know that parliament
Could take it all away.

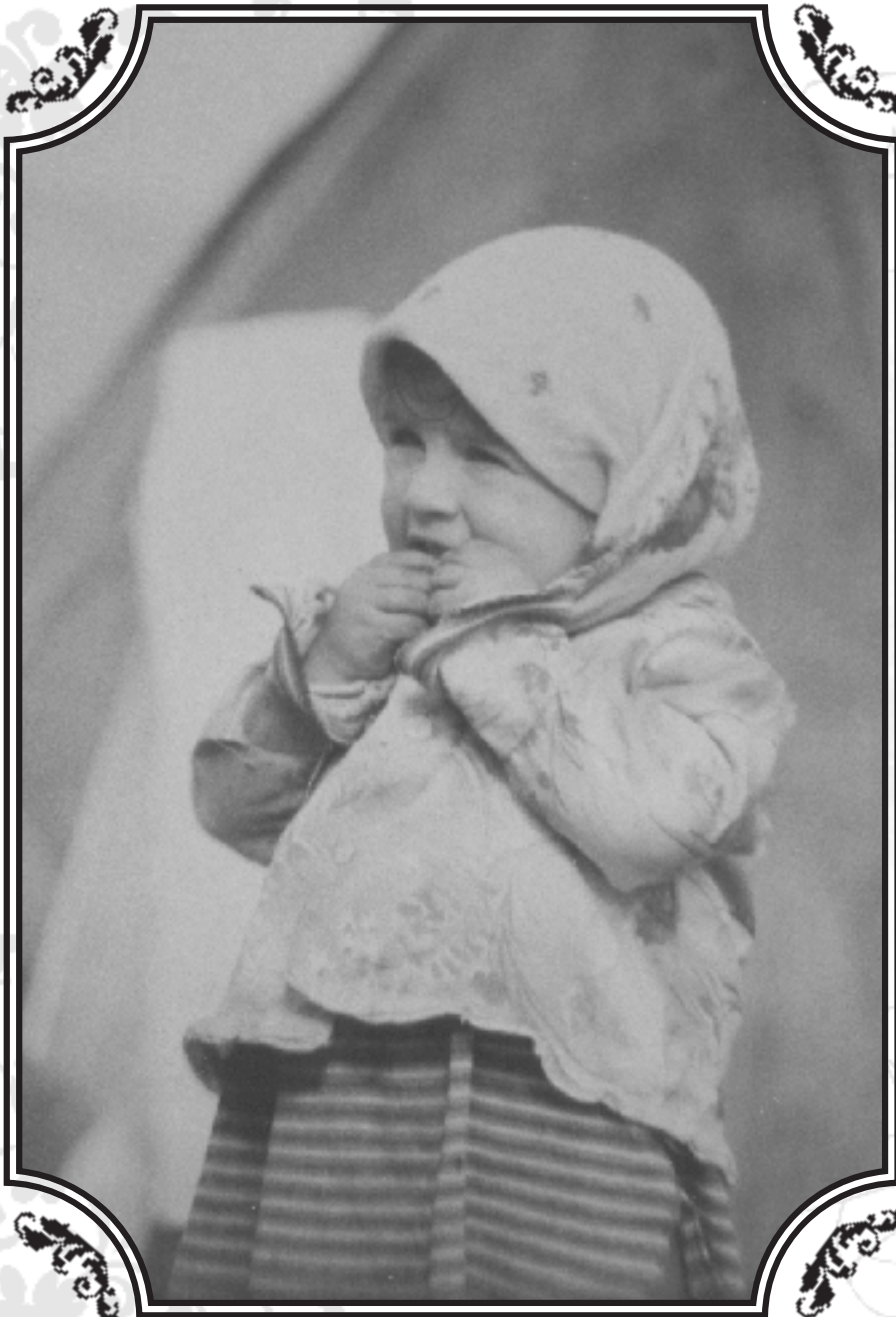
For was I not a travelling mush?
Was I not a king?
Who owned each sunny morning
Each bird that I heard sing?
I could always pick the strawberries
Or course and kill the hare,
I'd never have to worry
I'd never have to care.

Now that I am purro (older)
And on council sites exist,
How can I tell my children
Of all the things they've missed?
How can I tell my children
Now life is cold and drab,
Why I gave up all of this
To rent a concrete slab.

By Tom McCready (Snr.)

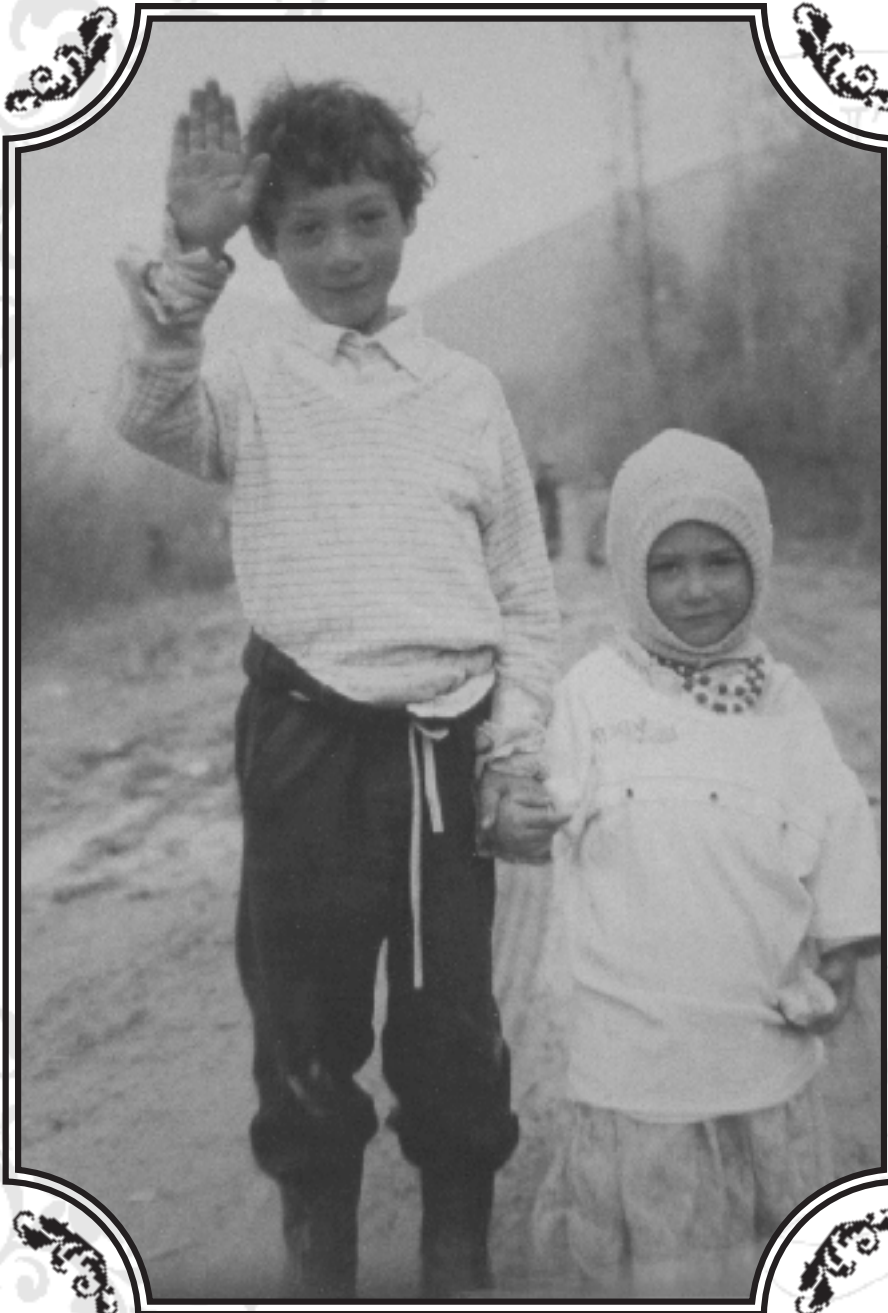
From "A Wandering of Gypsies" (Part2)
Autobiography of Tom & Julie McCready

Available from: Bob Dawson @ DGLG



Romania's entry into the European Union has been delayed partly due to its treatment of its largest ethnic group the Roma. There were numerous incidents of oppression in the 1990s where no one has been found accountable.

Decide to Network



Use every letter you write
Every conversation you have
Every meeting you attend
To express your fundamental beliefs and dreams.
Affirm to others your vision of the world you want
Network through thought
Network through action
Network through love
Network through spirit
You are the center of a network
You are the center of the world
You are a free, immensely powerful source of life and goodness
Affirm it
Spread it
Radiate it
Think day and night about it
And you will see a miracle happen:
The greatness of your own life.
In a world of big powers, media, and monopolies
But of four and a half billion individuals,
Networking is the new freedom.
The new democracy.
A new form of happiness.

By Dr Robert Muller

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and
Social Services for the United Nations.

DEROYSURICE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP



MOVING FORWARD



The Men that don't Fit in *Anon*

There's a race of men that don't fit in,
A race that can't stand still,
So they break the hearts of kith and kin
And they roam the world at will,
They range the field they rove the flood
And climb the mountain crest

Their's is the curse of the Gypsy blood
And they don't know how to rest
If they just went straight they might go far,
They're strong and brave and true
But they're always tired of the things that are
And they want the strange and new

They say if they could find a proper groove
What a deep mark I would make
So they chop and change at each fresh move
Its only a fresh mistake

He has failed, he has failed he's missed his chance
He has just done things by half
Life's been a jolly good joke on him
And now its time to laugh ha, ha

He's one of the legion lost
He has never meant to win
He's a rolling stone and its bred in the bone
He's a man that wont fit in.



PORTRAITS & POEMS



2006

DEROY'S RICE
GYPSY LIAISON
GROUP



MOVING FORWARD