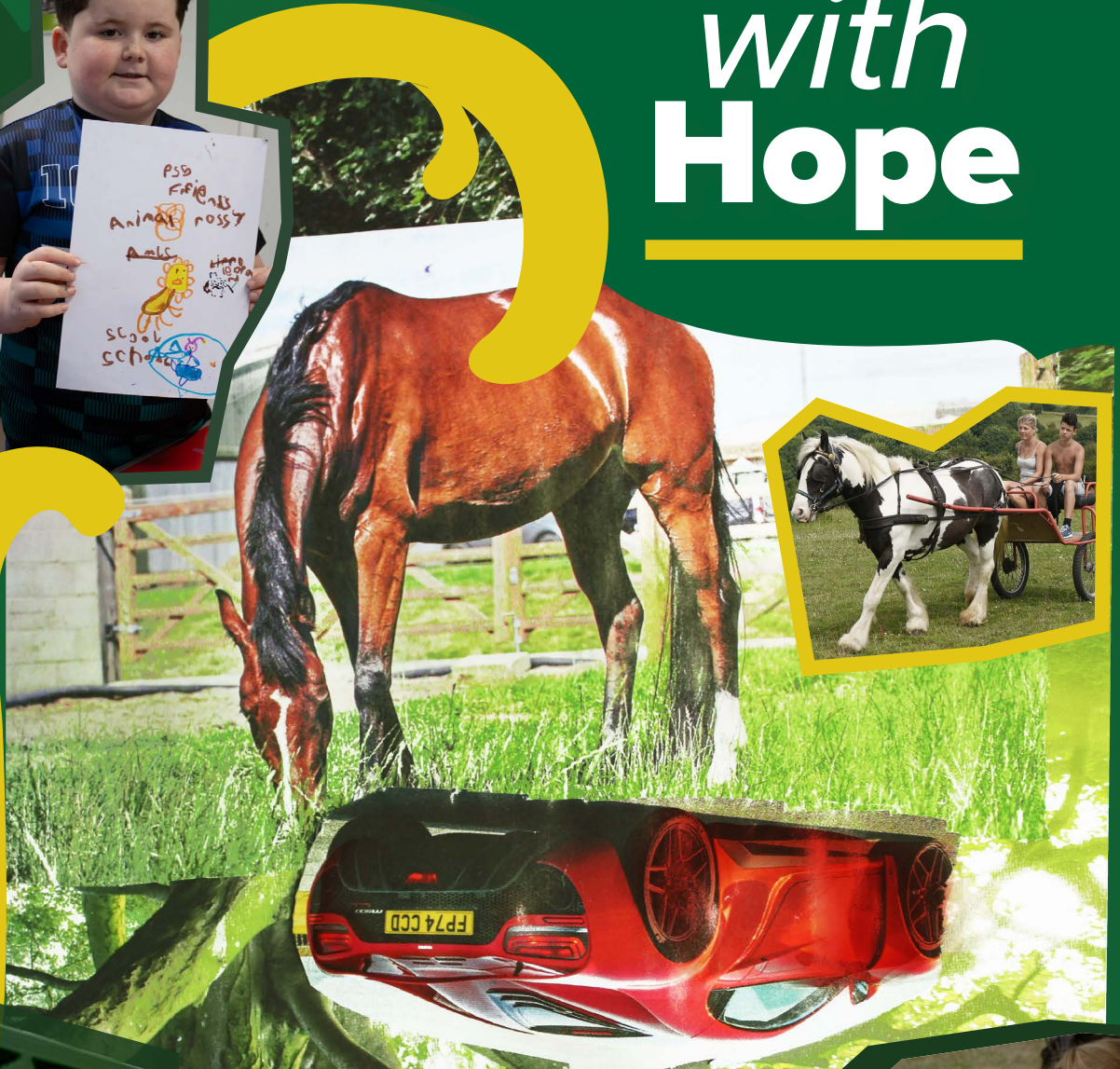


**GRTHM:**  
**Onwards  
with  
Hope**



**H  
O  
P  
E**



**FRIENDS,  
FAMILIES &  
TRAVELLERS**

**BROCHURE**

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# Introduction

## Welcome to our Digital Engagement Pack for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026!

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). During this month, we celebrate Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities, histories and cultures.

GRTHM is an opportunity to celebrate, educate and raise awareness of the barriers and issues affecting traditionally nomadic communities. By taking part, you can help make society more welcoming for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

While GRTHM is officially marked in June, promoting inclusivity and acceptance can and should be done all year round. To aid this, we've made our GRTHM packs available all year round!

Head over to our [GRTHM resource page](#), to find past resources.

*As always, happy Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026!  
We look forward to seeing how you choose to celebrate.*

# Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month: “Onwards with hope”

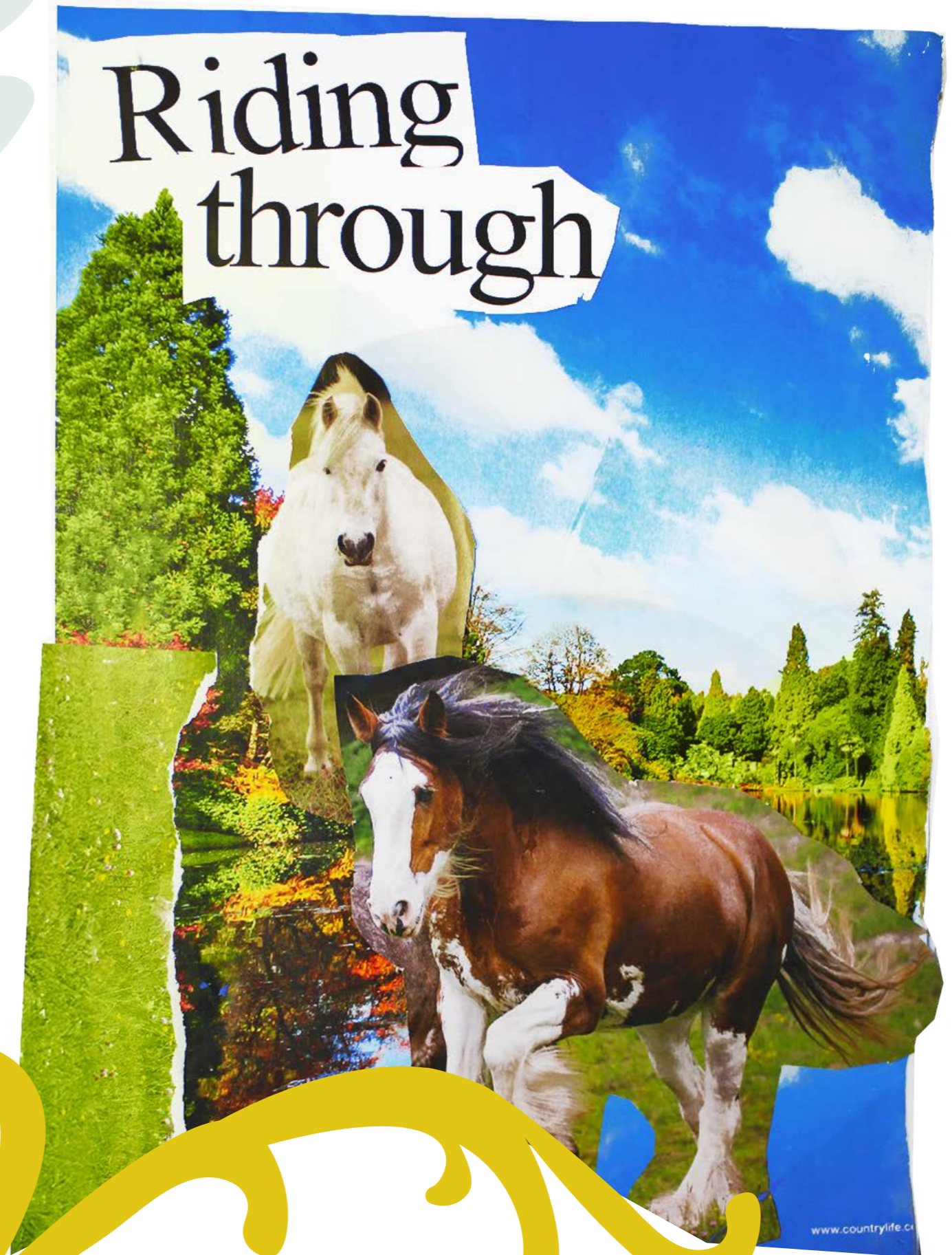


This year, we wanted to shift focus towards what the future could look like. GRTHM has often been about looking back and reflecting on the past, and although the rich and diverse histories, cultures and traditions of Romany, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities are profoundly interwoven with the present, we want to explore how these communities plan to shape the future.

There are so many young inspiring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people across society – just take FFT Awards as proof, where countless young people were nominated for their wonderful achievements! – as well as older generations who have long stood against inequalities, discrimination and harm. But there’s lots to celebrate too. That’s why this June, we’re asking questions like ‘what kind of future do we want to build together?’, ‘what gives you hope?’, and ‘how does hope make you feel?’.

This year’s theme grew out of a series of conversations involving people from Romany, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, as part of the co-production that takes place at Friends, Families and Travellers. We’re extremely grateful to everyone who shared their time, thoughts, ideas and perspectives with us.

We would love to see anything you create, so make sure to tag us! You can find our socials at the back of this pack, and please use **#GRTHM26** and **#OnwardsWithHope** when sharing.



www.countrylife.co.uk

# Before we get started...

There are lots of resources that explore the diverse cultures and histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities...It can just take a bit of time to digest all of the information that is out there!

To make things a little bit easier, we've created this timeline with some must-know information:

[Click here for the full timeline](#)

## GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

### GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND TRADITIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

<p><b>998AD</b></p> <p>People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India to places as far as the British Isles.</p> <p>Medieval English laws prohibited non-Christians from holding land. In the early 13th century, laws were passed that forced non-Christians to sell their land to Christians.</p>	<p><b>1100s</b></p> <p>Arabic laws in Eastern Europe gave a community of people called 'Tatars' the right to settle in the region.</p> <p>Legislation allowing the settlement of Jews in Eastern Europe was passed in the 11th century.</p>	<p><b>1200s</b></p> <p>Roma people in the territories of modern-day Germany were known as 'Itinerant' and were the first to be recognized as a distinct group.</p> <p>Roma came to the territory of modern-day Germany in the 12th century. They were known as 'Itinerant' and were the first to be recognized as a distinct group.</p>	<p><b>1500s</b></p> <p>Nazis targeted Roma people in the Holocaust. In 1942, the Roma were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. In 1944, the Roma were killed in the Porajmos.</p> <p>In 1944, many Roma 'Gypsies' were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. In 1944, the Roma were killed in the Porajmos.</p>	<p><b>1600s</b></p> <p>Many Roma people in the British Isles were known as 'Itinerant' and were the first to be recognized as a distinct group.</p> <p>Many Roma people in the British Isles were known as 'Itinerant' and were the first to be recognized as a distinct group.</p>	
<p><b>2017</b></p> <p>UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>2008</b></p> <p>Scottish Gypsy Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Scotland.</p>	<p><b>2004 - 2007</b></p> <p>Following implementation of the EU Directive, Roma Travellers in the UK were recognized as a distinct ethnic group.</p>	<p><b>2000</b></p> <p>UK Travellers recognized in British law as an ethnic group, following implementation of the EU Directive.</p>	<p><b>1963</b></p> <p>The Report of the Commission on the Gypsy and Traveller Communities, known as the 'Gypsy and Traveller Communities Report', was published.</p>	<p><b>1940s</b></p> <p>Roma and Traveller people, sometimes called the 'Gypsy and Traveller Communities', were targeted by the Nazis during the Holocaust.</p>
<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>The High Court ruled that Local Authorities are no longer able to force Travellers to leave their sites.</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>The Public, Roma, Travelling and Roma (PRT) Bill was introduced in the House of Commons.</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p>The 'Gypsy and Traveller Communities' Bill was introduced in the House of Commons.</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p>The Gypsy and Traveller Communities Bill was introduced in the House of Commons.</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p>The Gypsy and Traveller Communities Bill was introduced in the House of Commons.</p>
<p><b>March 2025</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>December 2024</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>May 2024</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>2024</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>2024</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <p>The UK's Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland.</p>



## Recent history

Take a look below at some of the more **recent landmark changes, achievements** and **events** for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities **across the UK**.

**2023**

Supreme Court rules 'Anti-Traveller' wide injunctions have a negative impact on Gypsies' and Travellers' ability to pursue a nomadic way of life.



**2024**

New powers brought in by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 challenged at the High Court by Wendy Smith, a Romany Gypsy, with FFT and Liberty acting as Interveners.

**2024**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission finds Pontins Holiday Park acted 'unlawfully' against Irish Travellers, following an investigation into the holiday park's blacklist of Irish-sounding names.



**May 2024**

High Court declares parts of Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSCA) in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**December 2024**

Planning definition of 'Traveller' reverts to more-inclusive pre-2015 definition, which better reflects accommodation needs of many Gypsies and Travellers.



**March 2025**

The UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for repeal of PCSCA's eviction powers against roadside camps.

**May 2025**

NHS England takes a major step by recommending that health bodies across the UK include Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people in patient data, aligning records with the 2021 census.



**March 2026**

Government's amendment to Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSCA) to revert 12-month area ban change back to the original (pre-PCSCA) 3 months accepted.

# Onwards with hope: What could the future look like?

# H O P E

Everyone can be inspired by anyone, or anything! Inspiration can take many forms – whether it's a place or a person, and often helps people branch out into the unknown, stay motivated, or keep going in the face of adversity.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have long shaped British society and made a profound difference to people's lives, but you might struggle to find much about it. This GRTHM, we're working to change that.

We asked you about the inspiring Romany, Roma, Irish Traveller, Liveaboard Boater, Showmen and New Traveller people in your life. Here is a selection of special stories you shared, from across the communities:



Collages created by children of St. Michael's Way

## Celebrating *Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month* on social media

This June, get talking about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media. We've made it as easy as possible by including template images and text (below) you can use!

Let us know what you get up to by using these hashtags:

**#GRTHM26 #OnwardsWithHope**

We'll be sharing lots about GRTHM across June on our social channels. Follow us to keep updated!

### EXAMPLE POST:



Click on  
image to  
download:

Feel free to come up with your own – don't forget to use the hashtags and tag us!

If you're from a Romany Gypsy, Traveller, or Roma background, we want you to know that you're always welcome here.

This #GRTHM26, we're taking the time to learn about the colourful histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities—come along!

<https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm/>

Find image at: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/GRTHM26.webp>

-  @GypsyTravellers
-  /FriendsFamiliesandTravellers
-  @FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

## A note on this year's theme:

This year's theme grew out of a series of conversations and workshops involving young people from Romany, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, as part of the co-production that takes place at Friends, Families and Travellers.

We're extremely grateful to everyone who shared their time, thoughts, ideas and perspectives with us, and to those who facilitated the group collage sessions. Some of the beautiful art that you can see across this year's GRTHM resources was produced by young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people during those very sessions!

wheels and whispers

they come with dawn, the morning folk, smoke  
curling from soft Prom fires they stoke, bare  
feet dancing over dew, their world is old, their  
hearts are ~~toe~~ true.

Boys with laughter in their stride, Eyes like print  
and sparks inside, & quick to run, and slow  
to fear, the road ahead is always near.

Girls like rivers, bold and wide, Braids and  
bangles, full of pride, singing songs their nanas  
knew, of horses, stars, and skies so blue.

they build their homes from wood and wheel,  
from whispered tales and iron and steel, no  
roots to bind, no fence, no gate - their path  
is wide, their dreams are fate.

The world may judge, the world may sneer,  
but still they ride, year after year, for  
freedom hums within their bones, and every  
mile feels like home.

They love with fire, live with grace, leave  
behind no lasting trace - just laughter on  
the country air, And ~~at~~ echos where the grass  
grows bare.

Poem by Lisa Marie, 14

**Thank  
you**



**FRIENDS,  
FAMILIES &  
TRAVELLERS**

# **FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS**

**#GRTHM26 #OnwardsWithHope**

Friends, Families and Travellers works to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

## **Contact Details:**

### **Address**

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BN1 3XG

**Telephone** 01273 234 777

**Email** [fft@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:fft@gypsy-traveller.org)

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