

*Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group*  
**ANNUAL REVIEW**



**MOVING FORWARD**



**DERBYSHIRE GYPSY  
LIAISON GROUP**

**2015 - 2016**

# Overview

**DGLG has had yet another busy and productive year, despite the fact that longterm funding continues to be elusive.**

Nevertheless we are still attempting to meet the needs of the Gypsy community running the Outreach for Health project, this includes the Wednesday drop-in and cover the Friday Lifeline phone in. We also continue to work in partnership with Links, attending their events and BME forums.

The planning work is still in the capable hands of Roger, our NFGLG Planner, who works steadfastly on local and borough plans so that families can have a permanent site on which to make a stable home. We continue to host the NFGLG office and coordinate many projects.

In November DGLG members joined with the Cenotaph march in London, once again remembering our fallen in the first and second world wars.



Every year we take part in the planning, preparation and presentation of the Holocaust Memorial Day, which takes place in Derby in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their hard work during this past year. Funding problems aside, DGLG has kept the flag flying and still champions the cause.

Chair  
**Muzelley McCready**

**PQASSO** (Performance Quality and Assurance for Small Organisations) is the quality mark that DGLG works by. We have joined NCVO as a member, this gives a reduction on this PQASSO fee and other benefits.

DGLG considered and agreed to become a charity in order to improve legal rights. We will hopefully become a charity by early spring. Our next review by PQASSO therefore will be as a charity.

# *Awards for all project: Outreach for health*



**Watch the video on youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/zguzg23>**

This grant allowed for more one to one support and allowed us to assist those that cannot get into office due to disability. We attended hospital appointments with elder members where there was multi care needs in the family.

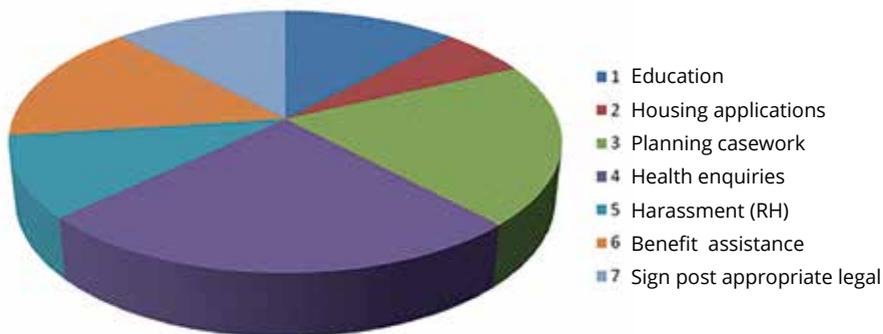
We had hoped to develop this project and were invited to apply along with others, to compete to the Lottery by use of a three minute film, which Tom made. However we were not successful in the competition but we have the film available on DGLG website.

## *Support Sessions*

We have put in 5 specific one to one support sessions to assist ill, elderly or infirm so that they do not get lost in the system. This work has mainly been undertaken in the south and we hope to be able to obtain further funding for the north

We have also been busy with the change of benefit from DLA to PIP. This has been very time consuming as we help transfer over from one to the other. The process is on a tight time line and not user friendly to anyone who is not literate or suffers from dementia.

# *We are grateful for Allen Lane funding for the phone line*



*We have just illustrated approximately 340 calls from 560 in relation to local work (120 from agencies, councils and boroughs) a further 941 calls were NFGLG based calls.*

The breakdown of calls highlight the following

## **Benefits**

There has been an increase of benefit assistance cases for those on DLA and the changes to Personal Independence Payment.

## **Education**

There has been an increase on calls in relation to education. There needs to be a promotion in not leaving it late to apply for a school place, especially where there is a sibling. Calls ranged from not being able to get a second child into the same school as a sibling or where there were other Gypsy/Traveller children.

Support in relation to education otherwise. Two sets of parents have chosen to home educate as they did not want their child to be isolated or the only child in the school from a Gypsy or Traveller community

## **Accommodation**

Local and borough plan work is undertaken through the NFGLG project but we are still working to see the provision of a site in the south of the Derbyshire Dales and giving planning advice and support in Derbyshire.

DGLG attends the Traveller Issues Working Group, which meets four times a year, following discussion in the main meeting about co-ordinating responses to unauthorised encampments, deciding on actions, and managing the delivery of services to residents, an outline 'route map' to action by all parties was produced. It is intended to be incorporated into the Inter-Agency Guidance that the working group produced some time ago. There is also a sub group meeting in relation to planning and moving accommodation issues forward. Nigel Groom, one of our committee members, chairs the group.

- One pitch has been approved at Brookhill Lane, Pinxton (a retrospective application).
- A site search process has begun looking for willing landowners who would want to sell sites to the Gypsy and Traveller community. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and Bolsover District Council have been asked to review their landholdings for suitable sites.
- Small extensions to existing sites are being considered by the planning policy team.
- A 'Call for Sites' will commence alongside the consultation on the draft Local Plan October 2016
- Planning Enforcement has written to the owner at Black bridge Caravan Site, Common Lane, Pleasley asking him to put right a number of issues. Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service visited the site on 29 June 2016 to advise on some of them.
- An application for 14 showmen's plots at Beaufit Lane, Pinxton is currently under consideration.
- An application for a family site with 2 pitches and associated facilities at the old Garage site, Hady Lane, Chesterfield submitted by Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group on 'open land' within Chesterfield Borough, was granted (on condition that it was used as a residential site and not a transit site). An application was made for the site to be designated as a 'village green' but the Inspector ruled that there was no case to answer, and the site will now be licensed.
- A Site has also been granted through DGLG near Ashbourne in the Derbyshire Dales.

# Links:

We work in partnership with other BME communities. The funding through DCC Public Health over this last year has meant that we can help support families who suffer from stroke related problems and those who are specifically vulnerable.

Funding from Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group maintains the Mental Health Support phone line.

A DGLG community member attends both the Forum meeting and the BME planning meeting.

Working and networking with Derbyshire County Council is an important part of our work and on September 14th we took our exhibition to County hall and joined other BME members for a networking session.

DGLG also attended the diversity

conference organised in the football stadium in Chesterfield, where Muzelley delivered a culture and awareness training session.

Over the last year DGLG began the process of becoming accredited to the Befriending Champions scheme. "Befriending Champions" play a key role as the 'eyes and ears' of the local community helping to identify lonely or isolated people and then supporting/signposting them to sources of longer-term assistance, such as befriending services.

Anyone active in their local area, whether an employee or a volunteer, can attend training and become a Befriending Champion. There are Gypsy and Traveller people who feel isolated in housing and need contact.



*Councilor Anne Weston , giving support to the BME community network day.*



*BME Network, County Hall. September 2016*

## Heritage and culture: Yearly diary

The year 2016 started with our support to the Holocaust commemoration in Derby on the 27th of January. Tom attends the planning meetings for DGLG with regards to planning the event

Muzelley undertook two workshops in the libraries for June GRT history month, volunteers attended BME events and conferences.

It has been 21 years since DGLG joined with members of the Jewish community and planted a tree in Chatsworth Park; we commemorated this on August 2nd in remembrance of the mass murder of Roma and Sinti at Auschwitz, which took place on the night of 2nd/3rd August.

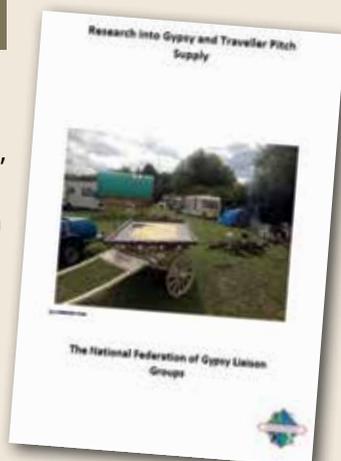


*Matthew and Laura from Derbyshire Dales Environmental health dept with Zellie.*

On Friday 9th of September (for Heritage Open days) we opened the office and showed the progress with the development of the archive room which holds records from both DGLG and NFGLG. Next year we will not be opening the office but we will stage an interpretive time line in June for Gypsy history month and September for HODS. We have been granted Celebration Lottery funding to be able to do this in 2017.

## Hosting NFGLG

The administration of the national work of the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups is undertaken from the office and we host their workers, Adrian Jones and Roger Yarwood. Tracy Critchlow also acts as bookkeeper and minutes taker for NFGLG as well as for DGLG. National Policy has still been a worry as various statements have been announced throughout the year. Alice de la Rue has recently undertaken a review on East and West Midlands identification of a five year supply of land for sites on behalf of NFGLG.



*It is a requirement that district and boroughs should identify a five year supply for Gypsy and Traveller sites. This review looks at South East (undertaken by FFT) and London (undertaken by LGTU).*

# Quality Care Commission work

Muzelley McCready and Muzelley Roddam attended the Speak Out conference on the 2nd November for DGLG.



Johanna Price at BME meeting



The tree at Chatsworth



November 8th, 2015 DGLG members joined alongside Janet Keet Black of the Romany and Traveller History Society at the Cenotaph parade in London.

**UPDATE:** We have been awarded funding for our outreach for health in the North East through NDVA, (24.10.2016) Development of social care, developing the befriending service and extra outreach hours for the north.(£2,730)

Check out the website mid January for updates on the Celebrations funding also recently granted (9.9.2016) for the next year. "A day in the Life of" living history timeline.

## Contact details (new address):

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Two Dales  
Nr. Matlock  
DE4 2FG  
Phone: 01629 732744

Visit our website:  
[www.DGLG.org](http://www.DGLG.org)

### Phone line open

Monday 10 – 3pm  
Wednesday 10 – 3pm  
Friday 10 – 3pm

Please visit by appointment we aim to reply to queries within 48hrs.  
There is an answer machine service available out of these hours



Many thanks to Wish Computers for their support in the office, the website domain and updates



Please remember much of our service is undertaken by volunteers. We have flagged up again the importance of ringing before calling at the office.

All photos unless otherwise stated ©DGLG