Welcome to the 24th edition of Travellers in Prison News. As always, we have been extremely busy in the past few months. In this edition, we hear from our Intern from America, Megan. We also hear from Ellena and Liz who visited an exhibition at the Tate Modern about Dale Farm. The picture above was one of the pictures at the exhibition and shows some of the faces of the children who lost their homes. We have also been out and about visiting prisons, helping to celebrate Traveller History month and generally offering support. We had a DVD screening at HMP Brixton and inside you can hear more about the DVD and how to get a copy for your prison. We attended fantastic events at HMP Chelmsford, HMP Erelstoke and HMP Wormwood Scrubs to name but a few to help celebrate Traveller History Month. Please do let us know about any groups or events you had in your prison. Appleby Fair was once again well attended this year and had lots of positive mentions in the mainstream media. Finally, inside we welcome Fiona Mullen, Resettlement Officer for Travellers to the Irish Chaplaincy.
In June 2019 Martin Gallagher was enrolled in the Labour Party training scheme for future Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Labour Party leaders. Martin is a Welsh Traveller, writer, and campaigner for Travelling Ahead, a Welsh advice and advocacy service helping young people and families from the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community. Martin hopes that this direct access to politics will allow for greater representation of the Traveller community: “I am hoping at the very least to highlight the needs for more attention from all sides of the political table towards the injustices that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people face daily.” Martin hopes that with his foot in the door he will be able to amplify the voices of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people across the United Kingdom and actually make tangible change. The training program is titled after British MP Bernie Grant, who was instrumental in the fight to get a public Traveller site built near Wood Green Civic Centre in north London, and was interested in the rights of Traveller, Gypsy, and Roma people.

**Traveller Boy, 10, sends a letter to Theresa May about Traveller Issues**

Nathan Abdul Karim, 10, who is of Romany Gypsy and Iraqi heritage, wrote a letter to then-PM Theresa May to highlight the difficulties Gypsies and Travellers face in developing their own private Traveller sites and to ask for equal rights. The Prime Ministers head of correspondence told Nathan that the Prime Minister “appreciated” the time Nathan took to write to her, and said he was forwarding the letter to the Ministry of Communities and Local Government, which had responsibilities for the issues that Nathan raised.

**August 2nd Rally in Parliament Square to Remember Roma Holocaust Day**

Roma activists GR8 and Grattan Puxton are organising a march and conference on 2nd August to commemorate Roma Holocaust Day. Participants of the group hope that this rally and conference will help propel the Roma political movement in the UK. Typically when the Holocaust is discussed, focus is placed on the Jewish community. The media fails to mention the Roma people in concentration camps. “Even in victims commemoration we can see that Roma are marginalized and excluded.” Organisers are hoping the event on 2nd August brings awareness about the Roma’s experience during the Holocaust as well as recognition of the Roma’s experience today.
THOMAS MCCARTHY WINS TRADITIONAL SINGER OF THE YEAR

Thomas McCarthy was awarded the esteemed Traditional Singer of the Year at this year’s TG4 Gradam Ceoil Awards. His 2017 album, *Jauling the Green Tobar*, released in collaboration with Romani gypsy Viv Legg, proves how his musical identity and Traveller identity are undeniably connected. McCarthy claims his singing is inherited from his mother, who would instill Traveller songs into him and his siblings. Growing up, he recalls that every Travelling family had a slew of songs they would use to meet new people along their travels. Proud of his Irish Traveller heritage, his song lyrics contain “Cant” or the “Gammon” as well as English. McCarthy strongly believes storytelling and singing is a way to link the Travelling community and settled community: “…I’ve been out in America, where I’ve told stories to underprivileged kids in Washington, and their reaction is the same as among children in Ireland. It’s just fabulous to be given that opportunity to make connections.”

On the Road is a podcast broadcast on National Prison Radio for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities. It is a fantastic programme with voices from the GRT community as well as organisations working with the community and more… Its well worth a listen!

Traveller Equality Project
Resources

Reading Books:

Postcards/Posters:

And much more! Contact us for resources for your prison.
My name is Megan and I have been interning at the Irish Chaplaincy for a month! I travelled here all the way from Boston, where I go to Northeastern University. There I study history, and have always been interested in the way charities help those in need. I’m originally from New York, where I grew up in New York City and then moved to the suburbs. London is the only city I’ve travelled to that compares to New York City! At the Irish Chaplaincy, I’ve been able to work on the Traveller Newsletter and visit prisons. My first UK prison visit was to HMP Wandsworth. I was also able to visit HMP Brixton and HMP Wormwood Scrubs for a Traveller event, where I got to meet a lot of amazing people over some really good cabbage, bacon, & mashed potatoes! It has been really interesting to learn about the UK prison system, as it was something I knew nothing about before I came to London.

Since the Irish Chaplaincy has multiple projects, I’ve been able to get a glimpse of all of them. Last week I went on a visit with the Irish Seniors Project, where I got to meet Irish Seniors and listen to them sing. I’ve really enjoyed getting to meet everyone (everyone has been so friendly) and getting the opportunity to learn first-hand about the UK prison system. I hope I can use what I’ve learned here in my future endeavours, and I definitely will be visiting London again!

A DVD ‘Searching for the Travelling People’ sees Damien Le Bas visit people and places that were first visited in the 1960s by a BBC radio programme creating songs with the voices of Travellers and Gypsies. This was one of the first—and only—radio programmes to feature the voices of Travellers and Gypsies themselves and Damien uses this to ask what has changed for Travelling people today. He aims to create a new ballad with quotes from the people he meets on the journey. The ballad is then sung by Thomas McCarthy and Charlotte Andrews. The DVD is a fascinating watch and it’s light and uplifting. We have watched the DVD in prisons such as HMP Highdown and HMP Brixton and response has always been great. If you would like a copy for your prison, please email: info@ruralmedia.co.uk
Please send in your poems, stories, art work or anything you would like published in the newsletter.

**Unspoken Word**

Can someone out there help me

I feel like I’m broken,

Dead out in the ocean

Always out in the open

So how did this happen

We changed so much hoping

That our dreams could never break open

I feel done now I’m broken

I guess it’s my fault I’m roping

String me up, I’m dropping

Down to the deep I’m going

It ain’t your fault I’m stopping,

This is where I belong unspoken,

Just waiting for my door to be open

Never come back these are words unspoken

by Jordan

**Rapoestry**

Looking out at the walls and barbed-wire fencing

Which try and keep me enclosed, locked up and fenced in.

Watching the birds float through the sky

Wings spread wide, such a sight to me eye

To be grateful for being free,

For being fly, for being me.

Myself and I am thankful to see

My chilled-out attitude, the black & white in me!

Truths get written, spoken and heard

There is so much power in words

In black and white, the facts are all clear.

Add the colour of nature, experience in here.

Right now is the only moment that exists

Being free is a must, if it’s what for you wish

Believe in your actions, feelings, and thoughts.

Choose to live good, or do not get caught!

by Peter
TRAVELLING FORWARD

We have recently launched a new project: Travelling Forward, a resettlement project for Travellers in selected London prisons. The project aims to help engage Travellers in prison in education and training whilst serving their sentence to help them into employment on release. We are making links with employers who are willing to help Travellers released from prison into work. A complete ‘through the gate’ service will be provided by our new Resettlement caseworker, Fiona Mullen, and there will be signposting to other services where needed.

We aim to provide a circle of support at the Irish Chaplaincy, as we recognise the need for positive mental health and emotional resilience. If possible we will work with probation and other groups in the community that may be supporting people also. The aim is ultimately to support Traveller men into a meaningful, independent life away from prison.

If you are interested and in Wormwood Scrubs, Wandsworth, Thameside, Brixton or Pentonville please get in touch by writing to the address on the front of the newsletter. If you are a staff member and would like to refer someone from these London prisons, please also get in touch via the address, phone number or email on the front page.

DALE FARM: THE EVICTION

On 19th October 2011, 80 Traveller families lost their 10 year legal battle for their homes. Dale Farm: The Eviction, explored this important event from the perspective of artists from different communities. The exhibition was displayed at the Tate Modern in London in June. Liz from the ICPO and Ellena went along to see the exhibition and we were both taken back by the images, videos and archives that they saw. Liz had been at Dale Farm in 2011 protesting to prevent eviction and was reminded of all the emotions she felt then. There was even a reconstruction of the barricade that became so famous in the mainstream media. (picture below).

The exhibition was curated by Phien O’Reachtigan of Traveller-Art-Performance and Beverley Carpenter of Oblique Arts in association with Tate Exchange Associates 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning.
Appleby Horse Fair 2019 Word Search

FACTS ABOUT APPLEBY HORSE FAIR

• The fair takes place every year during the first week of June
• It attracts 10,000 Gypsies and Travellers, as well as 30,000 other visitors
• In addition to visitors, there are 1000 caravans and several hundred horse-drawn vehicles
• Appleby –in-Westmorland is a market town in Cumbria, Northwest England and has been the host to the fair since 1775
• The fair has never been owned or organized by one group, and does not charge entry—this makes it a true people’s fair!

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.
STAY INTOUCH!

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!

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BOXING

Tyson Fury eased to victory on the occasion of his first fight in Las Vegas in June as he furthered his reputation as the world's finest heavyweight by stopping Germany's Tom Schwarz in the second round.

Fulfilling a lifelong ambition of finally fighting in the Sin City, at the revered MGM Grand, he showed a destructive edge he has rarely previously demonstrated to justify the significant interest he has generated in the US since his fight with Deontay Wilder. Tyson Fury has confirmed that he will take on Deontay Wilder in their eagerly anticipated rematch next year but no official date has been confirmed yet.

BILLY JOE SAUNDERS BEATS SHEFAT ISUFI TO WIN WBO WORLD SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE

Billy Joe Saunders won the vacant WBO world super-middleweight title with a unanimous points victory over Shefat Isufi at Stevenage’s Lamex Stadium in May.

The 29-year-old was briefly wobbled by a right hand in the sixth round but found poise again to capture the belt.

"He caught me in the sixth," said Saunders. "It didn't have me where my legs were gone. I haven't been in a meaningful fight for 14 months. He's number one with the WBO for a reason so he's obviously good."

"My boxing ability will always get me further in the sport I believe.

"I want the big fights, the big names. The big domestic fights, unification fights. I moved up from middleweight as none of them would fight me."