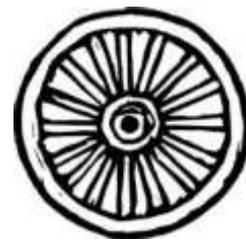


# TRAVELLERS IN PRISON NEWS

Newsletter of the Traveller Equality Project

Issue 23

September 2018



## *Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 2018*

Celebrations for Gypsy Roma Traveller History month went on around many prisons in England and Wales. The Traveller Equality Project attended events in HMP Thameside, HMP Highdown, HMP Chelmsford and HMP Erelstoke to name a few. All events were well attended and celebrations included traditional meals, music, story telling and socialising. GRTHM coincides with Appleby Fair and this too was a fantastic event attended by many. Appleby-in-Westmorland is a market town in Cumbria, north-west England and has been host to the fair since 1775. The picture above displays some of the horses that were at the fair this year. The fair was well received in the media this year, with many national newspapers reporting on the positives of the fair, the beauty of the horses and the fun had by all.

If you celebrated Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in your prison, please get in touch and let us know what you did.

Remember this is your newsletter so write to us today sending us your letters, news, views, poems and drawings.

Traveller Equality Project,  
52 Camden Square,  
London NW1 9XB

Prison & Probation staff can download resources from our website here:

[http://  
www.irishchaplancy.org.uk/irish-travellers/](http://www.irishchaplancy.org.uk/irish-travellers/)

Or email us:

[travel-  
lers@irishchaplancy.org.uk](mailto:travel-<br/>lers@irishchaplancy.org.uk)



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## *ST PATRICK'S WEEK IN the Scrubs*

There was a good turnout for our St Patrick's Week event at Wormwood Scrubs: over thirty guys from the wings, plus various prison staff, those of us from the Irish Chaplaincy; and guests we had invited, which included somebody from the Irish Embassy. We were treated to Irish music from Neil, Zoe and Whiskey Mick (an old mate apparently of some of the guys from the Pogues); Irish dancing from Grainne, one of our wonderful volunteers; then a shared meal, which is always a special part of the event. The kitchen had prepared bacon, cabbage and potatoes and even though some of the guys were moaning that they had turned it into a stew it was really tasty. Breda and Liz had brought along soda bread and other nice things and it was a real feast. And Ellena went around giving out St Patrick's prayers and also puzzles, which are always appreciated.

There were not only Irish Travellers at the event. When I heard the strong Polish accent of one of the guys I said to him "you don't sound very Irish but you're very welcome".

He beat his chest and solemnly announced "I feel Irish in my heart"! And during the meal I chatted with two Albanian guys (who assured me they also felt very close to the Irish!).

Everyone seemed to enjoy the event: the music, the dancing, the good food, and just spending a bit of time together. We hope to be back soon.

Eddie Gilmore



## Irish Chaplaincy Resettlement Project

Irish Chaplaincy would like to start a Resettlement project for members of the GRT community in London prisons. We will help you to access training, education and work experience in the prison, and then to get a job in an Irish construction firm after release, amongst other options. We can also help with getting you housing if you need it. We can help you every step of the way.

If you're interested, contact us.





Pictures of a Romany Caravan, gifted to Canterbury university in 2014. The Romany Vardo (living wagon or caravan) was constructed as a horse-drawn 'Marriage Wagon' c.1908. In style it's a traditional, canvas-covered 'Bow Top' with spoked wheels and hand-painted scrollwork.

## Traveller Equality Project Resources

### Reading Books:



### A Traveller's Home



### The Fight

### Postcards/Posters:



And much more! Contact us for resources for your prison.

# London Gypsies and Travellers—We are so many things



Gypsies and Travellers launched a new campaign #wearesomanythings earlier this year. The Community Development and Campaigns Officer there said, “The community I have met are just normal busy people getting on with life. They often juggle the many daily tasks required to be part of society. They often have a couple of part-time jobs, do the school run, enjoy spending time with their family, have hobbies. This side to the community is rarely shown, and yet this is what we all relate to. The time is right for the public to learn who this community really is and understand that they are all so many things.”

The Irish Chaplaincy fully supports this campaign, because we know that Travellers and Gypsies in prison are like Travellers and Gypsies everywhere, so many things.



Become a learner or a mentor today!

If someone you know would like to be able to read OR you would like to help others to read ask prison staff for the details of the Shannon Trust Reading Plan.



Michael Ridge  
RIP

The Irish Chaplaincy was saddened to hear the news of the

passing of Michael Ridge.

Michael was a social worker and community activist working tirelessly with the Traveller and Gypsy community.

 Kings change, but I'm  
Connected to my roots

I don't judge my nurse  
and his Dr. Martin boots

Call my Dad  
I'm connected to the truth  
My friend's a traveller  
and never needs an excuse  
To pull up a chair  
and drink some coffee or juice

We play music loud  
and check the ones and twos

We talk about how we would change  
if they'd let us loose  
Good times and bad times  
the rhythm and blues

Poem by Mason

Please send in your poems, stories, art work or anything you would like published in the newsletter.

*Want To Support Your  
Traveller Community?*

Register as 'W3 – Gypsy / Irish Traveller'

Become a Shannon Trust Mentor or Learner

Become a Traveller Rep

Organise a Traveller Group

Become a Listener

**EDUCATE / ORGANISE / EMPOWER**

## *Review: Gypsies: An English History by David Cressy*

David Cressy recently published a book about the history of Gypsies.

David Cressy's great-grandmother was a Gypsy and grew up in a horse-drawn van among Victorian tinsmiths and basket weavers. After marrying a builders labourer she settled, but her siblings continued to live the Gypsy life. Cressy's mother remembers how she was taken, as a child in the 1920s, to see two great-aunts in a caravan on Epsom Downs, and shown a basketful of sovereigns. Cressy is a social historian with this unique background and in the book he gathers thousands of shreds of evidence to trace the fates of English Gypsies from their first arrival among us until now. Gypsies emerge from Cressy's book as a persecuted and maligned minority. It's a great read!



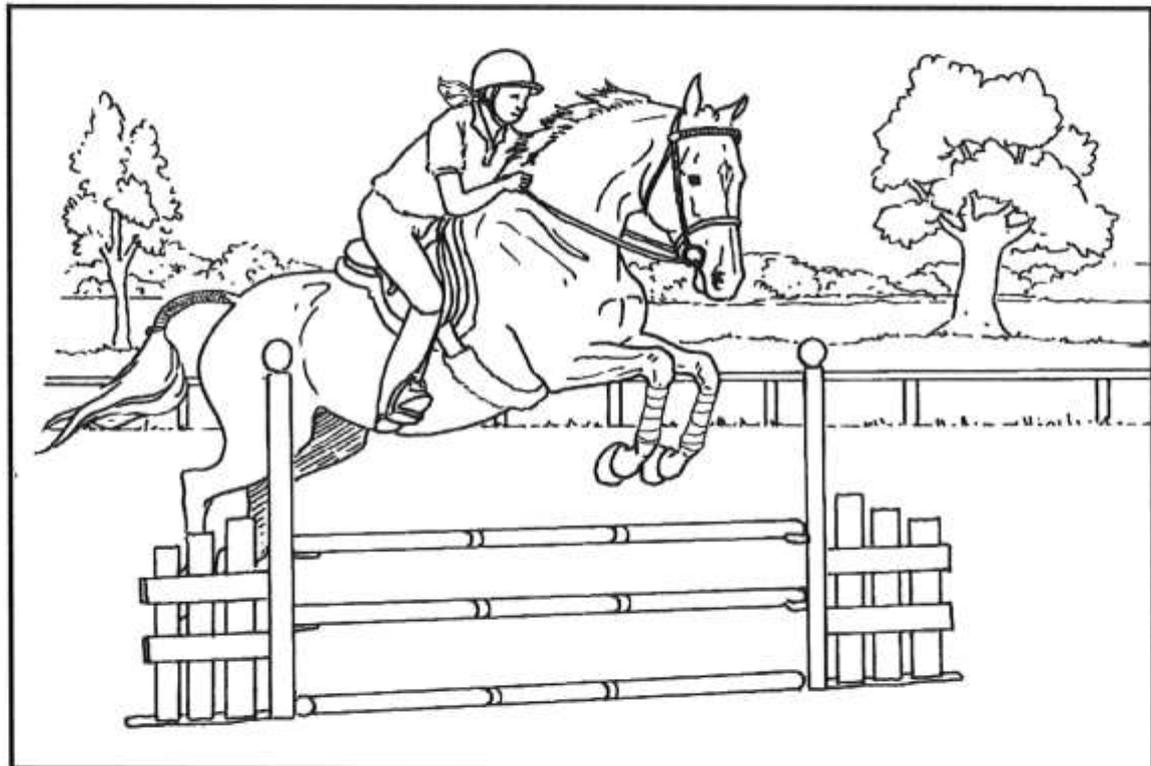
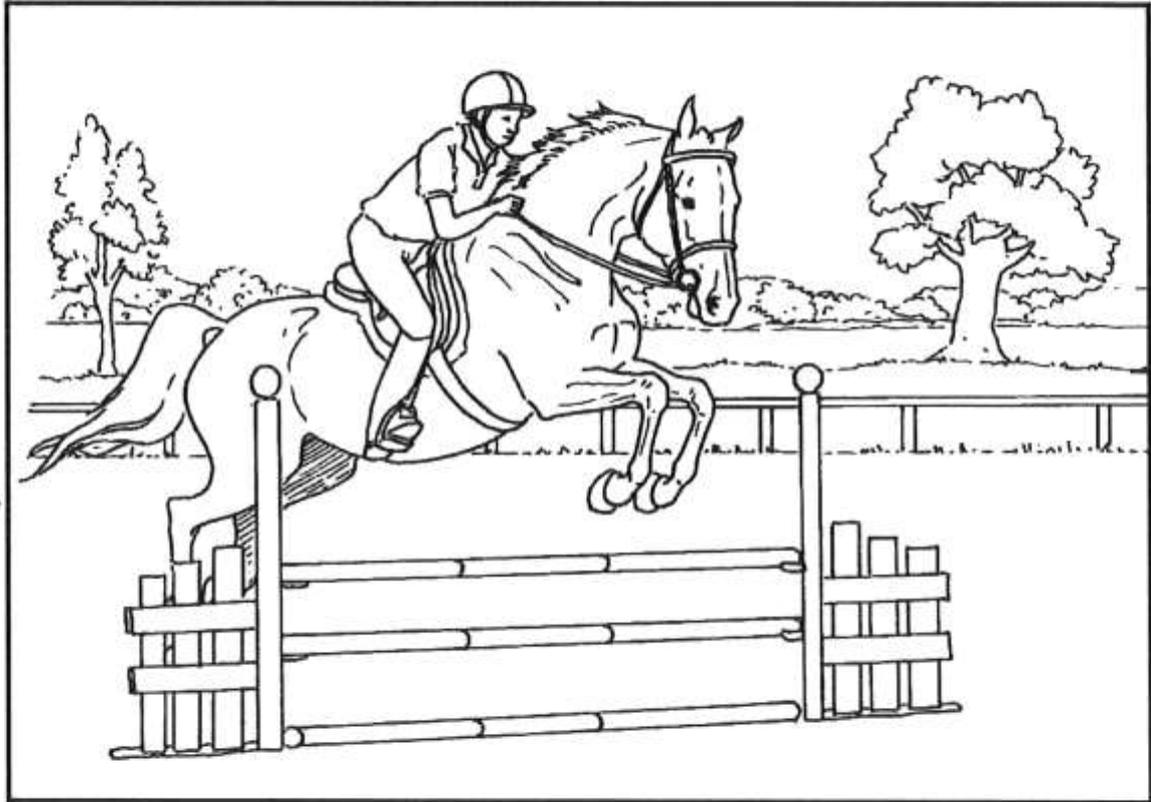
Above: Appleby Fair 1972

Below: Epsom Downs 1931



# Puzzle Page — Horses for Appleby

Can you find 8 differences in the two pictures?



Answers: tail, jump rail stripes, helmet stripe, ponytail, leg wraps, girth cover, horse's star, browband

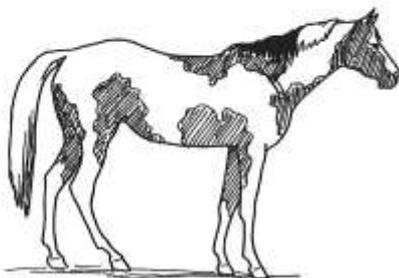
## Tack Shop Word Find



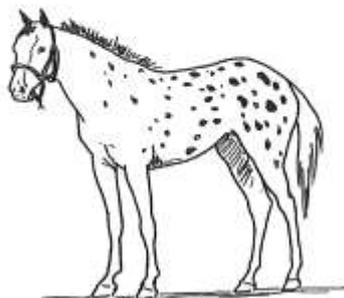
saddle  
bridle  
reins  
girth  
halter  
strirrup  
brush  
bucket  
leadrope  
pad

(C) Breyer

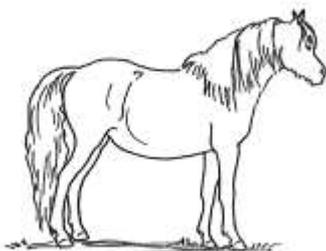
Can you unscramble these six breeds?



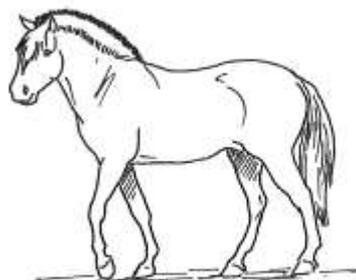
1. ITAPN



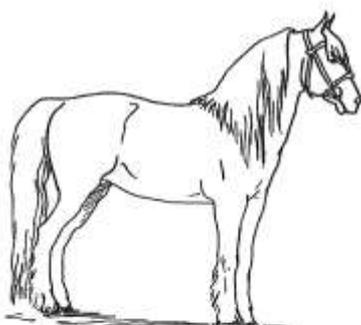
2. OLPASAPAO



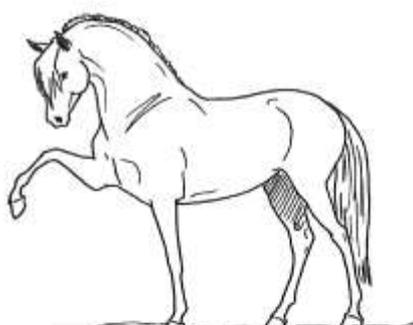
3. ALDEHTSN



4. RGAWNOENI RFOJD



5. ISFENARI



6. UINADNAALS

If you have any quiz ideas, specific puzzles or fun facts you would like to share or see in this newsletter, please send them to us.

## Facts about Horses

- Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up.
- Domestic horses have a lifespan of around 25 years.
- Horses have around 205 bones in their skeleton.
- Horses are herbivores (plant eaters).
- Horses have bigger eyes than any other mammal that lives on land.
- Because horse's eyes are on the side of their head they are capable of seeing nearly 360 degrees at one time.

## STAY IN TOUCH!

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and will sign up for future editions.

Do you have a question about Travellers in prison?

Do you want to start a Traveller Group and would like advice?

Are you looking for resources for Traveller prisoners?

Then please get in touch!  
Traveller Equality Project,

52 Camden Square

London

NW1 9XB

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lers@irishchaplancy.org.uk](mailto:travelers@irishchaplancy.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7482 5525

Our Staff: Ellena Costello  
(Project Officer)



## TYSON FURY SEES OFF PIANTETA IN BELFAST

Tyson Fury, the British former world champion beat Francesco Pianeta on a points decision in their fight in Belfast. Fury beat his Italian opponent 100-90 on referee Steve Gray's scorecard. Sections of the crowd present had booed at the fight's conclusion.



(Above: Tyson Fury and Pianeta Below: Billy Joe Saunders and Demetrius Andrade)



*Billy Joe Saunders takes on Demetrius Andrade*

WBO middleweight champion Billy Joe Saunders will meet Demetrius Andrade on October 20 at the TD Garden in Boston. Saunders will be making the fourth defence of the WBO middleweight title he took from Ireland's Andy Lee in December 2015. Katie Taylor will also be on the bill in October. She will have Boston's huge Irish community behind her as she puts her IBF and WBA featherweight titles on the line against former world female champion Cindy Serrano.

(Left: Katie Taylor)