



# Friends, Families & Travellers'

## Newsletter

### HIGH-LIGHTS

- ◆ Grants available for Travellers pg 4
- ◆ ODPM launch new funding plans pg 3
- ◆ Changes ahead for Boatdwellers—have your say pg 9

### Management Committee Meetings:

**AGM: 14th June, Brighton Office**

**Newsletter layout, research, writing and compilation:**

Anna

**Proof-reading and final edit:**

Franqui and Alex.

## NEW NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR FFT!

### *A farewell from Alex*

After six years of working as the National Coordinator of FFT, I am finally leaving to pastures new. It has been a real privilege and pleasure working for FFT and with all the individuals, families and groups I have come into contact with during this time. This job has been very tough on occasion, but I wouldn't change it for the world. And I would not have survived it without the wonderful friendship and support I have been given by everyone working with us in this field.

So a big thank you to everyone at the Travellers Advice Team (who kept me sane in moments of extreme chaos and insanity—especially our beloved St. Christopher Johnson, the undisputed patron saint of Travellers!), Debbie Harvey at the Children's Society, Luke Clements and Rachel Morris at TLRU and all the various and varied members of the FFT management committee, with a special thank you to Rob Torkington, Judy Pointing, Franqui Wolf and Tony Thomson who stuck with it and put up with me through thick and thin. And of course, all the staff over the years—with a special thank you to Zoe Matthews for all her input and support and Emma Nuttall, who appeared out of nowhere, in the nick of time and without whom FFT would not be where it is today.

Although I will be sad to leave FFT, I've been fortunate enough to have been offered a job administering the recently revived Travellers Aid Trust, which will mean I will be able to continue working with Travellers but still have time for my family.

The new National Coordinator, John Pateman, will hopefully be in post by the end of June. John, who comes from a traditional Traveller background, has a wealth of experience in strategic management (which FFT really needs at this point in time), and a great enthusiasm for Traveller issues. I think he will bring a much needed new dynamic to the organisation—watch this space!

I'd also like to say thank you to everyone out there who has continued to support FFT and its work. This is a great organisation and I know it will keep making a difference. *Alex*

### Traveller Law Reform Bill News

David Atkinson, MP for Bournemouth took the Traveller Law Reform Bill as a Ten Minute Rule Bill again, with its first reading on the 7th May. There were no objections and the bill will have a second reading on the 20th June. Ten Minute Rule Bills flag up ideas, but rarely, if ever, become law. However, there is a new housing bill which will be making its way through the House of Commons in the autumn and proposals for Travellers' accommodation could be included in this bill, if the government were supportive.

The Traveller Law Reform Coalition have also been lobbying MPs, and we are pleased to announce that an All Party Parliamentary Group for Traveller Law Reform has been formed. The Group has 32 MPs/Peers and will be launched at the Houses of Parliament on the 14th May 2003.

If you are interested in joining the Traveller Law Reform Coalition please contact Emma Nuttall, Unit Manager, at Friends, Families and Travellers, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3XG. Tel 01273 234777, or email [fft@communitybase.org](mailto:fft@communitybase.org).

*By Emma Nuttall*

# ODPM News—Further funding for Gypsy and Traveller sites & Draft Framework Guidance put on hold

The publication of the Draft Framework Guide on Managing Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments has been delayed. The Guide was due to have been published in April, but the draft was seriously criticised by many parties, including FFT and the Commission for Racial Equality, which may account for the delay....Watch this space.

At the Local Government Association Conference on 27th of March 2003, the Office of the Deputy Primeminister launched 'Managing Unauthorised Camping Operational Guidance A Consultation Paper'. The closing date for consultation on the Guidance is 23rd of May 2003.

At the conference the ODPM also announced that they will be extending the Gypsy Sites Refurbishment Grant for a further 2 years. £8 million will be available in 2004 and £8 million in 2005.

According to the ODPM's press release:

*Sixty-five projects will this year receive nearly £8 million in Government finding to help local authorities refurbish and provide temporary Gypsy sites in England.*

*Ninety-two bids were received from councils for the third round of a £17 million Gypsy Site Refurbishment Grant Programme in 2003/4.*

*Tony McNulty says "It is vital we keep the valuable network of existing Gypsy sites open and provide good quality amenities. We must also build upon the good work of the previous rounds of this Grant by providing more transit sites and stopping sites where they are needed. The provision of good quality sites for Gypsies and Travellers also allows them to live in harmony with neighbouring settled communities, and reduces the need for illegal encampments."*

*The range of funded work includes improving drainage, site modernisation such as refurbishment or replacement of substandard amenity units and modernisation of water and electricity supply systems, along with the provision of new or enlarged pitches to meet the needs of larger groups.*

The grant can also be applied for in order to set up transit sites or stopping places.

## **Gypsy Sites Refurbishment Grant 2003/4 Successful Bids:**

Local Authority	Site
Barking and Dagenham:	Eastbrook End
Bedfordshire:	Timberlands; Chiltern View
Cambridgeshire:	Blackwell; First Drove Bur-

well	
Croydon:	Lathams Way
Darlington:	Honeypot Lane
Dorset:	Thornicombe
Durham:	Drum Lane
Essex:	Hovefield; Ladygrove; Felsted; Brickhouse Road
Fenland:	Turf Fen Bridge; Seadyke; Sandbank; Fenland Way
Gloucestershire:	Showborough,;The Willows; Cursey Lane
Guildford:	Cobbets Hill Road
Hampshire:	Penny Hill, Starhill
Hertfordshire:	Howell A&B; 3 Cherry Trees; The Mimms
Hillingdon:	Colne Park
Horsham:	Hillside Lane
Lancashire:	Leighton Street
Lincolnshire:	Travellers
Rest;Washingborough	
Liverpool:	Tara Park
Luton:	St Thomas' Road
Milton Keynes:	Calverton Lane;Willen
Norfolk:	Mile Cross, Saddlebow Road, Splashes
Northants:	Gypsy Lane, Kangaroo Spinney
Northumberland:	
Nottingham:	Hartford Bridge
Oxfordshire:	Daneshill / Transit
	Ten Acre,;Woodhill Lane;The Sturt
Rochdale:	Roch Vale
Shropshire:	Cross Houses, Park Hall
South Somerset:	Iilton; Tintinhull
Southwark:	Brideale Close
Surrey:	Salvation Place; The Hatching-tan
Telford&Wreakin:	Lodge Road
West Sussex:	Adversane; Ryebank; Cousins Copse; Walstead
Wiltshire:	Lode Hill Downton; Oak Tree Field
Worcestershire:	Waterside Park; Lower Heath
Transit Sites:	Lincolnshire, Darlington

Following the conference the Local Government Association issued a press release calling for a return to the statutory duty on local authorities to provide Traveller sites. The ODPM have also commissioned Birmingham University to carry out research into the Gypsy Count, and this is currently underway.  
*By Emma Nuttall*

## **DISCLAIMER**

*Please note that the views expressed in articles or any other material contributed to the FFT newsletter are not necessarily those of Friends, Families and Travellers.*

## No blanket ban on cold calling

You may have heard reports recently in the media that the Trading Standard's Institute are calling for a ban on doorstep cold callers. A number of Travellers have rung the office anxious about this, so I looked into the matter further. The Trading Standards Institute represents the interests of Trading Standards professionals. The Institute will call for the ban at their conference at the end of June, and then if the call is successful lobby the government. I thus rang the Department of Trade and Industry, to see what their view on this was. The Department said that in July 2002 the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) published a report on doorstep selling, titled 'Door to Door', containing evidence of problems experienced by CAB clients across a range of goods and services.

NACAB submitted the report to the Office of Fair Trading as a 'supercomplaint' within the terms of the Enterprise Act. In November 2002 the Office of Fair Trading announced that they would investigate the supercomplaint. The investigation will take around a year and practice in other EU member states will be looked at. The investigation will take a particular in-depth look at the home improvements and assistive products sectors.

However, the Department of Trade and Industry said that once the results of the investigation are known they would have no intention of issuing a blanket ban on cold calling. Instead, if necessary, they would devise or tighten up on regulations to protect consumers.

*by Emma Nuttall*

## Fairs and Festivals

### Appleby Horse Fair 2003

**This notice was sent to FFT for circulation by Eden District Council, Cumbria Constabulary and the RSPCA. It does not represent the views of FFT.**

In order to start the Fair on a good footing it will be greatly appreciated if Travellers do not arrive early. Over the years Travellers who arrive before "Fair Hill" has opened have caused considerable problems for the local community. This year the police will be taking direct action to move people on at the request of landowners and information regarding this has been circulated to landowners in the area.

Cloven hoofed animals (e.g. sheep and goats) are subject to animal movement restrictions. Therefore, under no circumstances should animals of this type be brought to the Fair. If a cloven hoofed animal is put on a piece of land then it is subject to a 6 day standstill. This will cause extreme hardship for the farming community of Appleby.

Over the many years of the Appleby Horse Fair there have been a number of accidents around the entry to the river Eden. In order to reduce these accidents and the potential for suffering to horses, we plan to introduce a number of measures to make river access safer.

Travellers are also reminded that the sale of pets including birds is not permitted at Appleby Fair.

One of the main highlights of the Appleby Fair is the spectacle of the horses being raced to show them to prospective buyers. However, this practice raises concerns for the safety of onlookers and horses. To combat this safety concern, a local farmer has this year constructed an off-road showing lane in one of his fields. This "Flashing Lane" has been built on advice from David Muir

(RSPCA equine consultant) and representatives of the Travelling community who have been working with us on the New Fair Committee. The Flashing Lane is located on land next to Long Marton Road. It can be easily and safely seen from the roadside without interfering with the regular road users. Long Marton Road will not be closed this year.

We hope that Travellers, locals and visitors can enjoy the Fair with the minimum amount of disruption and in the safest possible way. Only by working together can this be achieved so any feedback you would like to give us is welcome. Alternatively speak to a representative of one of our organisations at the Fair in June.

**RSPCA North West, 451 Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs. OL9 9LB**

**Cumbria Constabulary 01768 891999**

**Eden District Council, Town Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QF**

### Stow Fair

Our apologies to anyone who was hoping to visit FFT's regular stall at Stow Fair this May. We were unable to attend due to unforeseeable circumstances. However we will be attending the next Stow Fair on October 23rd this year. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Glastonbury Festival

As usual FFT intends to be at Glastonbury Festival from Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June, in the Green Fields. Why not come along and say hi!

## New grants initiatives for Travellers are launched

### Travellers Aid Trust

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1988, a group of Travellers, civil liberty campaigners and solicitors formally set up The Travellers Aid Trust as a registered charity. The two main objectives of the charity are:

- The relief of poverty, hardship, sickness and distress among such persons as adopt, whether temporarily or permanently and regardless of race, culture, nationality or ethnic origins, a nomadic style or habit of life (herein after referred to as 'Travellers').
- The advancement of education among the children of Travellers by attendance at school or otherwise.

The Trust has been dormant for the past ten years but was recently revived with the help of Friends, Families and Travellers. Following a bequest in support of work with Travellers, the Trust is launching a grants programme, of which the Small Grants Programme for Travellers is a part.

The Small Grants Programme for Travellers awards grants of up to £250 for applications that are of benefit to Travellers or the Traveller community. Grants can either be for a specific purpose or item or meeting the overall costs of such

an item.

Criteria for Applicants:

**The grant programme is aimed at all members of the Traveller community, traditional or new, settled or living on the road throughout the UK. It is specifically intended to benefit individual Travellers, but application from small groups of Travellers will also be considered. There are only limited funds to support the grants programme and not every application can be accepted. However, the Trustees will endeavor to support as many applications as possible.**

Deadline for this round of the Small Grants Programme is the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2003.

The Trustees are also seeking to develop a broader grants programme and are currently carrying out initial consultation to help them decide how best to develop the main programme. If you would like a Small Grants Programme for Travellers application pack or to know more about the main grants programme, please contact:

Susan Alexander, Trust Administrator  
Travellers Aid Trust, c/o FFT, Community Base, 113  
Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XG  
info@travellersaidtrust.org

### 'UnLtd'

#### What is UnLtd?

UnLtd is a new organization that supports people who want to make a positive change in their communities. We help them by providing cash awards, advice, training, and other types of support that they might need to run their projects.

#### Tell me about the Awards

UnLtd Awards are cash awards plus support to help you make your ideas a reality. Level 1 Awards (we make 1000 of these every year!) are for between £500 to £5000 (the average award is £2000) to help make new ideas into real projects.

To be eligible for an Award, you need to be over 16, living in the UK and be an individual or an informal group. UnLtd cannot make Awards to constituted organizations or charities (which means you don't have to have any formal governance structure to have money from us). You should also have an idea for a project that will benefit other people in your community (and yourself! We are interested in investing in individuals – your project should provide you with an opportunity to learn something new).

#### What has it got to do with Travellers?

Travellers have loads of ideas for community projects, and UnLtd wants to reach out and support Travellers who want to make those projects happen.

You might be thinking of environmental improvements to the site you live on, a tool library for other Travellers, a vegetable garden to benefit yourself and others, even setting up a small business that will have community benefit. In fact, you probably have ideas we haven't even thought of – as long as they are about doing something new to benefit other people, we want to hear from you!

#### What do I do now?

Applying for an UnLtd Award is an easy process. There is an application form, which you can get by calling our National Helpline (0845 850 1122) or from our website ([www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk)), but it is really straightforward, and as long as you meet our eligibility criteria (as described above), someone will either phone you or come to meet you to talk about your project.

Don't worry about writing reams on the form, we want to see that you have a good idea and we will help you make it real. And don't worry about heaps of monitoring forms later on, we will work with you every step of the way to make sure you have time to focus on your project rather than reporting back to us. So if you have any questions, or want to talk about a project idea, give us a ring. UnLtd is a regionally-based organization, and the National Helpline will put you through to your regional representative. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Kara Carter (from London, the SouthEast & the East of England office)

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## Destined for Change—Community Care

By Jake Bowers

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Britain's Gypsy women can claim to be the first rural social workers and counsellors. In times past, their door to door trading and fortune telling gave rural women a chance to offload more than just their housekeeping money. Yet travel across Britain today, and you'll be hard pressed to find a single Gypsy woman within the ranks of the caring professions.

But a growing number of Romani women are attempting to change all that. As youth and community development workers they've concluded that their community's social exclusion will only be overcome once Travellers start talking and providing for themselves.

Shirley Barrett, community development worker of the Cambridgeshire Traveller Initiative, says Britain's 100,000 Romanies aren't just the most marginalized and excluded ethnic group in Britain - they are also the most disengaged and least recognised. She is among a new generation of Gypsy women, who, after 500 years of mutual suspicion and distrust, are building bridges between the Romani and Gorgia (non-Traveller) worlds.

"After 500 years in this country, we know what our problems are and it's time to move on." She says. "But Travellers are even disengaged from the disengaged. They will never, for example, join any ethnic minority forums. They say 'its nothing to do with us.'" Yet after 18 months working for the Ormiston Children and Families Trust, on the only local initiative in Britain run entirely by and for Travellers themselves, Barrett has helped many local Travellers become politically engaged. Having successfully established two Traveller's forums in Cambridgeshire, she's got a few tips about how to work with her community.

"You've got to approach Travellers and ask: 'what is it you want?' It's time to start working with us. Don't do things to us - do things with us. Because unless travellers themselves take the lead role, they will never become engaged with wider society," she says.

Last month, the Cambridgeshire Travellers Initiative scored another first when it organised the first in a series of conferences to discuss best practice with the Traveller community. Unlike the many events, where Traveller's problems are discussed exclusively by academics and professionals, the Travellers Voices conference was attended by as many Travellers as social care professionals. The reason for the high attendance was clear - Romanies and Travellers themselves were invited as the experts. Service providers from across Britain could only attend if they brought a member from the local Travelling community with them.

Sherry Peck, Coordinator of the Travellers Initiative, says: "I've attended lots of conferences about Travellers, but no- one from the community was invited. We wanted to organise a conference that was different - one which genuinely gave them a voice, because we need Travellers to inform our practice."

One woman who has definitely found her voice is Emily Clarke. As a community development worker for the Workers Educational Association on Teeside, she has travelled across Europe promoting best practice among Romanies -

Europe's largest and fastest growing ethnic minority. Since starting a residents association on the Metzbridge Gypsy site in Middlesborough nine years ago, she's been on a steep learning curve. Like many of her generation, she has learnt to read and write in her fifties to help her community access the public services they have so often been denied.

"When I started, the local authority and the Gypsies were enemies," says Clarke. "None of the people knew how the council was run. They were taking their problems to just one place. So I had to explain: 'Just imagine the council as a supermarket. If you want vegetables you don't go to the bakers store.'"

Given her own struggle with the written word, she's particularly keen to teach computer and literacy skills to Travellers. Like the Romani women in Cambridgeshire she's quick to point out Travellers aren't the only ones who need to do some learning.

"Everybody assumes Gypsies and travellers can read," says Clarke. "But they are a proud and independent people, so they won't tell you they can't read. They'll just say they can't be bothered. If you are going to work with Travellers the first thing you should do is go on a cultural awareness course."

Back in Cambridgeshire, Lisa Miley, says her confidence to speak up has been boosted so much by the Travellers Initiative she's considering a career as a youth worker. "When I was growing up my mother was never spoken to. But we do exist and we are still here. Everyone else is moving on, and it's time we did too!"

Fenland District Council in Cambridgeshire, which has the greatest concentration of Traveller's sites in Britain, runs Traveller-led cultural awareness and best practice seminars. Contact: David Bailey, Travellers Services Manager on 01354 654321 ·

Contact the Cambridgeshire Travellers Initiative, Ormiston Children and Families Trust on 01223 426 148

# Viv's Spares File



ON YER TRAVELS, HAVE YOU COME ACROSS...

- GOOD GARAGE SERVICES
- NON-RIP OFF PRICES
- AUTO-ELECTRICIANS
- ACCESSIBILITY TO SPARES AND REPAIRS
- AMAZING MECHANICS

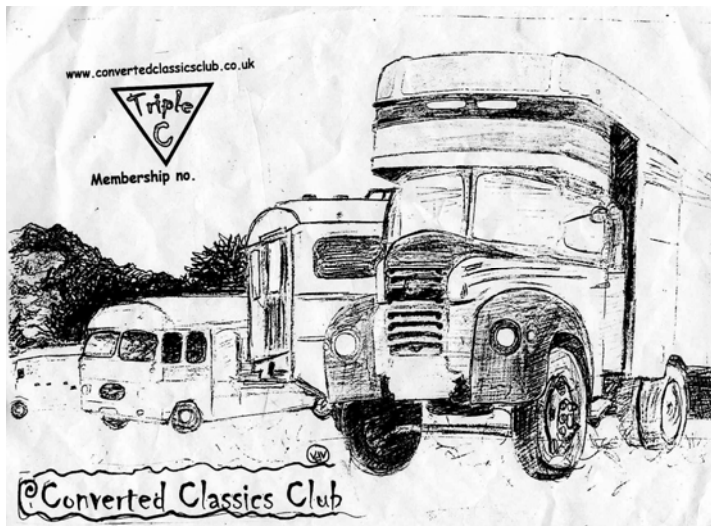
IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW! - THE SPARES FILE IS RUN BY YOU...FOR YOU!

Hello Folks...!

Viv's Spares File is having a break this issue, as I am moving house but will be return next issue with a new format. I will be serialising my book—Travels with Bat. In the meantime my Sherpa motorhome is for sale for £1,500. If you are interested please call 01458 830208, or write to: 50 Roman Way, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8AD.

See opposite for the regular instalment of A–Z!

VIV'S SPARES FILE  
C/O FLAT 2, RHISTON  
STREET ROAD  
GLASTONBURY, SOMERSET  
BA6 9EQ  
Tel: 01458 832 023



Above: An illustration from the Converted Classics Club, featured in our last newsletter.

Check out [www.convertedclassicsclub.co.uk](http://www.convertedclassicsclub.co.uk), call Stef Pickles on 01269 870337

## Health needs of Pregnant Traveller and Gypsy women / new mothers

The Maternity Alliance is a national charity that works to improve rights and services for all pregnant women, new families and their babies. Their core aim is to alleviate the social and economic problems experienced by vulnerable women and their families. They work to inform them, and those who work with them, about their rights and what benefits are due, dependant on circumstances. They also campaign for accessible and appropriate care, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as asylum seekers, pregnant teenagers and young mothers, the homeless, the disabled, or those from minority ethnic communities. They have received funding to develop a new project aimed at improving the health and social care given to Gypsy and Travellers who are pregnant or new parents, through better understanding between clients and carers; and to encourage these vulnerable and isolated women to make better use of antenatal and postnatal care. Available evidence suggests that the health of the Gypsy

and Traveller community is significantly worse than that of the general population and access to appropriate health and social care is problematic. It is estimated that Traveller children are between one and a half and twice as likely to die in the first year of life than children in settled communities. Additionally, the 5<sup>th</sup> Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths found that a "disproportionate number of women from the traditional travelling community were more likely to die".

They wish to solicit the views of relevant parties and interest groups regarding specific projects and community outreach programmes throughout the country, in an effort to ensure, establish or build on existing networks in order to improve the health and social care services provided to this group. They are aware of the number of forms you may have to complete and apologise for adding to your work, but do promise that your input would be valued and used. They would therefore be grateful if you could complete a questionnaire, available directly from them and return it to Leah Stewart by **26<sup>th</sup> May 2003** either by email or fax:

**Leah Stewart, RGN, RM MSc Student**  
**Helen Burchett, Public Health Policy Officer**



## Obituary—Jasper Derby Smith

Epsom born Gypsy folk-singer—Jasper Derby Smith—died on April 16th, aged 81, after suffering a stroke. Jasper was born in a wagon at the side of Walton Lane, Epsom, in 1921, his middle name being after his father who in 1887 was ushered into this world in a tent on Derby Day, and the name has been handed down in each generation since. This well respected, good natured Romany became more widely known throughout the Traveller community and beyond after two Topic LPs were issued in the 1970s featuring him with his sister Minty and brother Levy.

After appearing as a guest artist at the Loughborough Folk Festival, Jasper and his son Derby were included on the compilation LP of Gypsy singers *My Father is King of the Gypsies* (reissued on CD in 1999). Jasper contributed to BBC's *Folkweave* programme (with Euan Mc Coll), and he and his family appeared in ITV's film *Hopping Down in Kent*, and on a Thames TV Schools Programme.

Before the mechanisation of agriculture Jasper and all the members of his family were employed in seasonal jobs on the farms of Surrey and Kent and mostly travelled between the two counties. By the 1950s when they were beginning to change from their horse-drawn wagons to modern caravans it was easier to travel further afield. After the traditional meeting up with relations and friends at Derby Time, the family would additionally travel as far as 'The Black Fens' for work in the market gardens.

Jasper was one of the founder members of the original Gypsy Council in the 1960s, and campaigned for sites in Kent, and later in Surrey, where for many years he liaised between Travellers and the country authority when needed.

## Notice—Jeremy Sandford

It with great sorrow that we announce the death of Jeremy Sandford, who passed away in his sleep on the night of Sunday the 11th of May. A full obituary will be printed in the next edition of this newsletter.—*Franqui Wolf*

## New Book: Alan Dearing with Graham Meltzer: *Another Kind of Space*



*"A very good combination of the more adventurous and the more conventional approaches to new ways of sustainable living...it's interesting to see the likes of low impact villages rubbing shoulders with intentional communities, scrap-rafts, eco-tourism, modern nomads and the international green community."*

John Perry, Director of Policy, Chartered Institute of Housing, UK

At different levels, and for different audiences, this book offers a window into a better world. It contains a fascinating and inspirational selection of dwellings, living spaces and environments from around the world, all of which are deliberately fashioned by people and communities seeking to live in greater harmony and awareness with each other and the natural world. Some of the dwellings provide shelter for nomadic travellers; some are situated on communes and intentional communities; others are settlements on permaculture and organic farms; still more provide homes to rural and urban individuals, households and groups who are keen to find 'another way' of living.

Graham is an architect and long term member of the world's intentional communities' movement. His doctorate at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia was on co-housing. Alan is currently senior research consultant with the Chartered Institute of Housing in the UK. He also has a long history of involvement in environmental action, particularly with regards modern nomads, Travellers, young people and eco-protest.

*By Alan Dearing*

**Another Kind of Space, and details of Alan's other publications, are available from:**  
Enabler Publications, 3 Russell House, Lym Close, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3DE. Tel/fax 01297 445024. E-mail: [adearling@aol.com](mailto:adearling@aol.com) <http://members.aol.com/adearling/enabler/>



# British Waterways proposals throw Boatdwellers into crisis

Proposed changes by British Waterways may well mean that boaters on lower incomes will be forced off the waterways. The changes, currently in test phase, propose new mooring fees, substantial increases in licence fees and strict enforcement of the Continuous Cruising licence. According to British Waterways these proposals were developed after broad consultation with people using the waterways, however, many boatdwellers feel that the consultation questions were leading and cursory.

There is also strong feeling that the examples and explanations given in the Trial Moorings Code are patronising and offensive to traditional boaters who actually live on the waterways. For example: Fred is a boater with no permanent mooring and two children, who needs to cover 120 lock miles over a 3 month period to comply with the new regulations. 'Of course, Fred might find it extremely difficult to {...} ensure that his children still get to school each day! This would suggest that he should attempt to find a proper home mooring for his boat. And if this isn't possible, maybe he needs to reconsider whether living afloat without a permanent mooring is a practical option.'

Some boatdwellers feel that this seems to indicate the impracticality of the proposed legislation, rather than Fred's lifestyle. The following report comes from the Calderdale Boaters.

*Our canal, the Rochdale, has recently been acquired through a compulsory purchase order by British Waterways, who appear hell-bent on creating a monopoly over the canals network.*

*Despite us forming a boaters collective and meeting with their local management and proposing ideas such as co-operative moorings, sliding payment scales for people on low incomes, work in exchange for moorings and creating our own sustainable moorings (rainwater harvesting, compost toilets, market gardens etc) so that we can be independent of them, we have been ignored. Instead, we are now facing extortionate mooring fees for staying on the land on which we have been living, playing on and growing food on free of charge for periods of time for many of us extending to several years. Added to this is an imposed 30% rise in our licence fees.*

*Most of us are community workers, activists and may within our community have young children. Most of us live below the poverty line but we have nevertheless created communal facilities including, for example, tow-path gardens (for food and socialising), food co-operatives, compost toilets, shared childcare etc. We all play active roles in our local community plus raising awareness of this traditional way of life.*

*If we refuse to pay we will be forced to 'move on'. 'Moving on' means that we must move every 14 days a distance of at least 6 miles, the repercussions of which are that we are denied the right to find even casual work, our kids cannot be schooled, we have no access to consistent healthcare and we cannot easily register to vote. We may be able to claim housing benefit to contribute towards these fees, but housing benefit takes ages to come through and the 'system' is not sympathetic to the fact that we have to pay in 3 month instalments rather than week-by-week. Many of us have also made the political decision to live sustainably on low incomes outside of the Benefits System.*

*We could, of course, refuse to pay but we will then be liable to be issued with a Section 8, meaning that British Waterways have the legal right to crane our boats out of the water with all of our possessions inside and sell them. Already, there have been many instances of them damaging people's homes whilst craning them out. We are a strong community, and we will stick together to fight this, but we recognise that we are also vulnerable to the might of British Waterways.*

The Calderdale Boaters are interested in hearing from anyone who has had negative experiences with British Waterways, or has found a way to successfully resolve issues with them. Their address is: PO Box 54, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6WY.

Since this report was written, the Calderdale Boaters have been attempting to liaise with British Waterways regarding a moorings co-op scheme with reduced fees. Part of the conditions of this plan are that the boaters use their own sustainable facilities rather than those provided by British Waterways. This follows the co-operative moorings model achieved by boaters in Oxford. We will keep readers posted on the success of this negotiation.

Feedback and submissions regarding the trial Moorings Code should be sent to British Waterways by 31st October 2003.

Their contact address is:

Moorings Code Consultation  
British Waterways Customer Service Centre  
Willow Grange  
Church Road  
Watford  
WD17 4QA      Fax: 01923 201300

## Traveller Art Project a hit at Brighton Festival

As this newsletter went to press, the Brighton Festival was well underway, and the events and exhibitions planned as part of the Traveller Art Project were receiving a very positive response from the public.

On Saturday 10th May **Roseanna and Shamus McPhee**, Scottish Travellers from Pitlochry, Perthshire, visited Brighton to perform and exhibit at the Pub With No Name. Roseanna gave an informal talk about the difficulties facing traditional Travellers in Scotland today, followed by recitations of old and new verse and song, partly in Gaelic and Cant. Shamus, whose paintings are on display in the pub until the end of May, gave a talk explaining the background to each painting. Both Travellers received a very warm reception, and somehow around 40 people managed to squeeze into the upstairs room where the event took place! This was a rare opportunity for members of the English settled community to learn about the rich cultural heritage of Scottish Travellers, as well as the extraordinary discrimination and prejudice they encounter in areas as fundamental as employment, site provision and education.

Full details of other events and exhibitions running throughout the festival can be found on

[www.traveller-art.co.uk](http://www.traveller-art.co.uk).

This virtual guide is intended to be maintained throughout the coming year as an online resource for Traveller artists, and will helpfully grow and grow!

Poem by Janie Codona, accompanying the exhibition 'Through the Eyes of Romany Children'. Showing at Starbucks, Western Road, throughout the Brighton Festival.

### GYPSY CHILDREN

Cries of laughter and joy float on the air,  
Children at play without a care.

Blue sky and clouds are overhead,  
Grass green and soft on which they tread.

Brown legs and faces that have caught the sun,  
Children playing and just having fun.

They play together all as friends,  
Have a scrap then make amends.

Their home is a site or a piece of waste ground,  
School is the nearest one to be found.

They go to school when they can,  
Mary, Joe, and little Sam.

Older children watching the young,  
Laughing, playing, just having lots of fun.

They love to explore each new stopping place,  
Running up and down with excitement on their face.

They love it when they go, travelling away,  
But sometimes they love it when they can stay.

Copyright Janie Codona.

## NO BRICKS AND MORTAR FOR TOMMY CLARKE

By Marc Willers of 1 Pump Court

You may remember reading about the case of Tommy Clarke v Tunbridge Wells District Council last year in the FFT newsletter. In that case both the High Court and the Court of Appeal took the view that a planning inspector's decision to refuse Tommy planning permission should be quashed and reheard by another inspector - in circumstances where the inspector seemed to have breached both Articles 8 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights by taking into account an offer of conventional housing that had been made to him when Tommy could show that his family lived in accordance with a traditional Gypsy lifestyle and had "an aversion to bricks and mortar".

The good news is that Tommy's planning appeal has now been reconsidered and he has been granted permanent planning permission for himself and his family to continue living in their caravans on their land.

### Telephone Advice Line for Travellers—0845 120 2980

This advice line is open between 10.00am—1.00pm and 2.00pm—5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Travellers can speak directly to experienced advisers on questions of eviction, planning matters, issues involving official caravan sites and other matters. It is run by the Travellers Advice Team at the Community Law Partnership.

## Cyber Pilots

The Cyberpilot website is the new home of Traveller/Roma Football. Read all about the exciting battle for the Gypsy Council Shield on Roma Nation Day in Epping Forest. The final match was between Roma FC v. Haringey Traveller United. The score was three all, and the match went to a nail biting penalty shoot-out. Haringey Traveller United won, as Mike McCarthy scored the winning goal.

As we put on our sunglasses and dig our t-shirts out of the cupboard, you just know the festival season is upon us again. Come visit the Cyberpilot project, part of the FFT stall at the Big Green Gathering, Stow Fair (October) and Glastonbury Festival. The Cyberpilot team will be running computer art competition, with winning pieces being displayed on the website. If you have any computer questions that your teacher or family can't sort out, come and ask us. We can give lessons in email, web design, internet surfing, staying safe on the web, graphic design for websites and more.



Contact us at: Cyber Pilots, FFT, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3XG. You can even join on-line at [www.gypsy-traveller-cyberpilots.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller-cyberpilots.org). See you in Cyber Space, Tammy!



## TESS THE TRAVELLER

written by  
Fiona Earle & Ross Heulin  
Illustrated by  
Loll Golding

**A series of ten story books for and about  
Travellers for  
children between the age of  
three and seven**

*'Tess the Traveller' story books come individually or as a set. Call FFT on 01273 234777 for more information or check out [http://www.groundswelluk.net/~fft/education/tess\\_traveller.htm](http://www.groundswelluk.net/~fft/education/tess_traveller.htm)*

# **Forthcoming Gypsy & Traveller Conferences**

## **Annual Conference of the Gypsy Lore Society**

This two day conference is set to take place in Newcastle upon Tyne, in 2004. Dates are still to be decided but are most likely to fall in late May or early September. The organisers of the conference are aware that the history and associations of the GLS means that some people will not wish to attend. However they hope that—given the momentum for change that began with the rebranding of the Journal in 2000 (from Journal of the GLS to 'Romani Studies') - there will be further changes to be seen in Newcastle in 2004.

Offers of papers / workshops in any area of Romani studies should be sent to Colin Clark by October 2003. Please send an abstract of 500 words and full contact details to: [Colin.clarke@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Colin.clarke@ncl.ac.uk)

## **Local Government Group: Law Relating to Gypsies and Travellers**

Date: 4th July 2003 10.00am—c.4.00pm  
Venue: ETC Venues, Avonmouth House, Avonmouth Street, SE1  
Cost: £149.00 plus VAT  
Contact: [bookings@lgg.org.uk](mailto:bookings@lgg.org.uk)  
Phone: 08707 30 30 40 Fax: 01483 277888 Mail: LGG Training Unit67 Smithbrook Kilns, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8JJ

This one day conference will cover:

- ◆ The Local Authority perspective (Bill Forrester, Head of Travellers Unit, Kent)
- ◆ Human Rights and relevant cases (Tim Straker QC)
- ◆ Unauthorised encampments and associated problems (Susan Alexander, FFT)
- ◆ The view of the Gypsy Council (Ann Bagehot)
- ◆ National Traveller Action Group (Clifford Codona, Chairman)

## **University of Newcastle upon Tyne:**

### **Roma and Asylum in Britain: Global Issues, Local Concerns**

Date: 3rd September 2003 9.30am—4.45pm  
Venue: The Fenwick Room, Castle Leazes Hall of Residence, Spital Tongues, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE2 4NY  
Contact: 0191 222 8362 / 8368  
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/conferenceteam>      <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/geps>

This one day conference, **limited to 80 places**, will cover:

- ◆ The patterns and politics of Roma migration Europe (Thomas Acton, Greenwich University)
- ◆ Issues facing Roma in Britain today (Josef Cina, Roma North East organisation)
- ◆ Roma, asylum and the law (Luke Clements, Traveller Law Research Unit, Cardiff Law School)
- ◆ The NGO perspective on Roma issues in Europe (Claude Cahn, the European Roma Rights Centre)
- ◆ Workshops (Asylum, human rights and the law; Asylum and Housing; Asylum and Education; Asylum and Health; Asylum and European lobbying)

## **Discrimination Law Association 5th National Conference:**

### **Making rights real: Challenging discrimination in the civil courts**

Date: Monday 16th June 2003 8.45am—5.15pm  
Venue: Sadler's Wells, Rosebury Avenue, London EC1  
Contact: 0115 916 3104 / [cclimited@aol.com](mailto:cclimited@aol.com)      Info: [www.discrimination-law.org.uk](http://www.discrimination-law.org.uk)

One day conference focussing on imaginative enforcement of civil rights using the amended Race Relations Act,



**Sherpa motorhome for sale**

£1,500. If you are interested please call Viv Hughes on 01458 830208, or write to: 50 Roman Way, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8AD.

**Music Events:**

**X-Bloc Reunion: A revolutionary mix of ethnic and urban music from the former Eastern bloc.**

From wild Gypsy Balkan brass, to seductive Silk Road vocals, from Tuvan punk and Russian ska, to Bulgarian voices and new Russian folk.

23—31st May  
The Barbican Centre, London  
Box Office: 020 7638 8891  
www.barbican.org.uk

Saturday 31st May 8.00pm  
Goran Bregovic - ‘Tolerant Heart’  
Sarajevo-born composer Goran Bregovic is famous for his evocative scores to the films *Time of the Gypsies* and *Underground* (including Boban Markovic’s band) by Emil Kusterica. Like those, ‘Tolerant Heart’ (or My Heart has become Tolerant) is a response to events in Yugoslavia.

**L’Espirit Manouche A Festival of Gypsy jazz**

Takes place at Mosely Private Park in Birmingham on the 12th and 13th of July this year.

Tickets are available now at £25.00, giving access to both days of the event. They can be purchased by sending a cheque, made payable to L’Espirit Manouche to :

L’Espirit Manouche  
4 Brighton Road  
Balsall Heath  
Birmingham  
B12 8PU

Online payment is also possible at  
www.thehotclub.co.uk

For all ticket queries please contact David Alexander at dave@lespiritmanouche.com or on 0121 249 2303

**Job Vacancy:**

**Travellers School Charity**

Thanks to funding from BBC Children in Need, the TSC now have a vacancy for a

**System Technician / Web Site Manager.**

The mobile Computer Classroom Project uses Renewable Energy as a power source and Phase 2 of the project is well underway. The part-time employee will be responsible for:

- ◆ Maintaining the Charity’s website, computers and power supplies.
- ◆ Production and distribution of quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Bi-monthly training for Staff in IT, Renewable Energy and Teaching

The successful applicant should have experience in the following:

- ◆ Issues affecting Travellers and people of a nomadic habit of life.
- ◆ Installation of Renewable Energy power systems, maintenance and the relevant Health and Safety protocols.
- ◆ Installation of operating systems, software, maintenance and Networks.
- ◆ Memory upgrade, hard drive replacement and specific aspects of hardware regarding laptop computer.
- ◆ Mobile communications and Internet connections.

During training days with the TSC, the employee may be expected to work with children and therefore a recent Police Check is essential.

Salary to be arranged.

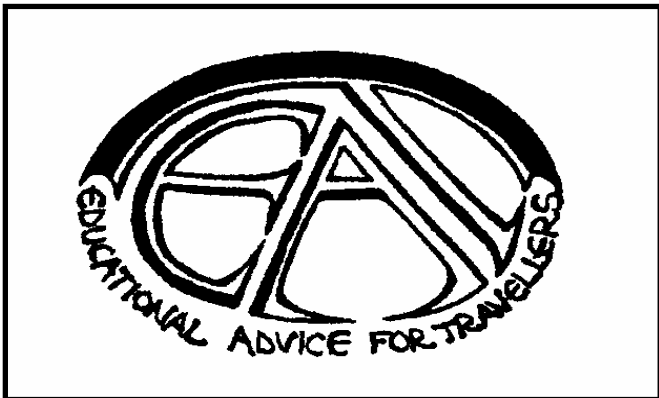
Please apply in writing:

THE TRAVELLERS’ SCHOOL CHARITY  
P.O. BOX 2  
GOODWICK  
PEMBROKESHIRE  
SA64 0ZQ

Alternatively email via the website:

[www.travellersschool.plus.com](http://www.travellersschool.plus.com)

**DRAOBBITION**



*This newsletter is kindly sponsored by*

**1**

***1 Pump Court  
Barristers Chambers  
Temple  
London  
EC4Y 7AB***

***www.1pumpcourt.co.uk***

*Friends, Families & Travellers* was established during the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act.

It has since grown into a nationally recognised voluntary organisation which serves the whole spectrum of the Traveller community, both traditional and new, settled or on the road.

The majority of work promoted by FFT is carried out by an Advice and Information Unit based in Brighton and covers evictions, harassment, planning, employment, benefits, education, health, civil rights, discrimination and legal representation. The Unit is also active in research, monitoring, mediation and policy development at local and national levels.

In 1999, FFT was one of five organisations short listed for the Human Rights Award, part of the United Nations International Day of Human Rights.

FFT became a company (non-profit voluntary organisation) limited by guarantee on the 14th of July 1998, no. 3597515. The company is run by a management committee made up of directors elected by the membership. Management committee meetings are held every two months and are open to all members.

***FFT  
Community Base  
113 Queens Road  
Brighton BN1 3XG  
Tel: 01273 234 777  
Fax: 01273 324 778  
fft@communitybase.org  
www.gypsy-traveller.org***

# Contacts Page



## LOCAL FFT CONTACTS

### **Brighton:**

Judy Pointing - 01273 698531

### **Cornwall:**

Sue Burton - 01736 752036

### **Hampshire:**

Brian, Southampton - 02380 441253

Bryan Lawrence - 115 Magennis Close, Gosport

### **Worcester:**

Sheila Wells, Worcester - 01905 821 302

### **Lincolnshire:**

Rob Torkington - 07971 542 108

### **Norfolk:**

Heather Spiller, Sculthorpe, Norfolk - 01328 863 435

### **Somerset:**

Tony Thomson - 07779 310 577

### **Surrey:**

Franqui Wolf, Dorking - 01306 883254

## OTHER GYPSY & TRAVELLER ORGANISATIONS

### **The Travellers' School Charity**

PO Box 2, Goodwicke, Pembroke, SA64 0ZQ

01437 532 432

www.travellersschool.plus.com

### **Educational Advice for Travellers**

Fiona Earle, P.O. Box 36, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 6EW

### **The Gypsy Council GCWCR**

Charlie Smith / Anne Bagehot - 01708 868986

### **The Association of Gypsy Women**

Sylvia Dunn - 01268 782792

01708

### **New Futures Association OTHER**

(NFA)

Carol Waller, Glaneirw, Tan-y-groes, Ceredigion, SA43 2HP, 01239811929

Email: nfauk@hotmail.com. Minicom and Textphone.

### **BIAS Irish Travellers Project**

The Old Library Building, Willesden Green Library Centre, 95 High Road, Willesden, London NW10 2ST - 0208 459 7638

**Irish Travellers Movement in Britain**

The Old Library Building, Willesden Green Library Centre, 95 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10 2ST - 020 8459 7638

### **York Traveller Project**

01904 630526

### **London Gypsy Traveller Unit**

020 8533 2002

### **Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association - 0131 650 6314**

**Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group - 01629 734 805**

### **Irish Travellers Movement**

Fintn Farrell, 4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2, Ireland - 00353 1 679 6577

### **Advisory Council for the Education of Romany & Other Travellers (ACERT) - 01279 418 666**

**Labour Campaign for Travellers Rights 0113 248 6746**

### **Europe Roma**

0208 802 7496 - 07812 694 347

### **Pavee Point**

North Great Charles St, Dublin 1 00 353 1 878 0255

### **The Children's Society**

Rachel Grant & Debbie Harvey - 92b High Street, Mid-Somer Norton, Somerset - 01761 411771

### **The Children's Society in Cornwall - Caroline Dann & Cheryl Ellwood, 11 Market Place, Penzance, - 01736 333660**

### **Save the Children (Scotland)**

Michelle Lloyd - 0131 527 8200

### **PressWise - Mike Jempson 0117 941 5866**

### **Groundswell - 020 737 5500**

### **National Association of Boat Owners 01749 677195**

### **Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) 020 7828 7022**

### **Justice?/Schnews - 01273 685913**

### **Planning Aid - 01963 230045**

### **Education Otherwise - 0870 730 0074**

### **Land Registry Office -01705 768 820**

### **The National Small Woods Association, 3 Perkins Beach Dingle, Stiperstones, Shropshire, SY5 0PF, - 01743 792644**

### **The Traveller Law Research Unit (TLRU) (previously TLAST), Rachel Morris- 01222 874580**

## LEGAL ADVICE & REPRESENTATION

### **Traveller Advice Team (TAT) (Community Law Partnership) 24hr. mobile: 07768 316755**

and 0121 685 8595

### **Public Law Project - 020 7467 9800**

### **Squatters Advisory Service 020 7359 8814**

### **Legal Aid Head Office 020 7813 1000**

## FFT PUBLICATIONS LIST

Available from the FFT office. Please make cheques payable to FFT!

### **Confined, Condemned & Constrained: Civil Rights & Travellers £5 + 50p p&p**

### **Alternative Planning Policy £1.00**

### **Agenda 21 : Breakdown of the major policy regarding Travellers 75 p £1.20**

### **Wealdon / Crowborough: Judicial review report £1.20**

### **Student Information Pack: Info. on law, legal status, health, etc £3.00**



If you have any CONTACT NUMBERS you think should be included in this list, please let us know!

**If you believe that all members of society should have the right to travel and to stop  
without constant fear of persecution because of their lifestyle:  
JOIN FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS NOW!**

**\*\*\*\*\***

I would like to join Friends, Families and Travellers. I understand that this will enable me to vote at the Annual General Meeting,  
attend Management Committee Meetings and receive copies of the newsletter.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose my subscription:

Waged-£8.00  Unwaged-£3.00  Family Waged-£12.00  Family Unwaged-£5.00  Organisation-£20.00  / or Donation

I do not wish to join FFT, but please accept a donation towards the work you carry out

Please state if you wish to remain anonymous.

I do not wish to join FFT, but would like to receive newsletters(subscription costs as above)

*Please make cheques payable to FFT and return to: FFT, Community Base, 113 Queens Rd., Brighton BN1 3XG.*