

Lee Fair – business as usual

Both last year's Lee Fairs had to be called off because of the foot and mouth outbreak.

We decided to cancel on 28th July, and it was surprising how quickly the news spread, especially as we attract a thin scatter of visitors from as far afield as the South of England and Ireland. Very likely, this was the first time there had been no Fairs in West Ardsley since before King Stephen granted the current Charter in 1136, and it was a great disappointment to those who had been coming all their lives.

Since the Fairs two years ago, the new fields had been altered by fencing and tree planting. This made them very cramped and caused some confusion at First of Lee, though it was a good Fair with plenty of people and only about three quarters of an hour of rain, despite a poor forecast.



Latter Lee 2002

We might be able to shrink the Fairs by advertising less, or we might look for bigger fields so that the Fairs can keep growing. Whatever happens, Lee Gap will not move far; its Charter lets it be held anywhere in West Ardsley, but only in West Ardsley.

By Tom Leadley

In 2003, First of Lee will be on Monday 25th August.

Latter Lee will be on Wednesday 17th September.

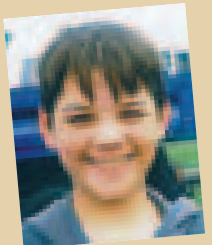


This is Leonard, Tilly, Robert, JR and John enjoying the Fair in September

Latter Lee was perfectly dry. The attendance was down a bit, to 2500 from about 2750 at First of Lee; even so, every bit of fair field and car park was used and we could not have coped with some of the very big crowds we have had recently, such as the 3900 or so who came to First of Lee in 2000. Also, it would be very hard to cope with a wet Fair with the fields as they are now.

WINNING DESIGN

Danny Connors has won a prize for his artwork in the Stephen Lawrence poster competition. His work will be displayed in the Leeds Civic Hall and he will receive his prize during the Race Equality Conference 'The Power to Change' on the 12th November 2002.



Danny Connor's winning design



Inside this Issue — find out about this dancing girl ... and more!

Page 4 Who's won prizes?

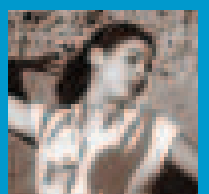
Page 6 Enjoy the Travelling Circus

Plus: news, stories, important information, and plenty of your own contributions

Page 5 Find out about the Gypsies in Spain.

Page 8 Real-life stories from Roma

Page 9 Pictures from your albums



We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this, the second issue of our magazine. Thank you to everyone who read and responded to the first issue. Feedback from all over the country was good and we hope that everyone enjoys this issue just as much.

We would welcome your ideas and material for next year's magazine. If you would like to be a reporter, or a contributor or editor, please let us know.

We hope that this is the type of magazine you would like to see and which represents you. If not, please tell us, or get involved, so that we can make it even better.

Please contact us on 0113 274 8050 or at: Travellers Post, West Park Centre, Spen Lane, Leeds LS16 5BE or email: peter.saunders@educationleeds.co.uk

Summer of Fun Report from Cottingley Springs

Children from 5–12, parents and young women from Cottingley Springs and workers from South Leeds Health for All had a great time having a go at Cottingley Springs in the summer holidays.

Activities included Kitemaking, Bouncy Castle, Painting, Face Painting, Badgemaking, T-Shirt Printing, Hair Braiding, Bracelets and beads, Games, a visit to Flamingoland and a Party on the Hill.

Some comments from people who attended:

"The bouncy castle was the best"
"Best thing was the Flamingoland trip"
"It's been great for the kids"

What Next?

Play sessions Wednesday 4.00 – 5.30

Girls Group Thursday 4.00 – 5.30

Phone Flavia for more information on: 0113 276 2720

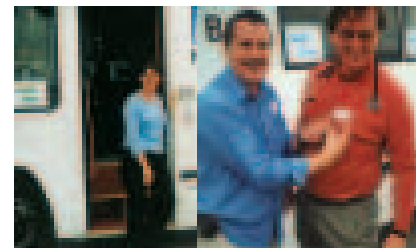


Travellers Drop-in Clinic on the Health Bus

Every Tuesday 1 – 3 pm the Health Bus staffed by GP Dr. Joe Neary, Health Visitor Kath Nolan and Health Bus Co-ordinator Chris Smith will offer GP consultations, support sessions and general health advice on Cottingley Springs site. We can promote and address most needs through the Bus. Some may use the Bus as a stepping-stone to mainstream services.

We have good attendance each week, Travellers call in to see Dr. Neary or just to chat with Kath and Chris, which increases their knowledge and awareness of the range of health services and information available to them and also to involve other health professionals in the delivery of these services.

Please contact Kath on 0113 295 4600 or see her on the bus.



Kath Nolan by the Health Bus and Health Bus Co-ordinator Chris Smith is with Dr Joe.

Childrens' Fund – Traveller's Play Project

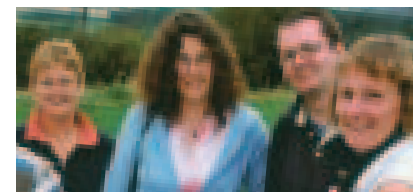
The Childrens' Fund are working with the TES to develop a new play project for Travellers' children. Karen Emery has just been appointed and will start work in November.

She can be contacted at TES on 0113 274 8050.

Park Lane College Travellers Project

Park Lane College worked in partnership with the TES to promote their new project by putting up a marquee on Lee Gap Fair which was a great success with over 300 people visiting the displays and finding out more.

For more information call them on 0113 216 2179.



Jenny, Linda, Ewan and Christina

The Traveller Health Partnership Report and Visit to Dublin

The Report 'Making a Difference' will soon be going to print. A visit to Dublin, Ireland has been arranged for professionals and Travellers to visit Pavee Point in Dublin and other Traveller development initiatives from 26th – 30th November 2002. The group hope to learn a great deal and develop similar work here in England.

For more information on the trip or to order a copy of the report contact the Travellers Health Partnership on 0113 270 6903.



Health of Gypsy Travellers – Government Funded Research

This research led by Professor Glenys Parry of the University of Sheffield will inform policy and practice in relation to the reduction on inequalities in the health of Gypsy Travellers. Traveller representation on this group includes Tommy Docherty from Leeds and the Gypsy Council. The study will be completed in 2003 and results published in the Traveller Post in the 2004 edition.

More information from Patrice Van Cleemput on 0114 222 0851 or email pvancleemput@sheffield.ac.uk

Newsflash from Europe – European Roma Forum to be created!

At the Exploratory Group meeting for a European Roma Forum in September there was a feeling that the decisions arrived at and agreed upon were of historical importance for the Roma. The future Roma Forum would be the focus of much hope and expectation, especially on the part of the Roma communities, which would also include the Sinti, Gypsy and Traveller communities. The hope is for the Council of Ministers to support this initiative so that the Forum will be formally established and begin work in 2003.

Brough Hill Fair



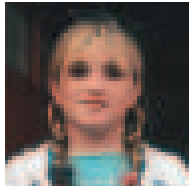
Brough Hill Fair was on the last day of September and the 1st of October eight weeks after Appleby. A lot of families would stay on after Brough Hill and earn their living around Penrith and then make their way to Yarm, the last Fair of the season on the 18th October.

This is a photo of the Nicholson family and taken around the 1950's. There's old Joe Nicholson, Fingers he was called, and Dinah. The family are sat around the fire with the chitties with the frying pan on and the 2 iron kettles. The flat cart is shielding them from the wind as it was often cold on the hill. They used to call this the Nicholson's corner where they all used to stop. It was a great Fair and lots used to get there as it was the last Fair in Cumbria there was the Boswells, old Gordon, John Mulvenna, old Bertie Evans, Bob Farrow, Bob Harker, old Gypsy Benny, old Billy Kendal and lots more. *Ada Kendal*

'The Romany Collection at Leeds University includes many photographs from earlier times of Gypsies and other Travellers. They are valuable for showing how people lived then, more clearly than words can sometimes describe, but we often don't know exactly who appears in the photographs. Recently, members of the Price family happened to be able to identify some of their relatives for us in another particularly beautiful photograph featured in Traveller Post. Can you now recognise anybody in the photograph here and tell us about them?'

*Chris Sheppard,
Head of the Romany Collection*

Nine children were presented with a small prize in recognition of their excellent attendance at school over the last school year. Here are the winners and their comments.



Joanne Morrison – Mount St. Mary's High School
I like school and have lots of friends. I want to work in child care when I leave.

Sheralee Morrison – Copperfields
I love drama and have had main parts in the school productions; Bugsy Malone and Grease. I would like to do acting when I leave school.

Pagan Atkinson – Seven Hills Primary School
(Right) I have lots of friends at school. I have always gone to school and want to go to the High School with all my friends. I like doing P.E. and activities on Friday afternoon. I am doing games with Miss Harvard. I like swimming.



Bernadette Morrison – Windmill Primary School.
I like Windmill School and when I grow up I want to be a nurse or a teacher.

Johnny Morrison – Windmill Primary School
I like school. When I grow up I want to be a fire-fighter.

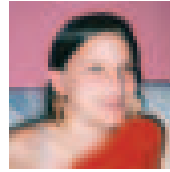
Maggie, Ian and Dean Barnsley.

The children all love Sacred Heart Primary School and even though they have moved around the city a lot they have been in the best attenders group.



Congratulations to all the winners from everyone at Traveller Post.

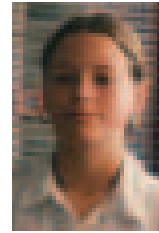
Keep up the good work!



Stephanie Dawson – Cockburn High School

I am in Year 8 now and I really enjoy school, so my attendance is very good. At school my favourite subjects are Drama, English and Maths. My main hobby is dance and I do this at Middleton Social Club three evenings a week. My sister Victoria Bryant is the qualified Dance teacher there. We put on a show in September and I won a trophy for best achiever.

After I finish High School I plan to go to college or university to train as a Dance teacher.



My Life

My name is Eileen Pollard, I live in Leeds. I am a Traveller. I have never lived in a trailer, but my Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters have. They have lived all over the country. I have four brothers and four sisters. I am the youngest out of all my brothers and sisters. My Granny, who died when I was six months old, was called Lizzie Charlotte. My Grandad, who died when my Dad was thirteen, was called Jackie John Pollard. My Auntie was Violet Hunter, who died on Meanwood road in 1997.

When I was born I lived in Little London for ten years. Then I moved to Woodhouse, where I lived for one year, now I live in Burmantofts.

I go to Agnes Stewart High School. I really like my Traveller teacher, Anne Leach, she is really nice to me, she helps me in school and teaches me to do well. After school I go to my friend Hayleys and then we go to see our other friends. I really like going to horse fairs because there are lots of things to buy and sell. That is all about my life.

*Eileen Pollard.
Agnes Stewart
High School*



Bernadette Nunnery writes:

I attend Pudsey Tyersal School. I like acting. At the moment we are doing "Oliver" and I want to be Nancy. I have a new teacher – Mrs Varley, who I like.

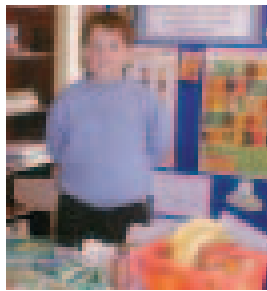
I love sport and am good at football.

I want to be a hairdresser when I grow up, so at the moment I am working hard for my exams.

Me & My School

If you would like to tell us about your school please get in touch with the Traveller Post. You can find our address on the back cover.

John Young is in Year Six and has only been coming to our school for a few years. He has an inspiring, positive attitude to learning and is always keen to take on extra responsibilities.



Debbie Riley – Mentor Newlands Primary School

John writes: "I enjoy going to lunch club because it shows me how to sew and play games with other children.

I help serve at the fruit shop which helps me learn how to count money quickly."

Leeds OfSTED Inspection Highlights

The Inspection declared that the support for children of Travellers is good. The Education Leeds Traveller Education service supports schools well especially with newly arrived pupils.

They found increased access to college courses, increased numbers of road side children in school or getting education and

they particularly highlighted liaison with families as a strength. This is welcome recognition of the team and the support they get from families and schools alike ... well done.

Til Wright Team Leader of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Support Services



The Gypsies of Spain



The experience of the Gypsy pilgrimage to Saintes Maries de la Mer in 1947 woke a strong interest in Gypsies for **Ruth Partington**. Later, based in London she met Gypsies, and studied aspects of their culture. She lived in Spain and met the Gypsies of Granada and has told us this story about them. She has also translated poems of the French Gypsy Sandra Jayat in 'Nomad Moons' and also written about Gypsies in her own poetry book 'Boat of Song'.

I met the Gypsies of the Sacromonte in 1954. I used to visit them every day and got to know Raimundo Heredia Fernandez, the old 'canastero' or basketmaker, who lived in cave number 40 with his family. The Gypsies living in the caves all seemed to be related and had lived there for a long time.



They made their living from basket making and flamenco dancing.

Raimundo, a canastero like his father, loved his craft. He used to say that a basketmaker need not starve even when money could not buy food. All one needed was a knife and a river, to cut and soak the willows that grew by its banks. Once in the old days he had been to a fair and was riding back across the Sierra with some other Gypsies, carrying

plenty of money from the Fair. At last they reached an inn in open country and called for food, but the people of the inn replied that nothing was for sale. Raimundo went off alone and sat down by a stream. He came back near the inn and finished weaving a fine and beautiful basket.

The people of the inn stood around to watch and asked 'What is the price of that beautiful basket?' 'It is not for sale' replied Raimundo. 'We will give you anything you like,' said the people of the inn 'to have that beautiful basket.' 'Right' said Raimundo 'bring

out six loaves and put them down here.' They brought out the loaves and asked 'What else do you want?' 'Bring me three whole cheeses, a leg of home-cured ham, a sausage and some fruit and wine.'

The people took back the basket to the inn and laid out all these things on the ground. Gypsy friends came to join Raimundo in the feast and flung their full wallets on the ground!



Left: Raimundo making a basket in the yard of his cave.

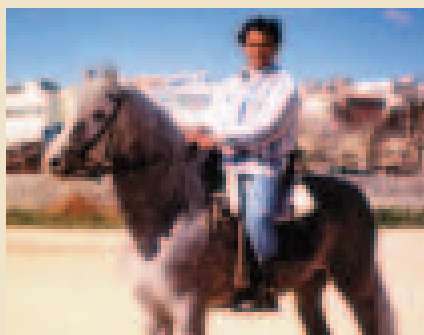
Top: A Gypsy with his family outside their cave

Above: A basket nearing completion

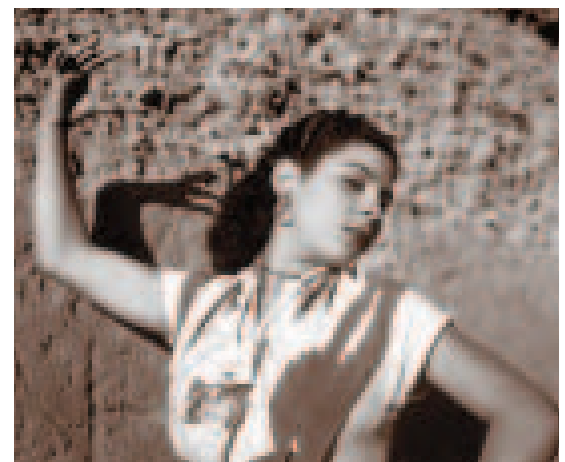
Below: A Gypsy Dancer



This poem extract was written by Ruth in the 1950's while visiting Granada. It is from her book "Boat of Song" a collection of poems about travel.



Gypsy Michaelmas, Granada
Around are the bare hills:
over the hills come riding
Gypsies to your feast.
Your face is as bright as the sun
but in the blackness of night
Gypsies will sing and dance
to celebrate your name
under the harvest moon.



The **Post** Feature

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!

My name is Valda and my husband's name is Peter, we have three children, two sons and a daughter. Gavin who is 24, Ashley who is 20 and Leanne who is 17 years. They were all born into the circus. I joined the circus at a young age and met and married my husband who was the circus manager.

The wedding was televised and in all the local papers. We were working in Bradford at the time, we had the wedding in the morning then back to the Big Top for the two evening shows and then partied afterwards.



Gavin, Ashley and Leanne ready for a performance

The children were born in different parts of the country. They were all christened at a month old. It is normal for the christenings to take place in the circus ring among family friends and the animals, normally this takes place on a Sunday after the performance and the general public are invited to stay and join us for the christening.

I was in the circus for many years. I did various things including fire eating, stood at the knife board, bed of nails, rolling globe, aerial ladder, ringmistress and whatever else I had to do. The children used to do the Circus Parade. At the beginning of a performance they would dress up as clowns, ballerinas on horseback and indians.

It depended on what aspect of the circus they were interested in and this is their way of gaining experience in front of the public.

We left the travelling circus to try and give the family an education. Gavin had not been to school until he was 10 years old, none of

them could read or write. It wasn't because they didn't want to, but the schools would refuse to take them while we were travelling. This is why I got in touch with the Travellers Education who helped us to find schools and gave us full support. Having come from a family that cannot read or write I knew how important it was for them to learn.

Gavin went onto college then university gaining his degree in printing. Ashley went to college and now has his own business and Leanne is still at college studying law, health and social studies. I go into schools and colleges to give talks. I take in display items, costumes, photos and props depending on what age group they are. At the moment I'm helping to write a book on Horse and Gypsy Fairs in England and abroad, because I come from a Gypsy background they asked me if I would like to be involved. I've always gone to Appleby Horse Fair with my family, my father always had horses and used them for work and play. When we settled down in Hartlepool we had 3 horses, 1 donkey, a llama, a pet puma and a dog. Animals have always been part of me and my family's life.

Next year we are doing booklets on Circus, Gypsy and Fairground life, these are to be



given out at schools and anywhere where Travellers meet. The work that we do now involves a lot of travelling around the country so we still get lots of opportunities to meet up with family and friends whether they are from the Circus, Gypsy or Fairground; its great to get together.



That's me above, Valda Eagle, the Ringmistress.

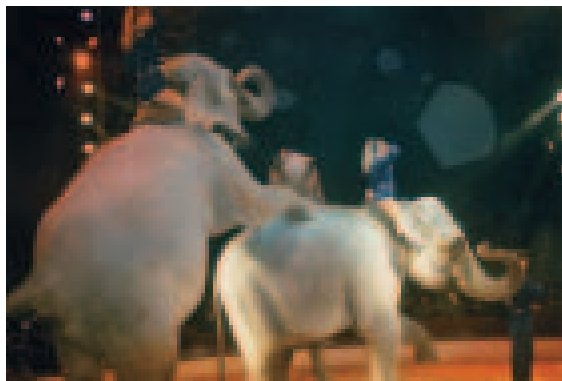
I have worked with the animals riding the elephants, presenting the horses, showing the snakes and helping to look after the other animals like the camels, llamas, lions and tigers especially the young cubs.



Items I put out to display when talking to schools.

A Brief History

It is said that Circus started 100's of years ago when royalty was entertained by jugglers and contortionists. There was also a lot of animal entertainment with horses,



lions, tigers and bears. The first touring circus was Philip Astley's circus which started in London 1770, he was a one time sergeant major in the 15th light dragoons who had great equestrian expertise. The American circus Barnum and Bailey 'Greatest Show on Earth' was founded in 1907 and is still going strong today.

Family Life on the Circus

Like most Travellers, Circus families are large and tend to live and work together, the older generation teaching the younger ones all they will need to know for circus life.

Circus folk tend to marry within their own community although it has been known for a flattie, gorgio or someone from the settled community to marry into the circus community and adapt and live quite happily. Divorce is quite rare; marriage is for life and divorce can bring shame on a family.

In the circus getting married is a big affair, it's about showing the other families your wealth and status. In the circus community everything is big and glitzy just like the circus itself.

If someone dies people come from far and wide to pay their last respects. It is a sad time but the show must go on, and you are taught at a young age that no matter how much you hurt inside you must go into the ring and smile. Circus has its own language but the younger generation use it less so now, probably because of a better education.

Years ago circus people were classed as thieves and freaks but most of them are now highly educated and are well capable of standing up

and dealing with any situation, thanks to the Traveller Education and computers.

Having an education is not just for the young ones, there are a lot of courses that the circus men and women go on, it can be HGV, welding, signwriting, computing, business management and much more. This has brought Circus to what it is today, a multi-million pound business.

On the circus each family member has their jobs to do. Everyone works and shares the tasks, this helps with the smooth running of the show both inside the Big Top and out. During the day the men tend to the lorries, seating and Big Top, and the women look after the children, make costumes, work in the booking office and look after the homes. At Show Time everyone works in the Big Top, whether you're working in the ring or in the canteen selling candy floss, every job is important. What people don't realise is the amount of strength and stamina you need to live this life. Most shows do 2 performances a day, 7 days a week, sometimes doing two grounds a week and that includes 'build up' and 'pull down.'

Circus families are like all Travelling folk in that they collect nice ornaments; the bigger the better. They like flashy cars and jewellery and tend to dress a bit over the top, the women like long hair and all girls have their ears pierced at a young age. Most of the homes that they live in are large with pull out sides and are very extravagant. You need a mortgage to buy one.

Touring On The Circus

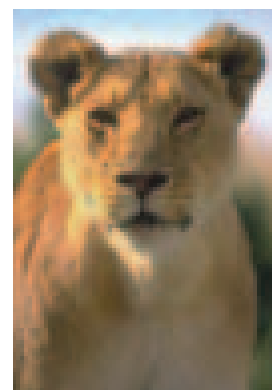
The Circus travels for 10 months of the year, 7 days a week, usually doing 1 week stands. In the winter it usually pulls into the circus farm, this is when new acts are formed, the lorries will be re-painted, new animals are bought and all repairs are carried out and new Big Tops are made.

Valda Eagle

"Everyone in the circus has to have a love of animals and respect them. You cannot teach a wild animal through pain, it will turn on you, there has to be respect and understanding of the animal for it to work with you like training a puppy."



The acrobats





Vallijak Paulesca, known as Vanessa, and Lukas Zitek came to this country recently. Here they tell how they have found England and how they have settled.

My name is Vanessa (as I am known in England) and I am twelve years old. I was born in the Latvian part of Russia, and came to England with my Mum and my little brother when I was ten years of age.

I did not go to school in my own country because the schools did not want me and my brother. We were frightened of the 'Mafia' group who went around terrorising people – injuring, killing and stealing from them. Then it was our turn – they cut my dad's stomach, broke his arm and cut off his finger. He was very afraid for me, my mum and my brother, so he sent us to England because people said it was the safest place to come. My dad joined us later when he had sold the house and got better.

We landed in Heathrow and went to a hotel for three days and then a hostel. We had a room with three beds in it and there was a



very kind man living next door, who gave us a big television, but he moved out and six or seven men who were taking drugs came, so we asked to be moved.

We were moved to a hotel for two days where we met some more families – one from Russia

and three families from Poland. We were waiting to be sent to Bradford.

We had a good welcome in Bradford.

There was a table full of food, loads of games for children and the people were really kind and nice to us. We were sent to a house in Fagley and then I started school for the first time. I felt a bit frightened – I could only speak a little English I had picked up from watching television all day with my brother. I found it hard with the teachers speaking in English all day and I had never done maths, but I did make one friend.

Unfortunately there were people who called us names and one day some boys pushed me over and my wrist broke. Later all the windows were broken in our house and we were robbed. The Council moved us to Bolton Woods. There we met the other families who had moved with us to Bradford.

Two people from the Traveller Service for Children came and said you have to go to school. So that day I was excited. They got my uniform and took me to school with two boys until my bus pass came. It felt strange at first in a big school and I had to travel a long way on the bus.

Now I've made loads of friends and my teachers are pleased with me. I've just moved up a set in English. My favourite subjects are drama and design technology but my best subject is French. I like playing rounders after school every Wednesday. I feel really settled and hope I can stay here.

Thanks to Bradford Travellers Education Service for supplying this story.

Tools for Learning – a European Project

As part of this project Sue Itzinger of Leeds TES had the chance to visit Romania and see how the Gypsies lived there.



Children queuing to go into school

We visited a Gypsy settlement on the outskirts of Sacele. There were no trailers everyone lived in houses. There is a Gypsy school there for the children. The school day is in 2 shifts from 7.30 – 10.30 then 11 – 2. The younger children do the early session and the older ones the later one. Even the teachers change with the children so the teachers and the children work 3 hours each day. In needlework the boys and girls make items to sell.



The needle work class

The parents receive benefits from the state only if the children attend school. The parents are also offered work from the council but it is menial work like sweeping the streets. The parents are very keen for their children to have an education so that they can have a chance to improve themselves and have a better life.

My life in England

I like to play football in England.

I like to play rugby in school with my friends.

I like to play out with my cousin and friends.

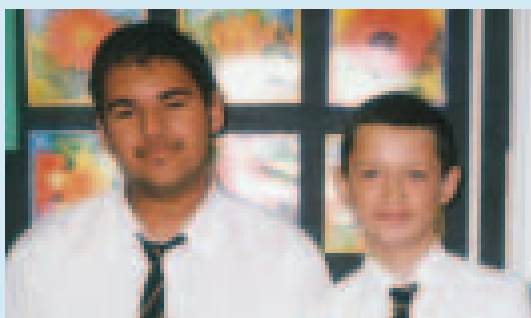
I like to play on the keyboard with Martin.

I like the food in school, like pizza and chips.

In the Czech Republic we had deep snow. We kept cows, horses and rabbits. I used to ride the horses. We had about 16 chickens who laid eggs for us to eat. I used to play with my two pigs, chasing them and riding on them when I was little.

My farm was very big with a few sheep and cows who gave us milk, it was a very good life but we had to sell the farm to come to England. I have also lived in Canada but now am settled in England.

Lukas Zitek Year 7 West Leeds High School



Lukas Zitek (right) and his friend Ryan Mucha at West Leeds High School



My name is Noeleen Buxton. I live on Cottingley Springs with my family. Here are my three children (below), Martina 5, Joe 4 and Elisha who's 2. Martina and Joe go to the Holy Family Primary School in Armley. Elisha has just started nursery two days a week.



Here's my daddy Marty Doherty (right). He died nearly ten years ago on the 7th December when he was 41 years old. My children never seen him but they still talk about as if they did know him, especially Joe. If he was alive I know my children would have loved him to bits because I did.



Rosie Moloney when aged 7, on her birthday at Grantham convention. Also in the picture are Clara Taylor and Katherine Moloney

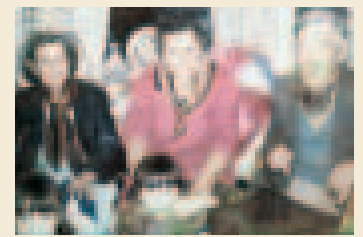
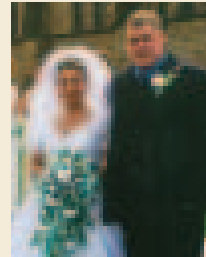
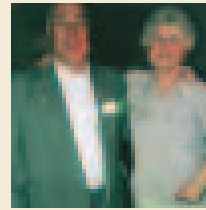
Sheralee writes about her family:

This is my Mam and Dad, Jim and Tully Lowther. My Mam was Tully Walker. These are all the children of Jim and Tully Lowther. From the left is Coralina, Lenny, Sheralee and Caroline (top right).

This is a picture of Sheralee and Anthony Flint at their wedding (bottom left).

This is a picture of my Granny and Granda and Aunty. She is the aunt of my Granny. My Granny's grand daughter is sat on her knee and my Great Aunts grand daughter is sat at her knee. They are sitting in their Morecambe trailer.

My Granny and Grandad used to roam up and down the lanes and roadsides but since they made the sites travelling is finished. The Romany life is not the same they cannot stay on these lanes and roads.

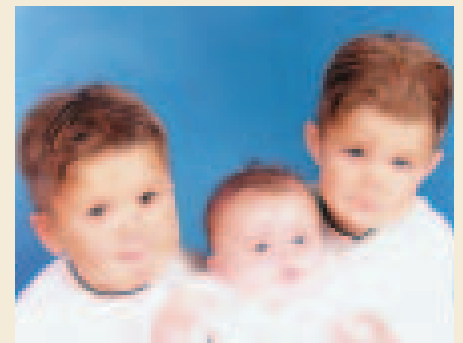


This is Eileen and Shannon Connors with their baby sister Rosanne in their trailer.



Kathleen Connors family.

I've travelled all my life but have now settled down on Cottingley Springs with my three children, James Michael, Kathleen Anne and Thomas Patrick Boswell. The bottom picture is of my late husband, Holly Boswell.



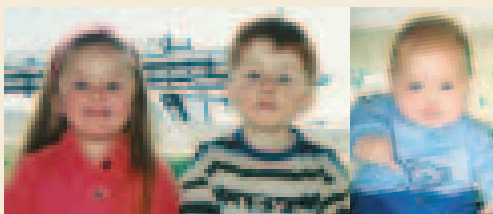
Theresa James writes to Traveller Post about her children.

The picture above is of my three children, Felix, Shania and Peter James. Peter and Felix go to school at Seven Hills Morley to get an education. This is a chance I never had when I was their age. We're now back on the caravan site at Cottingley Springs and the children enjoy going in the mini bus to school every day.

Thank you once again for all your contributions. Keep them coming to the address on the back page.

Cindy Smith tells us about her family.

I live on Cottingley Springs with my three children. Kevin 7, Cindy Lou 4 and Lewis who's 5½ months. I lived in London for most of my life, on Hammersmith Site and moved to Leeds about 10 years of age, with my family.



Your Stories, Poems ...

Thanks for all your contributions. Once again we're really impressed by all your stories, poems and drawings. Keep them coming in. Send your creative work that you would like to see in future issues of Traveller Post to the address on the back page. We look forward to seeing your efforts.

A History of the Travellers

by Vicky Davis.

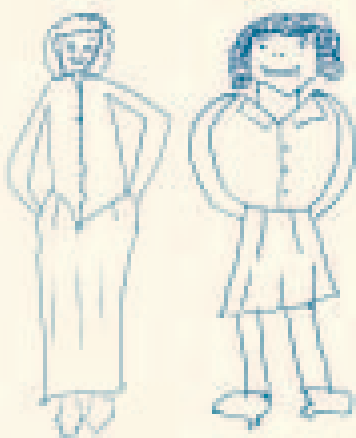
A long time ago many couples came to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. They were always moving up and across the country. They were called Travellers. They lived in wagons pulled by horses. Both the men and the women had to work.

Every year a festival is held in the summer time. It is at Appleby.



A horse and wagon

In the Traveller's life everybody moves in a group with family and friends. The Travellers are very loving. My family are Travellers but ten years ago my family and I moved into a house and my friends did too. I miss travelling around the country with the pick-up truck.



The way women used to dress and the way they dress today.

The Travellers Education team have helped us over the years. I want to say "thank you" to them – they are the best!

My Shetland Pony

My name is William Price. I like animals, but my favourite animals are horses.

I had a Shetland Pony and her name was Black Beauty. She was so kind to children, I loved her. One day I came back from school and I went to give her a drink and she was missing. I went and looked around the field and I could not see her so I went home and told my Dad that Black Beauty had gone. So my Dad and I went back to the field and we looked all around but we could not see her. We reported her missing to the police, but they never heard anything about a pony missing so I said to my Dad, 'I will never have anymore horses again.'

But two years later me and my family went to Lee Gap Fair, this year. We were walking around looking about when I saw a baby shetland for sale. I said to my Dad, 'let's go for a look at him?'

William also draw this picture

He was so beautiful and so tiny. He just took my eye so I said to my Dad 'Will you get me him?' He said to me, 'William, look at what happened to Black Beauty.' I said, 'Dad I won't let no one take him.' So my Dad bought me him.

He is five months old and brown and white. I have him in our own field. My Dad made a fence around the field so that Molly is safe so that no one can take her.



Lee Gap

My name is Jerry Connors. I went to Lee Gap Fair and I bought some chickens. They are called "Sharmers."



Little Lamb

It was early spring when flowers bloom and robins sing and baby lambs arrive. Unfortunately this particular spring was a bad time for lambs to arrive. Foot and Mouth also arrived. Most of the baby lambs and ewes got killed and many of the farms have closed. They didn't open until Foot and Mouth had gone.

It was 9.30 PM and farmer Baker yelled happily to his wife, "Julia you'll never guess what, Sheeba's pregnant with twins." He was so happy because Sheeba was his favourite sheep. "Oh no, not again, she had twins the last time, but there's not so much we can do about that, so never mind," shouted Julia, as she started the tractor. Farmer Baker was mucking out "Lightning", their Shire horse.

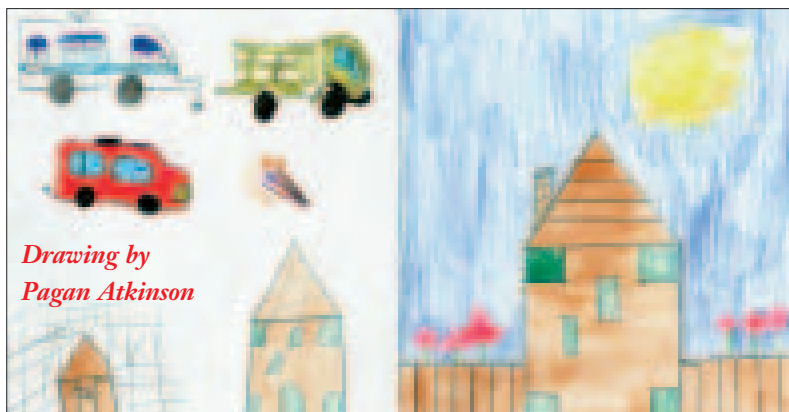
After Foot and Mouth had gone, Sheeba had her twins. The farmer named them "Lucky" and "Lucy". He had called one "Lucky" because they were born after Foot and Mouth.

By Samijo Kiely Year 8 West Leeds.

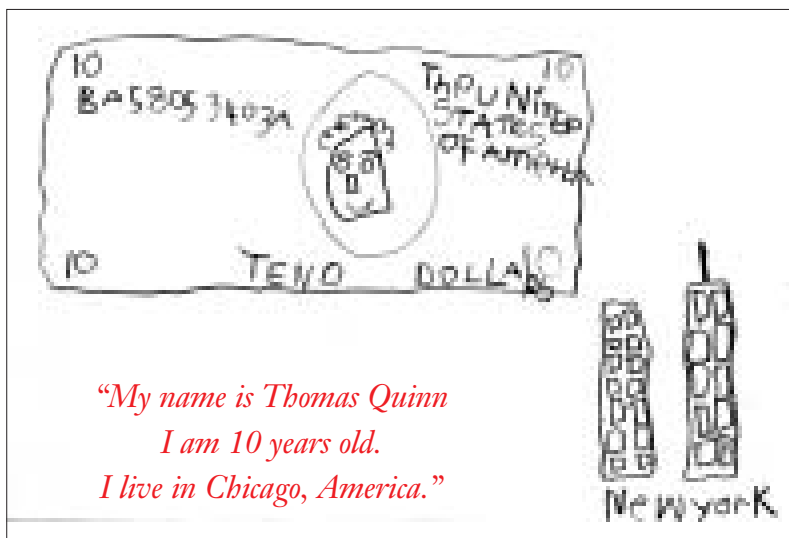
Samijo also wrote the following short poem.

Lovely leaping lambs
And their mothers,
Minding their young
Baby lambs
Snug and warm.

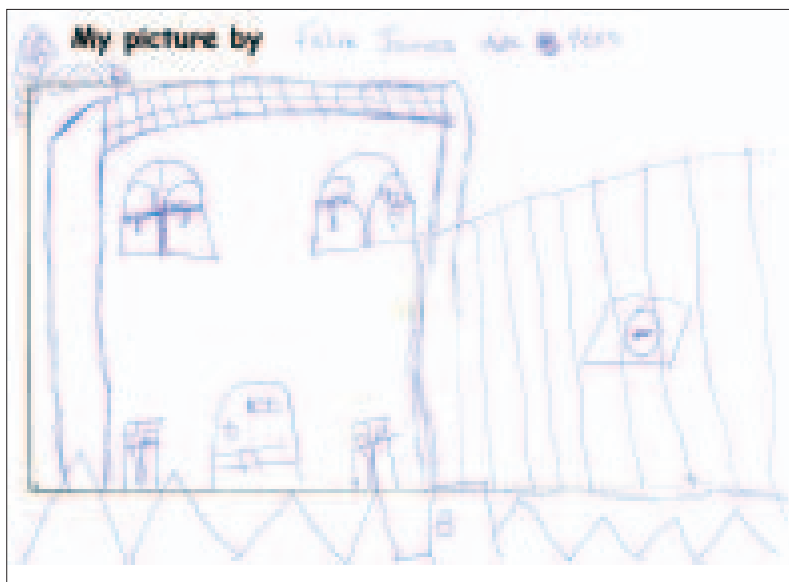




*Drawing by
Pagan Atkinson*



*"My name is Thomas Quinn
I am 10 years old.
I live in Chicago, America."*



My picture by John Stewart



Mark Scamp

The Vampire Returns

A short horror story by Brendan Cawley

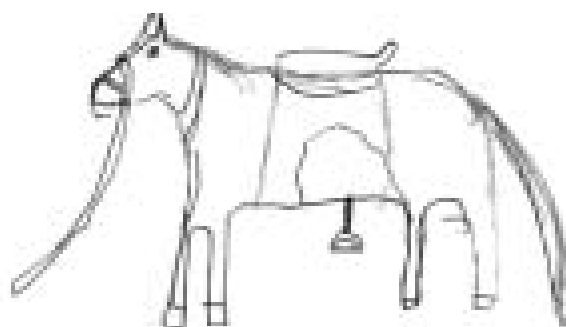
All the body ashes began to pull together gradually under the waves. The vampire began to form. When the vampire was fully formed he rose out of the water and began heading for the castle. When he reached the castle he changed his clothes, then he began walking towards the village. A girl was sitting in a park. When the vampire saw the girl he crept up behind her and began to suck the blood of the girl. Before the vampire had the blood of the girl he was weak, but now the vampire was full of energy. The vampire goes looking for more people. Every person the vampire saw he killed. The vampire went to look for the innkeeper and the vampire killed him. When the innkeeper's son found out he came to the village to kill the vampire.

The innkeeper's son was a catholic. He bought crosses and holy water. The innkeeper's son made a trap. He put buckets of pig's blood in a circle. In the middle of the circle of blood the innkeeper's son dug a hole. As night fell the vampire came out to eat. The vampire fell down the hole. The innkeeper's son and the villagers wrapped a rope around the vampire. They tied the vampire to a tree. The innkeeper's son stabbed the vampire with a stake. The vampire was dead. The innkeeper's son cut the vampire into nine pieces and buried them in nine holy places. He was never seen again.



*Brendan Cawley working
at the Computer in
Coburn High School*

John Stewart sent us this drawing of a horse.





Rosie Price reports. We took some photos with a "one-off" camera. It was good fun.

I took the picture of my cousin Frisko Price with his twin sisters, Sabrina and Martina. I also took the picture of Donna and our little sister Janie at our gate. My sister Donna took the picture of JR on his horse at Lee Gap Fair. Donna took the picture of me. *Rosie Price*



If you're interested in taking some pictures contact Veronica who works at Leeds TES. If you have your own pictures you'd like to show us, do send them in.

Racial Harassment

Free 24 hour helpline for Racial Harassment is 0800 138 1625 for West Yorkshire. Complaints of Racial Discrimination can also be dealt with by the Commission for Racial Equality and can be contacted on 0113 389 3600.

Justice for Travellers

This is a new Traveller organisation which aims to promote Travellers own development and involvement in the decisions that affect their lives.

A new worker will soon be in place and can be contacted on 0113 265 2556. There will be an office base and Travellers are welcome to visit for help or advice and also to get involved. Tommy Collins is the Chairperson.

Gypsy and Traveller Action Group

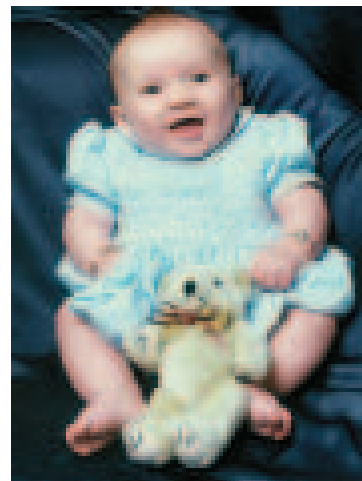
This recently formed group are working with the support of Harjinder Sagoo from Leeds Voice. Their aim is to improve the situation for Travellers on Cottingley Springs Site. For more information call Harjinder on 0113 277 2227.

Recent Additions to Traveller Families



On the left is Dodo and Kathleen's first baby, Ellen Elizabeth Harris.

With the teddy-bear is John James and Shelley's baby boy, John James Varey, the first boy for three generations on Shelley's side of the family.



Sberalee and Anthony's baby girl, Megan Cassidy Flint.