

Issue 3

MAY 2023

Spring Edition



**SURREY GYPSY TRAVELLER
COMMUNITIES' FORUM**

NEWSLETTER

Busy bunnies and busy bees!

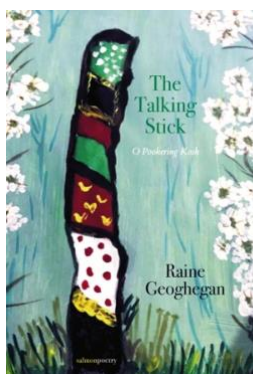
Whilst there has no doubt been some busy bunnies over the Easter period delivering eggs and probably some very indulgent chocolate munching going on to celebrate the bank holiday weekend, behind the scenes at the forum we have been busy bees in preparing for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History month 2023. Spring gives us all the buzz we need, with brighter days and longer evenings, we are already planning the weeks ahead looking forward to the summer months that will follow. We are delighted to announce that after 3 long years away from our beloved Romany Day event, (due to the pandemic) we are back with a bang! With a artist line-up to knock your socks off and plenty to see and do, theres something for everyone to enjoy and get involved with.

You will be rubbing shoulders with community creatives, such as the well known popular country singer Mr Billy Pidgley, with songs such as The Travelling man, the Gambler & the Auctioneer, to name a few. Theres also the chance to show off your very own creative talent, with our open mic session, so come and sing us a song, or recite your very own poem, or bring your guitar and play us a tune! Always fancied yourself as a blacksmith, come forge your own iron with Jake Bowers or get involved with filmmaker

Millie Cooper's "Romany Conversations" a film straight from the heart of the community, followed by a Q & A & Workshop.

Or maybe spin a yarn with craftswoman Imogen Bright Moon, a Romani creative working in textiles, traditional spinning and weaving. Known for her fantastic artwork "Black tent/Black Sarah" which tells of the story of Saint Sarah Kali.

If that doesn't grab you, then maybe a taste of bacon puding sat around the open fire (Yog) listening to stories and the beautiful poetry of winning performace poet, writer and playwright Raine Geoghegan.



The Talking Stick by Raine Geoghegan.

Joining her will be Romany day regular Gypsy Jazz singer Florence Joelle. Paris born Florence, grew up with the sounds and influence of Djanjo Reinhardt which has carved out a unique sound which although deeply rooted in the past, vibrates in the present. "Gypsy Boy" written and performed by Florence is a Romany Day favourite.

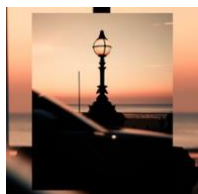


Gypsy Jazz singer (Florence Joelle)

Explore the gallery of beautiful Artwork by Dolly Romany Arts and her prize winning piece 'Nowhere to roam' which was featured at Glastonbury 2022, and get involved in some crafts of your own, Dolly will be flying the flags for Romany Day.



Our official photographer Mark James will be happy to take your photo in our vardo or around the yog! Please remember to check out our Facebook page Surrey SGTCF to keep up with the latest news/pictures and events and check out our website www.sgtcf.uk



And if that's wasn't enough, we will be joined by other community members, for chats and talks of family bloodlines. We will be immersed in History from Surrey Heritage and Bourne Hall's curator Mr Jeremy Harte. We will also have stalls to while away the hours and don't forget to check out all the Rural Living Life Museum has to offer, ride the train, enjoy the many outbuildings, the tiny church, the classic cars and more. There is a play park for the children as well as various activities for them to get involved with and there is an on site café, if you fancy chips or a ice cream.

Tickets are available on the door or you can visit www.rural-life.org.uk under events Romany Day Sunday 11th June 2023 from 10am till 4pm. We can't wait to see you!

GRT Women Health Group – Update

Our last meeting on 30th March 2023 was a great success, we had an amazing turn out and watched the first ever menopause film, made by ladies from our communities for our communities. Collectively we are making headway for change! Women support Women in both physical and mind health. Generously supported by our Surrey NHS GRT trained nurses who attend every meeting and are on hand to support. Nurse Polly welcomed a healthy bouncing baby boy to her world, massive congratulation to her and family, and very soon our Nurse Beth will go on maternity leave, we wish her well and can't wait to meet her new arrival. Covering their maternity leave, we would like to welcome our new health visitor Lucy and our new engagement officer Abbie, also our new midwife Mary-Clare, also joined by Nurse Lauren and heading up the crew is our lovely longstanding Queens Nurse and clinical service manager, for Gypsy Roma Traveller & Inclusion Health – for Children and family health Lisa Gavin. We look forward to meeting them on the 24th of May 2023. We would also like to thank Paige from Choice Support who attends all our meetings in supporting our communities and all the ladies that have made this group successful in sharing their personal lived experiences and knowledge and just making it a great space to be part of.

Also, a massive thank you to our all our guest speakers so far.

News Travels Fast In other news, we were contacted by nurses in Suffolk, who will be heading up cervical screening for GRT communities in their area. (So, if there are any ladies from our communities out there who are from Suffolk area and are interested in being an ambassador and supporting nurses or want to attend a screening then please do get in touch. We also welcome new ambassadors in all areas in the UK for more information, please do join us at one of our meetings.

Community health checks – Surrey NHS service

An opportunity if you're a woman from GRT communities living in Surrey.

The healthcare check is an opportunity for your community to meet our hcc nurse team and discuss anything that maybe worrying them in general health and wellbeing...

Each test involves a finger prick test that allows the nurse to monitor pre-diabetes, cholesterol, and BMI levels- all important in maintaining good overall health. Our checks are aimed at all those aged 25-74 yrs.

We have found this service has worked well and as we are now able to offer in your area, we hope to be able to set up a clinic to allow those who perhaps don't engage with the local GP or other services.

We can offer 6/7 appointments per visit (daytime clinic running from 10.30am till 3pm) or times around best uptake. If demand is great, we can bring in a two-nurse team or make separate clinic dates. As the clinics are run in person, we would seek guidance from you on how best to organise a venue that is central to everyone who might like to take up this opportunity.

Please see their flyer below but contact us at Grtwomenshealthgroup@yahoo.com to help set this up for you.



Community Health Checks | Walk-In Clinic

Date | Time
Venue and Address

The NHS Community Team will be on site providing free health checks and vaccinations for people aged 40 - 74. Our team can talk to you about:

- Blood Pressure
- Blood Tests - Cholesterol and Diabetes
- Body Mass Index
- Cholesterol Review
- Glucose Levels
- Mental Health Support
- Stop Smoking Services
- Vaccines - including Covid and Flu for those who are eligible - available on the day
- Weight Management Support

No ID or appointment is needed to access this service, so please walk-in and speak to the team if you have any questions.

If you have previously had a stroke or been diagnosed with heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes, dementia or high cholesterol, we advise that you speak to your GP if you have any concerns. Our team can help you with the next steps if you're not sure.

Gypsy Roma Traveller women's health group next meeting.

Wednesday 24th May 2023 1pm- online UK time. Welcome to attend from anywhere to take part. Our session runs every 8 weeks.

Our next session welcomes Guest Speaker Imogen- who will be talking about PMDD (Premenstrual dysphoric disorder) and Kelly, who is going to talk us through EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) We Welcome you -Email us to register for the link.



The next Women's Gypsy,Roma,Traveller health group meeting will be held on the 24th May 2023 at 1pm online... To register for link please email.
Grtwomenshealth@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you.

If you wish to book at one to one with one of our GRT trained NHS nurses, please pre-book via our email address. This is not an emergency service this is an on the day private one to one break out room with a nurse. Who maybe able to offer you advice for your needs.

Our next meeting will feature EFT & PMDD with our special guest speakers. Age 18+ welcome.

Women Over 18 years only

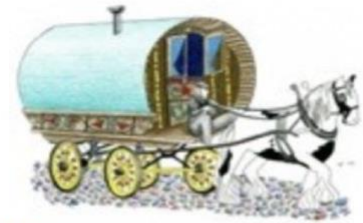
We look forward to meeting you.

SGTCF AGM*Save the Date*

*Thursday 18th of May
2023 – 10am arrival
for 10.30 start.*

Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum welcomes you to attend in person our next AGM meeting. This is a hybrid meeting so we can send out a link nearer the time if you would prefer, please contact us through our Facebook page for this on Surrey SGTCF and we will be happy to email that out to you, but of course we would love to see you in person over a cup of tea and slice of cake.

*Surrey Gypsy
Traveller
communities forum*



**Warmly welcome you to our next
AGM Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 18th
May 2023
10.30 till 1pm**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
SEE YOU THERE**

Venue

**SURREY HISTORY CENTRE
130 GOLDSWORTH ROAD
WOKING
SURREY
GU21 6ND**

**WWW.SGTCF.UK
FB-Surrey SGTCF**

**Refreshments
provided**



Surrey Police meeting

Surrey Police hold a meeting every 2 months to review the policing approach to unauthorised encampments. The intention is to make sure the police approach is fair, proportionate, and appropriate, particularly after changes to legislation in 2022 which gave police additional powers. The inclusion of Community Members in these meetings would give a valuable balanced insight into the police approach and hold Police to account where necessary. The meeting observations, feedback and recommendations help continuous learning and improvement, and if anyone would like to be part of these meetings please get in touch. They take place online and please email the Forum or andrew.hill@surrey.police.uk with any questions or interest.

Thank you.



Surrey Police