

20200 ANNAR REPORT

A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, NELL ANSELL

These are unprecedented times. Gypsies and Travellers are particularly vulnerable to the current pandemic, and our staff are having to work from home. Nonetheless, they are working as hard as they can to try to make sure that the community is able to stay as safe as possible.

Even before this crisis, we were having to deal with the implications of the current Government's manifesto promise to criminalise trespass, a change which would render a travelling lifestyle almost impossible. The work of FFT has never been more urgent, and the trustee board is ever grateful to our team for their unwavering commitment.

OURTEAM

TRUSTEES DURING 2019/20

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Angel Smith Bev Wells Emily Perigaud Juliet McCaffrey Hal King Kathy Smith Maisie Lumsden

HONORARY President

Baroness Janet Whitaker

CRYSTAL'S VARDO CAST AND CREW

Jasmine Atkins-Smart Kai King-Lewes Kavanagh-Rose Rattigan Lucy Mepsted Maisie Lumsden Mark Lingham (Zee) Michael Manning Shannon Nolan Stewart James Barham

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The past year has been filled with David and Goliath sized challenges for us as an organisation – from the Home Office's plans to give police more powers to evict Travellers and the global COVID-19 pandemic which left many roadside Gypsies and Travellers struggling to access water and sanitation.

This has required us to use all our power and influence to get the right support and protections in for Gypsy and Traveller people. Luckily, we have not been alone. This year, more than any other, we have seen Gypsy and Traveller people stand up and have their voices heard and we have witnessed an outpouring of solidarity from others. Over 17,000 people have supported us in our campaigns and countless more people in their own ways.

The heart of our work will continue to be a practical advocacy and legal support service to all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, pushing to get a fair deal and protect the nomadic way of life. In the midst of these challenges, we have been able to support over 1300 families with issues ranging from health to homelessness, education to financial inclusion and discrimination to employment.

In order to be effective in our mission, we have taken the decision to refine our organisation's work over the coming years to four key areas which include accommodation, health, education and discrimination. We invite you to read our new **Vision for Change** which sets our strategic priorities over the next three years. We know that we will not be able to achieve our vision without your support and ask that as you read this document that you consider what your role can be in achieving real change.

In celebration of our 25 years as FFT, we were fortunate enough to host our very first FFT Awards in March. The evening saw organisations and individuals come together to celebrate the contributions made by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members to our society. It was truly inspiring and we were honoured to hear all of the inspirational stories of the shortlistees and winners.

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of solidarity and support which we have received this past year. I cannot thank our funders, trustees, staff members, volunteer team, partners and supporters enough for making our work possible.

Sarah Mann, Director



THIS YEAR

OUR CASEWORK AND OUTREACH TEAM HELPED PEOPLE WITH OVER **2,300** ISSUES

OUR TOURING THEATRE PRODUCTION CRYSTAL'S VARDO WAS SHOWN TO OVER **2000** PEOPLE

OVER **2,500** PEOPLE ACCESSED OUR ONLINE LEARNING ON INCLUSIVE SERVICE PROVISION FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES

OURIMPACT



ROYAL HONOURS

As part of the 2020 New Year's Honours List, our very own Samson Rattigan was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Young People and Families from the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Sussex.

"

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR ALL THE ONGOING SUPPORT THAT FFT HAS GIVEN ME THROUGH THESE TERRIBLE TIMES... EVEN THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES FFT ARE STILL PLAYING THEIR PART BY HELPING OTHERS - Lulu

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

This year, we kicked off a project linking community trainers to Gypsies and Travellers across West Sussex to teach traditional skills. So far we've had wreathmaking, scroll painting and rag rug weaving sessions, with participants even selling some of their creations!

MEETING NEEDS

Our outreach and casework team helped people with over 2300 issues ranging from health to homelessness, education to financial inclusion and discrimination to employment.

TOMMY HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO ME. HE ALWAYS CALLS BACK WHEN HE SAYS HE WILL AND GETS THINGS DONE AS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE. - Bevis

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

I AM GRATEFUL F

BETTER HEALTH

Our health improvement project in East and West Sussex was a runner up in the illustrious Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) Health and Wellbeing Awards. This year, we developed a bespoke Youth Champions programme and trained two other Gypsy and Traveller organisations to become certified RSPH training centres.

COVID-19 SUPPORT

Our helpline and outreach workers helped individuals and families access facilities and sanitation, provided shielding advice and support to those with no permanent stopping place, and negotiated with local authorities to allow people to stay during lockdown.



I AM GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT ROSIE HAS GIVEN ME, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT HER HELP, SHE'S BEEN AMAZING. FFT IS MORE HELPFUL THAN OTHER ADVICE ORGANISATIONS I HAD APPROACHED BEFORE, WHICH DIDN'T OFFER THE SAME KIND OF SUPPORT AND HELP. THANK YOU SO MUCH - Dean

CHALLENGING POLITICIANS

To help tackle anti-Gypsyism in British politics, we built a tool that enables individuals and community members to complain about a politician's language, whether they're a councillor, a member of the House of Lords, or a member of parliament.

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

AS COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES TOOK PLACE, WE WORKED WITH POLICYMAKERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO GET GYPSY AND TRAVELLER NEEDS CONSIDERED IN THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE. WITH OTHERS, OUR IMPACT IN THE REAL WORLD SAW US TACKLE EVICTIONS AND WORKING WITH COUNCILS TO GET WATER AND SANITATION PROVISION IN PLACE.

MPs PLEDGE SUPPORT

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We launched our campaign to get politicians to show their support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by signing our pledge card. Our website has a list of all MPs who have already signed, along with steps on how to encourage your MP to take part.

UNFAIR LAWS

On 5 November 2019, the Government launched a consultation to strengthen police powers against roadside Travellers. We supported over 10,000 people to respond to the consultation – we await the results in Autumn 2020.

DISPATCHES

IN APRIL 2020, WE LED A CAMPAIGN OF COMPLAINTS OVER CHANNEL 4'S BROADCAST OF 'DISPATCHES: THE TRUTH About traveller crime', which put traveller communities on trial by press. This led to over 7000 Complaints and an ofcom investigation of channel 4 - A decision is due soon.



FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS AWARDS 2020

This year we held the first ever Friends, Families and Travellers Awards. The evening was a beautiful celebration of the impressive and inspiring achievements of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals and communities. It was extremely difficult to pick the winners and it involved lots of debate,

but we got there.

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THE WINNERS WERE:

INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PERSON AWARD MAGGIE AND JADE SMITH

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AWARD LORRAINE GOLDING

SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARD JOHNBOY SMITH





EDUCATION AWARD BILLIE-JO SINES

INSPIRING PROJECT AWARD TRAVELLER PRIDE

COURAGE AWARD

ALEXANDER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT BETTY SMITH-BILLINGTON

REPORTS

We carry out evidence-based policy research and develop reports to target injustice at all levels. Here are some of our key research projects and reports we have developed or contributed to this past year:

Sunbed use and skin care in Gypsy and Traveller communities Samson Rattigan, June 2019

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Experiences of Gypsies and Travellers in primary care: GP services Sarah Sweeney and Rosie Stanbury,

Rosie Stanbury, July 2019

Police oppose criminalising unauthorised encampments and call for more sites Billie Dolling, Victoria Gilmore and Abbie Kirkby, *November 2019*

Joint Submission to the Committee for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Friends, Families and Travellers, the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment and Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment Hertfordshire, January 2020 No place to stop: Research on the five year supply of deliverable Gypsy and Traveller sites in the South East of England Emma Nuttall, Victoria

Gilmore and Tommy Buck, January 2020

Roundtable report: Challenging and improving planning policy for Gypsies and Travellers

Jo Richardson, February 2020



Forgotten Victims: 55% of British people surveyed unaware that over 500,000 Roma and Sinti people were killed in the Holocaust

Sarah Sweeney and Billie Dolling, February 2020

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020*

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: Donations and legacies Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £ 344,784	Restricted funds £ 276,057	Total funds 2020 £ 620,841	Total funds 2019 £ 447,170
Fees, subscriptions and publication sales Investment income	92,473 193	10,460 -	102,933 193	90,538 504
TOTAL INCOME	437,450	286,517	723,967	538,212
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities				
Office Costs	33,414	1,999	35,413	22,929
Projects Costs	84,567	9,333	93,900	44,806
Staff Costs	313,977	233,392	547,369	482,622
Professional fees	8,487 26.253	-	8,487	2,595
Property Costs Management charges	26,253 (40,118)	3,016 40,118	29,269	25,412
	(+0,116)	40,110		
TOTAL	426,580	287,858	714,438	578,364
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	10,870	(1,341)	9,529	(40,152)
Transfers between funds	2,708	(2,708)		
Net movement in funds	13,578	(4,049)	9,529	(40,152)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	159,391	7,713	167,104	207,256
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	172,969	3,664	176,633	167,104

IN THE NEWS

We raise awareness of the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities so that the public are equipped with information that enables them to hold the government to account.



BBC NEWS

Coronavirus: Travellers 'struggling without water and power'

THE GUARDIAN

Revealed: police oppose Traveller and Gypsy camp crackdown

THE INDEPENDENT

(Letters): Discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities has been ignored in parliament – we deserve protection too

OPENDEMOCRACY

"A disaster waiting to happen" - Traveller communities buckling from the impact of the pandemic

THE i

Thousands of Gypsy families could be left without a safe place to go as Government consults over criminalising stopping places

METRO

Channel 4's 'dehumanising' Truth About Traveller Crime hit with more than 800 Ofcom complaints

CORNWALL LIVE

Police could arrest travellers and seize caravans under new laws

THE ARGUS

Tory plans to make trespass illegal 'are discriminatory'



We work to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

Contact details FFT 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

Like us on Facebook
f / FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

Follow us on Twitter GGypsyTravellers

Follow us on Instagram Ø /FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

OUR FAVOURITE Moment

At the FFT Awards, Betty Smith-Billington, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award accepted her award with a beautiful rendition of Patsy Cline's 'Crazy'. Betty followed in the footsteps of Tyson Fury who only a few weeks earlier entertained crowds in the US by singing 'American Pie' after beating Deontay Wilder for the WBC Heavyweight Championship.



TRUSTED CHARITY MARK LEVEL 2 NC^{1/}O

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Arts Council England

Lloyds Bank Foundation

The National Lottery Community Fund

The Henry Smith Charity

Department of Health

Public Health England

NHS England

Irish Government: Emigrant Support Programme

Children In Need

East Sussex County Council

Brighton and Hove City Council

Garden Court Chambers

Sussex Community Foundation

Irish Youth Foundation

Baring Foundation

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Ministry of Homes, Communities and Local Government

Southdown Housing

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Brighton and Hove CCG

BUPA

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Heritage Lottery Fund

The Legal Education Foundation

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Langdale Trust

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StopLoanSharks

Comic Relief