

Friends, Families and Travellers

April – June
2006

Changes at FFT

As the newly appointed Director of Friends, Families and Travellers I am delighted to have the opportunity to tell you something about some of the exciting new initiatives that we are going to be starting this summer.

For many years FFT has provided an advice, information and casework service for Gypsies, Irish Travellers and other

Travellers, and this will continue. However we have long been aware that the work we do is only the tip of the iceberg in meeting the needs of those who seek our help. For that reason we are refocusing the work of the unit to enable us to work with mainstream advice agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureaux to help them to improve the services that they provide

to Gypsies and Travellers. We have been awarded three years of funding from the Big Lottery to undertake this work. It will be delivered by our Traveller Advice Project under the leadership of Emma Nuttall.

We are also going to build on the success of the Cyberpilots project managed by Tammy

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The Sun's Stamp on the Camps campaign

Following the Crown Prosecution Service's decision not to prosecute The Sun newspaper under an Incitement to Racial Hatred Charge, the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) considered a complaint by Andrew Ryder of the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition (G&TLRC) as to whether the Sun had breached the PCC's Code of Practice. The decision was that there was no breach of the code and the full reasons for the decision are as follows:

Commission's decision in the case of Ryder v The Sun.

The PCC noted that the complainant had raised concerns that the newspaper had breached Clause 1 (Accuracy) and Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Code in its coverage of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers. Ryder had also contended that the articles were offensive and designed to incite racial hatred.

Turning first to the complaint under Clause 1 (Accuracy), the PCC noted that the complainant had raised the following concerns: that the newspaper's coverage had been designed to mislead readers into believing that the government was allowing Gypsies and Travellers to set up camps wherever and that the third article - headline "Sun campaign" - had misrepresented government policy, which was in fact designed to reduce the number of unauthorised

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FFT AGM,
17th June, FFT
Offices,
Brighton, 1pm



Changes at FFT cont

.... Furey, to develop the web-site and work with Gypsy and Traveller young people to provide innovative educational materials that can be used by Traveller Education Services, voluntary organisations or by the young people themselves. We are grateful to the Commission for Racial Equality for giving us the funding to carry out this project.

This is a busy time in the planning profession with Councils up and down the country preparing their Statements of Community Involvement, Housing Needs Assessments and policies to respond to the new Planning Circular. To date, pressure of other work has made us unable to respond to the dozens of local authority consultations that arrive in our office but, thanks to the generous support of the Allen Lane Foundation and Garden Court

Chambers, we will shortly be recruiting a part-time Planning Officer. This will enable us to engage in this work and, hopefully, develop some good practice models for local authorities to follow in their planning processes.

The successful Sussex Traveller Women's Health Project, managed by Zoe Matthews, has now come to an end but the much needed work of helping Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex to access health and social care services will continue, thanks to funding that we have received from the Home Office under Invest to Save Round 8. Zoe and her team - Avril Fuller and Sally Burnett - will be working in partnership with Sompriti, an organisation that helps Black and minority ethnic people in East Sussex, and the Adult Social Care service of the County Council, over the next

three years to deliver improved services to Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex and, hopefully, develop models of good practice that will be adopted elsewhere.

Our staff complement has been augmented by the arrival of Clare Bingham, who will be taking over most of the day-to-day casework from Emma, and Suzanna King our new administrator/book-keeper. We are delighted to have them with us.

So, after years of struggling to survive, we now have some security of income to enable us to continue and expand our work. As always we are very grateful for the support and help given to us by the Traveller Aid Trust without which Friends, Families and Travellers would have ceased to exist.

Chris Whitwell, Director

"We welcome Clare Bingham and Suzanna King to our staff at the Information and Advice Unit."

Planning & Enforcement of Gypsy & Traveller Sites



Westminster Briefing entitled "Planning and Enforcement of Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Meeting the Challenge" will be hosted by The House Magazine on Thursday 18th May 2006 in Westminster.

The Government has recently published new guidance on planning and

enforcement in an effort to address the shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites and to strengthen enforcement against the problem sites. Delegates at this Briefing will have the opportunity to consider the new guidance and also assess the likely impact recent legislation such as the Clean Neighbourhoods

and Environment Act 2005, the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the Housing Act 2004 will have for local authorities.

For more details visit: www.westminster-briefing.com/events/Planning_and_enforcement.htm

The Sun's Stamp on the Camps Campaign cont

..... encampments.

Clause 1 (Accuracy) states that the press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures. It also entitles newspapers to be partisan, provided they distinguish between comment, conjecture and fact.

The PCC noted that the 3rd article stated that John Prescott had ordered local councils to "go soft" on Travellers' camps, and "turn a blind eye" to problems created. The article had also indicated that John Prescott had warned local authorities that Travellers suffered racial discrimination in planning applications, and suggested that his orders could create more than 300 new camps. However, the article had not detailed the measures that were being implemented by the government.

Taking this into account, the PCC considered that it would be clear to readers that the articles represented the newspaper's own interpretation of John Prescott's actions, and government policy. No breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) has therefore been determined.

The PCC noted that the complainant had also raised concerns over the use of a photograph on the front cover of the newspaper, which he believed to have been taken in the 1980s. However - in the Commission's view - the photo had been illustrative of the subject of the articles.

The Sun had not claimed that it was contemporary. The PCC was satisfied that the use of this picture did not raise any issues under the terms of Clause 1 (Accuracy).

The next task for the PCC was to consider the complaint under Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Code. The complainant had explained that the G&TLRC had been contacted by a number of Gypsies and Travellers who had felt threatened by the articles, and in particular the headline "Stamp on the camps". Moreover, the Commission for Racial Equality had recorded an increase in incidents of discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers after publication of the articles. The complainant also outlined that Travellers at sites that had been depicted in the newspaper - for example those at Dale Farm - had informed him that they found the article to be

particularly offensive.

Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Code states the press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to - amongst other things - an individual's race.

However, the PCC emphasised that this clause was designed to protect the rights of the individual and is not applicable to groups of people. Given that no individual has been referred to in the article in a prejudicial or pejorative manner, the PCC made clear that no breach of Clause 12 could be determined.

The PCC finally emphasised that it could only come to a view under the terms of the Code. It could not therefore comment on the complainant's concern that the newspaper had attempted to incite racial hatred. Moreover, it made clear that taste and offensiveness were matters for editorial discretion and were not ones on which it could comment.

Emma Nuttall

FFT,
Advice work Manager,
Traveller Advice Project



Gypsy and Traveller
Law Reform Coalition
Annual Report 2004-
2005 is now available
from
[www.travellerslaw.org/p
ress#annualreport05](http://www.travellerslaw.org/p
ress#annualreport05)

News from the Sussex Traveller Health Project

*“Healthy Eating Advice,
Family Planning,
Stop Smoking
Sessions.”*

We are all very relieved to be able to continue our work with Gypsies and Travellers in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex . Our previous funding with Volunteering England has come to an end, but in the nick of time we were successful in gaining a joint bid with East Sussex County Council and Sompriti. This funding will be used to assist Gypsies

and Travellers in accessing Health and Social Care, which followed on from an equalities impact assessment that identified Gypsies and Travellers as being under represented within social services.

We will continue to manage the Specialist Traveller Health Advisor and will be piloting some

sessions in Hailsham Community Centre – see Avril's report below.

For more details please contact:
Health Improvement Manager Zoe Matthews on 01273 234796 or Sally Burnett, Specialist Health Advisor 07917 105663 or Avril Fuller, Outreach Worker on 077205 18139 for details.

Avril Fuller, Health Project Outreach worker

Well here we are again!
We have our funding,
yay!!!!!!!!!!!!

Many thanks to all involved.

We will be piloting a new women's group in:
Hailsham Community Centre,
Vega Close
Town Farm Estate

10th May 2006. Between 10am-12pm weekly (only breaking up for the school holidays).

Facilitators:

- Sally Burnett, Health Advisor to Gypsy/Travellers
- Avril Fuller, Outreach worker
- Susan Jones, Local Volunteer
- Health Promotion workers

Do call in if only for a while to give us your views on what you as a community would like to learn be receiving or need support with around health issues.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bye for now,

Avril

Security of Tenure Bill

Meg Hillier, MP for Hackney and Shoreditch will be taking 'The Security of Tenure Bill', drafted by Chris Johnson of the Travellers' Advice Team, as a Ten Minute Rule Bill.

She is waiting to be given parliamentary time by the Government whip's office.

This Bill calls for security of tenure on local authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

Noticeboard

Shelter course: Gypsy and Traveller Law

This course aims to provide an introduction to the law relating to accommodation issues that affect Gypsies and Travellers.

Course includes

- * Planning law as it relates to Gypsies and Travellers including planning applications, appeals, enforcement action and injunctions
- * Security of tenure on official sites
- * Evictions from unauthorised encampments including substantive defences and public law challenges
- * Homelessness law as it relates to Gypsies and Travellers

Suitable for: Solicitors, advisers and other professionals and support workers working with Gypsies and Travellers; local authority workers involved in Gypsy and Traveller issues. No prior knowledge of the legislation is needed.

For more information, goto:
<http://england.shelter.org.uk/home/home-1077.cfm/course/4327/>

ITM Relocation

ITM has relocated to: The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
 Tel: 020 7607 2002
 Fax: 020 7607 2005
 e-mail: info@irishtraveller.org.uk

www.travellers-tairing.com

The website is an educational resource to celebrate Irish Traveller Culture and History. The website is the result of a collaborative partnership with Liverpool children and families, Liverpool TES and Irish Community Care Merseyside who worked with lead partners, The ICDC Team of Liverpool John Moores University.

The aim of the partnership was to develop internet access for the Liverpool families and to develop a website for the families where they can access and archive cultural material and access welfare, health and educational support and advice, as well as enabling them to contact relatives and friends on the world wide web.

Sussex Traveller Action Group

www.sussextag.org
info@sussextag.org.uk

www.tribal-living.co.uk

A new website covering Travellers, Vehicles, Alternative dwellings, Self-building, Communes, Living off the land, Eco-living, Spirituality, Healing, Festivals, Gigs and Events.

National Early Years Conference: Achieve and Enjoy

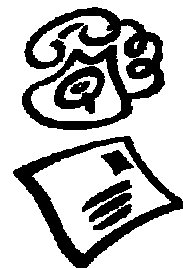
14th of June, Carriageworks Theatre, Millenium Square, Leeds, tickets are £50 per person.

Confirmed speakers: -
 Chrissy Meleady - Chief Executive of Early Years Equality (EYE), Richard O'Neil on storytelling, Sherry Peck from the Cambridgeshire Travellers Initiative.

Confirmed workshops:
 -Persona Dolls
 -The REAL project
 -Storytelling
 - Early Years Inclusion

We are also planning on allocating part of the day to information and networking section

Further information contact: Kelly Griffiths Information and Communication Officer/
 Administrator Gypsy & Traveller Project Save the Children
 0113 388 8657



Telephone Helpline 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. The service is funded by the Legal Services Commission.

Festivals 2006

- May 19 – 21st
www.rocketfestival.com
- May 26 - June 11th
www.bathfringe.co.uk
- May 29th
www.kingstongreenfair.org.uk
- June 2-4th
www.wychwoodfestival.com
- June 1-4th
www.earthwise-uk.com
- June 3rd
www.strawberry-fair.org.uk
- June 16-21st
www.sunrisecelebration.com
- June 17-18th
Leamington Peace Festival
www.peacefestival.org.uk
- June 21st Stonehenge
www.hesfes.co.uk
- June 24 – 1st July
www.fusion-festival.de
- June 29 - July 2nd
www.workhousefestival.co.uk
- June 30 - July 2nd
www.buddhafield.com
- July 12 - 16th
www.buddhafield.com
- July 9 - 15th European Juggling Convention, Cork
www.eja.net
- July 22 - 23rd
www.ashtoncourtfestival.com
- July 28 - 30th
www.womad.org
- August 2 - 6th
www.big-green-gathering.com
- August 18 – 20th
www.beautifuldays.org
- August 6 – 28th
Edinburgh Fringe
www.edfringe.com
- September 2-3rd
Foundation
thefoundationfestival.org.uk
- September 8-10th
Bestival
www.bestival.net

Pride not Prejudice Conference

Hosted by West Mercia Constabulary on 17th May 2006 at the Worcester Rugby Ground.

The theme of this year's event is 'Building Confidence in Justice'. Agencies including the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Probation, Youth Justice, Judiciary, Victim Support and others will hear about work taking place across the country to address the needs of Gypsy and Traveller people.

Gypsy and Traveller

representatives and police officers are working hard to ensure another ground breaking and practical conference. Issues under the spotlight in workshops this year will include:

1. Unauthorised encampment and 'enforcement' powers – a discussion to explore recently published guidance from the ODPM
2. The Prison and Probation Services
3. Policing in partnership – a look at what community policing

4. An examination of Race Relations, what does this mean to us?
5. Rebuilding confidence in justice. What does justice mean? A look at the criminal justice system and ways to build trust.

Delegate Charge, incl. lunch, excluding VAT:

Statutory service - £125
Voluntary and Community sector - £50
Gypsy and Travellers – free.

For further details:

Insp David Coulson
Staff Officer to Assistant Chief Constables, West Mercia Constabulary, Hindlip Hall, Worcester, WR3 8SP
Tel: 01905 331803
Email:
david@coulson@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Reports

May and June this year will see the publication of three important reports.

The Commission for Racial Equality will publish the results of their scrutiny into Local Authorities' race equality duty towards

Gypsies and Travellers.

The Social Exclusion Unit will publish their 'Frequent Movers' report, which includes Gypsies and Travellers

The Local Government

Association will publish the report of their Gypsy and Traveller Task Group, as chaired by Councillor Richard Bennett, which has been looking at provision and enforcement.

Licensed sites near to the Royal Welsh Show:

*White House Farm:
01982 552255*

*YFC Caravan site:
01982 553502*

*Penmaenau Caravan site:
01982 553920*

*Old Creamery Site/Riverside Site:
01982 553682*

Royal Welsh Show

FFT has been informed by Cyngor Sir Powys County Council, that a temporary caravan site is not available this year. "Since last year's Royal Welsh Show Powys County Council has again tried to find a suitable site for use by Gypsy and Traveller families attending the show. Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers inviting

farmers and other landowners to contact the Council if they had suitable land available. Unfortunately, no suitable offers of land have been forthcoming and no other land is available in the Built Wells area to accommodate a temporary site. In the circumstances, I would advise all Gypsies and Travellers intending this year's show to make a

reservation as soon as possible for a caravan pitch on one of the licensed caravan sites (FFT has a list of these four sites – please contact the office)".

We were also informed that the Yscioig Farm next to the A470, near Built Wells is not available.

ROKKER RADIO

Rokkering the tatchipen about the Romani foki

Britain's first radio programme for, by and about Gypsies and Travellers, presented by Romani Journalist Jake Bowers Every Sunday 5-7pm

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO
Beds, Herts & Bucks
FM, AM & bbc.co.uk/threecounties

Friends, Families and Travellers

Community Base
113 Queens Rd.
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3XG

PHONE:
01273 234 777

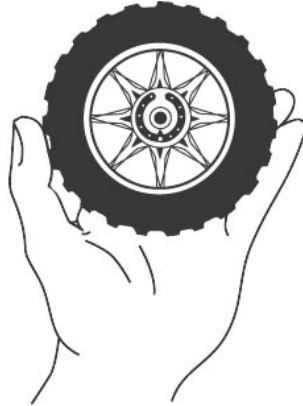
FAX:
01273 234 778

E-MAIL:
info@gypsy-traveller.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Gypsy-Traveller.org



Friends, Families & Travellers was

established in response to 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 UN International Day of Human Rights.

FFT became a company limited by guarantee (non-profit voluntary organisation) no. 3597515 and a registered charity in 2006, no. 111 2326.

FFT is run by a management committee made up of directors elected by the membership.

Management committee meetings are held every six weeks and are open to all members.

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: _____

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.

All membership information held by FFT is confidential and will not be made available to others without your consent.