

....seeking to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers whatever their ethnicity, culture or background, whether settled or mobile, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.



fft

Friends Families and Travellers

Newsletter Spring 2012

Registered Charity Number 111 2326



WHAT'S NEW....

FFT is holding a Health and Happiness Event on the 20th March at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton right next door to our offices in Community Base, Queens Road. The event is to promote healthy and happy living, so a fun day! Do please join us and just come along.

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Residents at Carter's Hill Gypsy Site in Wokingham benefited from support from FFT to get the fly-tipping removed from the car park next to their site. FFT volunteer, Mel Cox helped to strengthen the residents' voice in negotiating with the local council.

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In February FFT advertised for volunteers in the national and local press and Travellers Times. We have been very pleased by the responses we have received, and at the wide variety of people who have come forward to offer their time and skills to help FFT raise funds. Respondents from as far afield as Scotland, Manchester and Suffolk, as well as Brighton and the Sussex area replied to FFT's adverts.

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Adult Social Care Success

FFT recently arranged for a social worker from the Adult Social Care Team to visit a family regarding their care concerns for family members.

The social worker was not aware that Gypsies and Travellers do not believe in outside carers coming into their homes to provide care for their family members.

The visit was arranged to find out if the family could access Direct Payments or a Personal Budget. This scheme means the care for a person can be provided with a direct payment money budget to buy in their own personal assistant (PA) to care for them. Usually a

close family member can't be paid to be a carer for a close family member.

The social worker acknowledged the cultural needs of this family, and the client's request that his partner be his main carer, who also cares for her mother as well.

The social worker reported back to her Manager and a Direct Payment scheme was set up with the support of the Independent Living Association (ILA) who provided a support worker to help with setting up a bank account and to give support with the paperwork. The ILA also manages the payment of National Insurance, tax deductions and wage slips.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Lisa and Jazka have been working hard getting to grips with all the Government changes being made with regards health and social care. We have identified ways to challenge Local Authorities for not meeting the needs of local communities, including Gypsies and Travellers; learnt how the development and the buying of public services will work in the future, and found ways to shape public service provision to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are included, as well as identifying new ways to work with Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Third Sector Organisation networks to ensure that FFT are kept at the forefront of service.



FFT needs your Help!

In March 2011 FFT was awarded money from the Central Government Transition Fund. This one - off payment has been awarded with the intention of making Charities and Voluntary Organisations less dependent on Grant Aid. FFT are using the Transition Fund to increase membership, recruit volunteer fundraisers and embark on social enterprise schemes to enable us to become self sustaining in the future. We are embarking on several different strategies to do this, and we need your help to do so.



FFT launched its most recent publication Travellers Journeys on the 13th December. The event was very well attended by contributors to the book, FFT volunteers, musicians Tab and Ben and invited guests. The Mayor of Brighton and Hove opened the event, and gave a cheering speech which got everything off to a great start.

CAN YOU HELP FFT MAKE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION?

We are looking to recruit volunteers to fundraise on our behalf. If you, or a friend or relative would like to take part please contact Michelle on 01273 234777 or e-mail michelle@gypsy-traveller.org and order a volunteer fundraising pack which contains lots of helpful ideas and tips on how to hold a successful fundraising event.

Take part in a sponsored walk/ swim/ bike/ ride and market this yourself? How about making some craft goods for FFT to sell where the proceeds go towards trips for young people? What about holding a candlelight supper where money can be raised?

We have lots of ideas and now we need your support!!! Of course if you have not got the time to volunteer in this way we are very happy to accept donations. Also being a member organisation we are reliant on new members to sign up. Membership entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and a vote at our Annual AGM. Membership costs £10 per year and £5 unwaged.



SUCCESS STORIES

Community Health and Wellbeing volunteers training

FFT now has 3 Health and Wellbeing Volunteers completing their training for a Level 2 certificate in Understanding Health Improvements. This is a Royal Society Public Health (RSPH) approved certificate, and the volunteers should be in post by end of the month.

Are you a Traveller looking to make a positive change to your health? For example this could be a change regarding healthier eating, smoking cessation or physical activity. If you have a health concern and are wondering what to do about it, maybe a Health and Wellbeing volunteer could advise you? Or if you would like a 1-1 support worker please contact us.

Landline 01273 234777 Mobile 07896689783



Gypsy & Traveller Site Residents' Groups Seminar



FFT held a conference at Community Base on the 2nd February 2012 which was well attended by a varied audience of Gypsies, Travellers and members of statutory authorities.

The intended purpose of the conference was to disseminate information about setting up Tenants Residents Groups, especially on local authority owned Travellers sites.

Patrick O'Donnell & Rosemary O'Donnell (Stable Way Residents Association), Rose Palmer (Royal Borough

of Kensington and Chelsea) and Phil Regan talked about setting up the pioneering Stable Way Residents' Association, and Debby Kennett and Marion Mahoney (London Gypsy and Traveller Unit) talked about supporting residents' groups in London.

Sarah Mann from FFT talked about the Residents Groups that she has been supporting in Sussex, Wokingham and London.

There were a number of Gypsies & Travellers who were interested in setting up groups and took away a lot of useful information

If you would like to know more about setting up a Tenants and Residents Group on a local authority site you can contact Sarah Mann on 01273 234803 or by email at sarah@gypsy-traveller.org



Friends Families and Travellers

Community Base 113 Queens Road Brighton East Sussex BN1 3XG

Telephone 01273 234 777 Fax 01273 234 778 fft@gypsy-traveller.org www.gypsy-traveller.org

Friends, Families & Travellers is a nationally recognised voluntary organisation which serves the whole spectrum of the Traveller community, both traditional and new, settled or on the road. **FFT** runs a national helpline covering evictions, harassment, planning, employment, benefits, education, health, civil rights, discrimination and legal representation.

FFT is also active in community support, research, monitoring, mediation and policy development at local and national levels.



Join us on Facebook 

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 - £10.00 Unwaged - £5.00 Organistaion - £25.00 or donation

I do not wish to join FFT but wish to make a donation

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 available to others without your consent

National Contacts

For more contacts please phone or visit www.gypsytraveller.org/contacts.htm

Traveller Advice Team (TAT)

07768 316755 24hr
Community Legal Advice
Mon-Fri 0121 685 8677
Emergency 07768 316755

Family Rights Group

0800 731 1696

Squatters Advisory Service
020 7359 8814

The Traveller Law Reform Project

www.travellerslaw.org.uk

Travellers Aid Trust

www.travellersaidtrust.org

The Gypsy Council 01708 868986

UK Association of Gypsy Women

Tel. 01325 788281
Mob. 07880 637591
UKAGW@Ymail.com
RFUKAGW@live.co.uk

Shelter (homeless)

0808 800 4444

National Romany Rights

Tel. 01202 893228

Pavee Point

00 353 1 878 0255

Children's Society

South-West
01761 411771

Groundswell

Tel: 020 7737 5500
info@groundswell.org.uk

National Association of Boat Owners

01749 677195

Equality & Human Rights Commission

020 9390000

Education Otherwise

enquiries@educationotherwise.org

The Travellers' School Charity

Tel 07717 055378

Roma Support Group

020 7511 5721