



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Weaving Journeys

A celebration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller lives, histories and cultures



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Welcome to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). During this month, Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) celebrates Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic people.

We try to educate and raise awareness of histories and experiences, tackle hate and ultimately make society better for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

This year, we're presenting things a little bit differently.

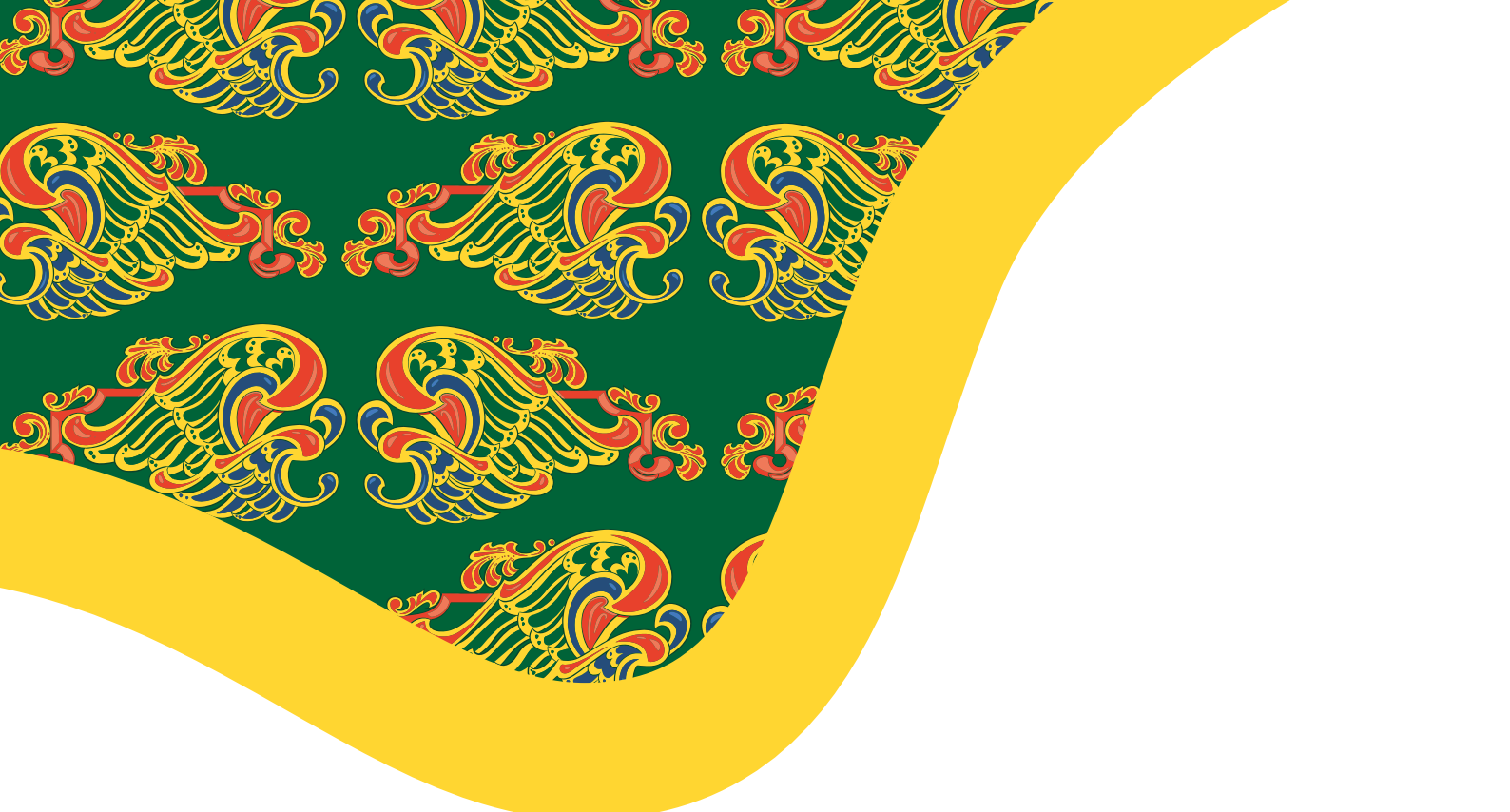
As you look through our booklet, you will find things you already know and things that are new. There are plenty of resources already available if you want to find out more, but we've decided to also create an exciting series of posters so you can take a deeper dive. Even our trusty timeline got a little revamp!

Our theme for this year is Weaving Journeys, where we explore the historical travelling patterns and traditional stopping places of Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma, New Traveller, Liveaboard Boater and Showmen communities.

To bring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month to life, we've used traditional patterns belonging to each of the communities.

By the end, we hope you'll have a deeper and affirming understanding of the diverse histories, cultures, traditions and experiences of Romany, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic people.





From our Director

We hope you enjoy Weaving Journeys, with family, friends and colleagues. We've worked hard to bring you an engaging and exciting exploration of the rich histories of Romany, Roma, Irish Traveller, New Traveller, Showmen and Boater communities – from maps to interviews!

Our team has worked hard to engage people from across the communities, and it's important for us to acknowledge the hard work done by individuals, organisations and community groups across the country.

We are grateful for all the support FFT receives, but it is our collective movement in the same direction that can bring about change. We hope you enjoy what we've put together.

Sarah Mann

Director



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Taking part in GRTHM

Whilst in the past we have encouraged councils, schools, media and government organisations to take steps to create some space for nomadic communities, this year we ask that you grab one of our posters and simply put it up in a visible and accessible space.

It's a simple, effective and affirming way to show that your space is open and welcoming to Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities. This could be the waiting area in your GP surgery, or a classroom.

We would love to see anything you post online or pictures of your posters, so make sure to tag us! You can find our socials at the back of this pack.

Our hashtag for this year's GRTHM is **#WeavingJourneys**.



If you work for an organisation and want to take part in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2023, we've created a series of assets that you can access by going to gypsy-traveller.org/GRTHM.

GRTHM 2023 hashtag
#WeavingJourneys



Dedications

Sadly, in December 2022, FFT's founder Steve Staines and an ex-Support Worker, Marya Sadouni-Smith passed away. We want to dedicate our theme of this year's GRTHM to both of these incredible, selfless and kind people.



Steve Staines

We were deeply saddened to hear of Steve Staines' passing.

Steve founded Friends, Families and Travellers over 25 years ago, in response to what became the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Our work, from then to now, could have only happened thanks to Steve's relentless pursuit of love and freedom for his family and travelling communities up and down the country.

His hard work and perseverance towards creating a better future for everyone provided the

cornerstone for what Friends, Families and Travellers is today.

Our Mission Statement of supporting anyone who wants to pursue a nomadic way of life, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background is a direct result of Steve's own vision and drive.

We are extremely grateful and honoured to have received his support, guidance, advice, and wisdom over the years.

Our thoughts go out to Steve's family, loved ones and anyone who had the privilege of crossing paths with him.



Marya Sadouni-Smith

It is difficult to put into words our shock when we found out Marya Sadouni-Smith, a beloved and dedicated ex-Support Worker at Friends, Families and Travellers, had sadly passed away.

Marya gave many years of service at FFT, bringing light and joy to everyone she met and worked with.

Unfortunately, due to complex issues, Marya had to step down from her role in early 2020.

Her warmth, openness and generosity left us with many stories—some of our team members were even supported as clients by Marya, before becoming staff.

There are not enough words to describe Marya's kindness and love for those around her.

If ever there was someone who kept going in the face of adversity, it was Marya Sadouni-Smith.

Our thoughts are with her family and with those who cared for her and loved her.

Patterns

We've chosen to use patterns as a way to highlight the distinct diversity of each of the communities commonly grouped under 'Gypsy, Roma and Traveller'.

Romany Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller, New Traveller, Showmen and Boater communities all have their own, as well as shared, traditional patterns, with specific colours and designs that contain meaning and history.

As communities grow together, then all our patterns will create new designs and new histories, and we encourage an open mind when thinking about new paths the future holds.



Roma

Shawls and 'Dikhlos' are adorned with this traditional floral pattern, and often worn by elders. With deep reds and blues, it symbolises royalty and heritage.



Boater

Bargeware is commonly seen on watering cans and household trinkets. Signalling openness and warmth to others, the pattern helps create a sense of community.



Irish Traveller

You might have seen the world-renowned Imari pattern featured on Royal Crown Derby china, the oldest remaining porcelain manufacturer in England. From paperweights to crockery, it remains a staple in Irish Traveller homes.



New Traveller

Reminiscent of the circle of life, this pattern represents the contemporary nature of New Travellers. Unlike others, it is not defined by a sole identity, but is rather a merging of collected patterns.



Romany Gypsy

Rooted in India, Paisley is often found on clothing such as traditional Romany neck scarves, but has become more widely used throughout British society.



Showmen

Fairgrounds and carnivals have to be vivid and bright to attract people from all over, with mesmerising scrolls inspired by the Vardo.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people through history

If you have tried to learn more about the diversity and histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, you wouldn't be alone in finding that there's just not much out there.



998AD

People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India as prisoners, slaves and soldiers.

Theories suggest 60,000 Roma people were forcibly enlisted to the army of Mahmud of Ghazni and after his death, were expelled from Indian territories and driven to nomadism.¹

1200s

Roma people in the territories of modern day Romania were taken as slaves and forced to work in monasteries, mines and in fields. Slaves were the property of their owners, bought and sold in their hundreds. It was not until 1856 that the Moldovian and Wallachian Assemblies abolished slavery within their principalities.³

1100s

Ancient laws in Scotland recognise a community of people called 'tinklers' from their occupation as tinsmiths.

They are viewed differently to mainstream society, seen to have their own customs and dialect.²



1500s

Romany Gypsies first recorded in England were incorrectly thought to have travelled from Egypt.

In 1530, Henry VIII's 'Egyptians Act' expelled Romany Gypsies in England. In 1554, Queen Mary ruled that being a Gypsy was punishable by death.⁴

1. <https://kopachi.com/articles/a-new-look-at-our-romani-origins-and-diaspora-by-ronald-lee/>
2. <https://www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/gt-timeline-A4-web.pdf>
3. <https://romediafoundation.wordpress.com/2014/04/18/roma-slavery-in-the-romanian-territories-a-catch-22-of-history-and-recognition/#>
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2b36fr/revision/2>



1600s

Irish people began to split from the general population around 12 generations ago in the 1600s - 'an lucht siúil' (the walking people) became known for storytelling and sharing songs from city to city.⁵

1650

Last known hanging for the crime of being a Gypsy in Suffolk, England.⁶



1850

Romany people historically travelled with elaborately made 'bender tents'.

From 1850 onwards, Gypsy Wagons are used to travel, with bender tents used alongside.



1940s

Roma and Sinti people, sometimes called the 'forgotten victims' of the Holocaust were deported to concentration camps, subject to mass murder and horrific medical experimentation by Nazi soldiers.

Over 200,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered or died as a result of starvation or disease.⁷

1940s-1960s

General adoption of a mechanised caravan, rather than a horsedrawn wagon.⁸



1963

The Report of the Commission on Itinerancy is the first systematic attempt by the Irish government to settle Travellers in Ireland, aiming to force families off the road, into bricks and mortar accommodation.⁹

5. <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42187>

6. <https://www.historytoday.com/reviews/gypsies-england>

7. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazi-persecution/the-porrajmos/>

8. <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/ethnic-minorities-and-travellers/traveller-wagon-project/history-of-wagons-and-wagon-building/>

9. <http://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/AssimilationPolicies.pdf>

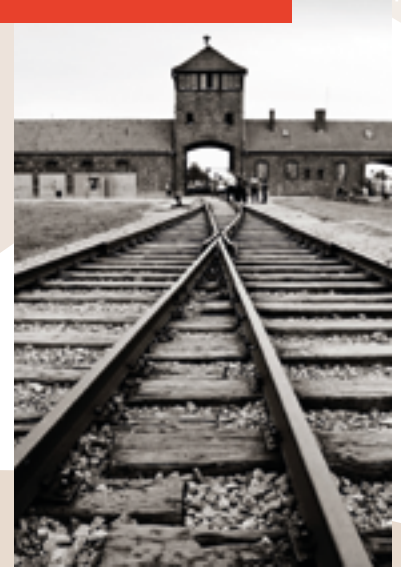
1976

Romany Gypsies were recognised in Britain as a distinct ethnic minority group under the 1976 English Race Relations Act.¹⁰



1982

Germany officially recognise the genocide of Roma and Sinti people in the Second World War.¹¹



1990s

Roma communities begin seeking asylum in England through the 1990s.



2000

Irish Travellers recognised in British law as an ethnic group, following a legal challenge in court brought by eight individuals refused service at five pubs in London.



2004/2007

Following expansions of the European Union, there is an increase in migration of Roma people to the UK from across Europe.



2008

Scottish Gypsy Travellers recognised as an indigenous ethnic minority group in Britain.¹²



2017

Irish Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognised as Ireland's only indigenous community.¹³

10. <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/romagypsiesitravellers/#>

11. <https://www.romarchive.eu/en/roma-civil-rights-movement/sinti-and-roma-federal-republic-germany/>

12. https://bemis.org.uk/docs/gypsy_travellers_in_contemporary_scotland.pdf

13. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/travellers-formally-recognised-as-an-ethnic-minority-1.2994309>



Ireland 2020

Eileen Flynn becomes the first Irish Traveller to become a senator in Ireland.



England 2020

The High Court rules that Local Authorities are no longer able to issue blanket bans on Gypsies and Travellers stopping on parcels of land, recognising that 'the Gypsy and Traveller community have an enshrined freedom not to stay in one place but to move from one place to another'.¹⁴



June 2022

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act becomes law. The new law means nomadic Gypsy and Traveller people are at risk of having vehicles (homes) confiscated, fines and imprisonment.



October 2022

The planning definition of 'Traveller', which says that anyone not travelling for longer than 12 months even if due to old age or ill-health is not considered a 'Traveller', is declared 'discriminatory' by the Court of Appeal.



December 2022

The Office for National Statistics announces that the 2021 Census has for the first time ever included 'Roma' as an ethnic category, with the official population declared at over 100,000 people. Population increases are also seen for Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller people.

14. <https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/01/27/court-of-appeal-upholds-the-right-to-roam-of-romany-and-travellers/>

Photograph of Eileen Flynn: "Creative Commons Seanad Éireann - First Sitting of the 26th Seanad - 29 June 2020" by Houses of the Oireachtas is licensed under CC by 2.0

The long and winding road

To help explore the histories and traditions of Romany, Irish Traveller, Roma, New Traveller, Liveaboard Boater and Showmen communities, we interviewed people from these groups about how they got to where they are today.

Interview Bev Wells New Traveller of Roma Heritage

Bev Wells

New Traveller of Roma Heritage

MY PATTERN: SPIRALS-PATCHWORK

What pattern do you associate with who you are?

Circles and spirals have been the constant throughout my life. My father was Roma, although I started travelling in the 1980s due to the first recession and joined the 'New Age Travellers', as we were known back then. But then, when I started travelling and trying to live a way of life that was more connected to the land we live on, I started noticing a lot of circles and spirals – in life, events, places, and people.

As you travelled throughout the seasons, everyone moved around each part of their 'circle'. You'd end up back at your 'winter park', where you'd access schooling or healthcare – there wasn't anything to help things along whilst you're travelling so you had to stop in the winter to catch up.

The only guiding principle was, "you can do it, as long as it doesn't hurt anyone".

What was it about circles and spirals?

They're everywhere.

I was evicted 72 times in '93 – just before the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 came in. The circles then were the four wheels my daughter's pushchair had, which in the eyes of the law meant it counted as a 'vehicle', so they could evict us.

Before moving into bricks and mortar, I started my final 'travel' along the south coast and looped Sussex before ending up in Brighton.

Day to day, circles are the fire we sit around. Like Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers, sitting around the fire is where you connect, talk and plan. It's where your future is decided and your past judged! It's a circle.

From the wheels that kept us and life moving, to I guess, the mortal coil. Eventually, we go back to where we came from.

Are there any patterns that stand out to you?

Now, horse-drawn...that's a pattern of travel! Before, you had quite a lot of places to stop but the horses could only go up to 15 miles away from the camp, although they could graze anywhere! They were real nice to see, standing proud.

After Margaret Thatcher dug up all the lay-bys and created ditches, all the horse-drawn people had less suitable spaces. It's even less now.

Thankfully, you still get the Horse-drawn Festival. This is where my 3-year-old grandson...and my 80+ mother... got over their fear of horses! You just don't know where it'll be year on year, but that's part of the fun.





Darren Ward

Irish Traveller

MY PATTERN: IMARI PATTERN

Darren Ward - BSc(Hons), DipArch, PGDip, ARB is an Irish Traveller and Architect living and working in the U.K residential sector with a keen interest in the development of better accommodation strategies for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

What were the patterns of travel in your family?

With my family, it's been a mix. Growing up, they travelled and would camp quite a lot in Ireland in their youth and then would settle in a house for a while. Then after marriage they would travel on and off, which for a lot of Travellers is still quite common.

They moved and lived on a site in Dublin for a few years before moving back to Galway (where they were from) for a short period and eventually made the move over to England.

They moved and lived in various cities and sites in the north of England, stopping off looking for work or staying with family. I think Hull was one. And they eventually ended up stopping in London, and liked it there – work was good, family was there.

Does the Imari pattern or variations of it have any significance to you at all?

Not that I'm consciously aware of. I've always seen vibrant patterns around the house. Be it in my family home or my grandmother's house – in hindsight I noticed them more then I realised.

I also remember in my grandmother's house, in the west of Ireland, having lots of patterned and decorative elements. She would have lots of crockery and dishes on show, which is quite popular amongst Travellers. I remember those very, very strongly.

They had different patterns, fruit and colourations which were quite nice to look at, which is why they were always on show.

Do you see many other types of pattern, being an architect?

I was always quite interested in the patterns of how you move through space and how we as users interact with our surroundings.

I think this links back to being a Traveller and how we have historically or inherently used space. Where we are constantly seeing and experiencing places on the move, and I think it's quite relevant to how we live today and how we used to live on a day-to-day basis.

Of late, I am becoming more and more conscious of Traveller environments because I think they've not been investigated enough to promote positive solutions to the current GRT accommodation crisis. Conversations on this topic are needed more than ever and has been side-lined for too long.

The persistent disengagement with GRT people within wider society has been a long-standing pattern.



June Warwick

Romany

MY PATTERN: PAISLEY

June Warwick, LLB Hons, BVC, Barrister at Law (Rose Court Chambers) is the first known qualified criminal barrister to come from a Romany background. She was called to the bar in 2009 and has been involved in cases ranging from serious violence to fraud.

From our pattern sheet, would Paisley be something you noticed around?

Possibly yes, but actually the showman (Fairground) even more. Even though I wasn't from a Showman background, obviously, some of my family married into Showmen, so I would have seen a combination of the two really.

On my nan's cups - obviously we had the wall Derby - but we very much had the tightly embossed flower points, similar to the Roma flower. These would be used particularly if we thought more senior members of the travelling community were coming over for a cup of tea.

I remember the colours: always a lot of greens, golds, reds - but not a bright red. It would be like a cherry red, quite a deep red. So a bit like the bell top wagons - much more sort of Indian themed, then.

Was there much of a pattern of travel among your family before you were housed aged 10?

Not much. They were quite settled. Because we're Romany, we don't travel as much as, let's say, the Irish do, because all the sites were very settled sites, and actually all my cousins, on the sites they're on, own the land so it's their land, with just their family on it, but they would go from Oxford to Hendon.

I always had a very settled life in that I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, which was back at the Yard, so the house was never really a home. But, strangely enough, as an adult, despite owning my own house. I've moved virtually every year of my life. My daughter, who's 16, has had over 12, 13 homes.

There's nothing in this house that I couldn't pack up and move over in an hour.

Are there other patterns you've noticed?

What is more interesting, I would say, than anything else is the pattern of names. I've got a Billy and Daisy, my cousin's got a Billy and a Daisy. My other cousins got a Billy and a Daisy: there are names that just continue endlessly.

There's Billys and Lennys, and for the girls it'd be very much a Daisy or a Hannah, or Rose - so my sister, even though her name's Christine, her middle name is Hannah-Rose. Like my nan. That would be the biggest pattern in my life: names. That's probably the only constant I've got in my life.



Marius Taba

Roma

MY PATTERN: RŪMA FLORAL

Are there any patterns of travel for you or your family?

I'm not of a Traveller background. I'm a Roma, but I'm kind of an ex-pat. I graduated from Bucharest then I moved to Hungary, where I worked in international development where I served 15 countries: integrating and facilitating access to quality education for Roma children from over 15 countries. Then I also had the chance to go and to publish and teach some of the practical learnings in different universities. The last one that I served in was the Central European University in Budapest. It moved from Budapest as CEU because of political risk reasons to Vienna.

I had connections with UK through my academic and activist networks, and we decided to move here in UK as our son needed to continue in education. And now I live in Doncaster.

You say life in Romania changed during your grandfather's time?

At the end of the Second World War, quite a big proportion of the entire population of Romania was "illiterate", through the reform of the Communists, when they made education free of charge. About 70% of Romanian population was illiterate in Romania at the time.

My father was the first to go to school and to become literate, and from my generation on, the majority of us are university graduates. So just to give you a glimpse of how social mobility happens in two generations: my father was a truck driver. And already in my generation, we have university and post-graduate studies, and in the case of our children and our nephews and 'the new generation' not going to university is rather an exception.

So you found a web of educational possibilities? Are there many stories like your family's?

Not that many. We got into so-called "integrated schooling" - mainstream subjects in schools that were diverse and mixed.

In many countries like Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and in Romania too, some children are put in what are called "segregated schools", where the quality of education is lower, where interaction with the majority of the population is less, and – even worse - in many cases those schools are labelled or functioning as schools for learning disabilities.

The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) of the European Union shows that in the EU – including Romania – the discrimination in schools is increasing and the overall trend of Roma segregation is increasing. Anti Roma racism is increasing, not just interpersonal racism but constitutional and structural racism. The FRA found that the worst form of discrimination in their analysis remains the segregation of Roma by classes or by school.

Does the traditional Roma floral pattern mean anything to you?

It's blue, red, and green: the colours of our flag. In the past, when some of our subgroup - what the anthropologists are calling tribes – were nomads, not many could afford this luxury.

The majority of them were doing a lot of crafts also, like blacksmith or making buckets...and it was, yeah, the colourful wagons. Their carriages were different than the Romanian peasants'. It is even mentioned in the Romanian folklore. There is a song that is known by everybody saying: in colourful carriages, the Gypsies are passing...the caravan - it's the Gypsy caravan or the Roma caravan - is passing through the village.

It reminds us that at the end, you know, if the soul is oppressed by different things, or material things are missing from oppression, at least with colourful stuff around, it might bring a little bit more brightness around you.



Sam Worrall

Boater

MY PATTERN: ROSES & CASTLES

Sam Worrall is a liveaboard Boater and Communications Engagement Officer for GT Wales. An advocate for all UK travelling communities since 2015, she is particularly passionate about health inequalities.

How long have you been a Boater?

I've been living on a boat since about 2012. I've had this boat for three years now. I live on the canal where if you're not registered with a home mooring, you have to move your boat every two weeks. You don't have to move a massive distance, at least a kilometre sort of thing.

But then the guidelines that the Canal and River Trust brought in stated that you have to move at least 20 miles a year in one direction before you're allowed to turn around.

Do you have any particular pattern of travel?

When I was down on the Kennet and Avon, the pattern of my travel would be in the winter I would moor as close to Bath as I could, because that's where I was working. A little bit of walk down the tow path, and then walk across town, and then you're there. Around Christmas and New Year, I tended to moor around the Bradford-on-Avon area.

And then I'd sort of drift towards town, towards Bath for the winter, and then turn around. I'd get to around about May, and then I would go up the Caen Hill Flight.

The Caen Hill Flight is a series of locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal, near Devizes. The whole total is about 29 locks, so it's like a whole day's effort to get up there. When you're up there, you're out in the wilds of Wiltshire - in Pewsey Vale, which is absolutely stunning.

I would normally turn around when I got to The Barge Inn at Honeystreet, which is a very popular pub for boaters and crop circle enthusiasts alike. And then come down the flight and start the pattern again.

Are there any other patterns you've noticed?

I suppose the big thing with the canal boats, history, and thinking about patterns is all the traditional artwork. You've got the Roses and Castles, which used to heavily feature on the traditional or working Bargee families' boats.

It's a really noticeable kind of traditional pattern, and nobody quite knows where it's come from. There are similarities in the Rose and Castle thing with some of the old traditional Vardo bowtop paintings. Maybe some of the early Bargee people had Romany heritage, but nobody's been able to really say whether that's the case. It could be just a similarity or coincidence.



Mitch Miller

Showman

MY PATTERN: SHOWMAN

Your ‘dialectograms’ use the circle a lot. Is that a shape of particular significance to you?

Yeah, I think it is. I think it’s a rough circle. And sometimes it’s a wee bit square, and because of our way of life, where we’re going to fairs and having to kind of fit and squeeze into the fairground site, you know it might be a line. It might be a different kind of cluster, you know?

To me a ground is - obviously there’s the stuff, as we would call it, which is just the fairground things the public sees - and then you go back past a line of lorries usually, and there’s the wagons, and they can often be kind of clustering around in a circle, or they’re just sort of lined up along it. Our winter yards, though, they do tend to follow that sort of rough circle idea - or rough kind of rectangle - as a sort of central bit where life happens, and then the wagons around and the lorries usually at one end.

The way in which we organize ourselves on a space reflects a lot of things. It reflects work patterns, it reflects lifestyle. Look at most fairground equipment, it’s mostly a circle. Especially the hooplas, the dodgems, the carousels.

What were your family’s patterns of travel?

Every family had its run. So my dad’s family, for example, were Borders - border travellers. They travelled both sides of the Anglo-Scottish border, and that was it. Never went north of Edinburgh much. And so they knew that you know they would have all of the Common Ridings, places like Hawick, Selkirk, Jedburgh, they would do all of those sort of summer festivals, and attend there.

They would do the seaside towns as well - Seahouses in Northumbria, places like that - and they just followed that circuit. So, you started out around about late February-March, depending on what you had. There

would be a few kind-of warm up fairs before the big opening fairs, and - for my dad, for example - the big fair would be Dumfries in March. Then we’d do the Border Run, as we called it. Hopping up and down the Scottish border, and then round about. Then Dumfries again in September would be one of the last big fairs, and then it’d sort of tail off and taper off into October-November.

My mum’s family, they were West Coast, Glasgow, and they were called Tramline Travellers. They very rarely left the Glasgow city limits, but they would also range out to Kirkcaldy for the big April fair. I think their last fairs were Dundee. Then they would come down to Glasgow for the carnival at The Kelvin Hall. They would sit in there, for I think it was like two months.

That’s changed. It’s more diverse now. There’s a lot of traditional fairs that have been lost. that’s changes. A lot of families can be ranging about. A lot of corporate work – hires, as they’re called. So you get hired to go and open a roundabout for school fête.

What do you think the future holds?

Well, I should say that there’s a lot of obstacles to our way of life. We are seen by some as more of a nuisance now than something that brings a bit of fun and commerce to the neighbourhood. So, I understand when a lot of people say, “Oh, you know, it’s not going to last much longer.”

Having said that, when television came along and en masse in the sixties, everyone was predicting the end of fairs. The same with Playstations. There’s been a lot of times when the death of our lifestyle has been protected. And yet here we are. Here I am in 2023, still talking about this. My great grandparents suffered great obstacles, too, and had to adapt and change.

I think we will continue. I think we’re quite obstinate, and we’re very, very good at adapting.

How else can I take part?

This June, get talking about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media. We'll be sharing lots about GRTHM across June on our social channels. Follow us to keep updated!

Example posts



June is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month!

We're celebrating #WeavingJourneys because we want a society where Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic people are respected and appreciated.

Why not get involved? <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm/>

#GRTHM23



We're celebrating #WeavingJourneys this #GRTHM23 by taking the time to learn about the rich contributions and histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – why not join us?

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



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

This #GRTHM23, 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/>

#WeavingJourneys



@GypsyTravellers



/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers



@FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

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

#WeavingJourneys

#GRTHM23

Acknowledgements

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Emma Lakey Parker

Francesca Villani

Jo Clement

John Henry Phillips

June Warwick

Katie McDonagh

LuLu Jones

Marius Taba

Martha Ostick

Mary Sadouni Smith's family

Mitch Miller

Patrick C.

Sam Worrall

Scarlet Hannington

Shirley Brinkley

Suzanna King

Tommy Buck

Tyler Hatwell

Vera Buckley



www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

#WeavingJourneys

Friends, Families and Travellers: Working towards equality

We work to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

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