



# Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month



Lambeth



This year's **Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month** has been organised by **Lambeth Traveller Education Service** and **Lambeth Libraries**.

## Introduction

Welcome to this year's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month celebrations in Lambeth, managed by Lambeth Traveller Education Service and Libraries.

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are the largest Ethnic Minority community in the European Union with over 12 million people. In the UK, Romani Gypsies and Travellers of Irish Heritage are recognised ethnic minority communities in the UK and number 300,000. Roma came to Europe 700 years ago and Gypsies arrived in the British Isles 500 years ago. Irish Traveller history goes back a thousand years.

Each year in June, Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month, provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the richness of the history, cultures and languages of these communities. It also provides us with an opportunity to challenge myths, tackle prejudice and build understanding and respect between communities.

In June 2009, Lambeth's celebrations included dance, music and art workshops, author talk and story telling, film shows and photographic exhibitions. In 2010, there will be an even wider and more varied range of events. Please come and join us at some of the events we are hosting throughout June.

We would like to thank our partners, Lambeth Equality and Diversity Team, The Ritzy cinema and Clapham Picture House, without who's funding and support this exciting programme of events would not have been possible

## Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month Launch June 2010

Lambeth Traveller Education Service and Libraries invite you to join us for the official launch of Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month.

The launch will take place at Brixton Library on the 27 May from 10-12pm. The morning will be an opportunity to celebrate GRT culture by the hand of Emmanuel the Magnificent. Emmanuel brings to life traditional and cultural circus skills including hat juggling and African bowl spinning and acrobatics in this mind-blowing interactive performance.



# Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month 2010

## Half Term Events

### Storytelling

Vibrant storyteller Tricia George, creates a magical world of narrative where the atmosphere is enhanced with songs or interactive chants. The audience are invited to be characters from the stories, and many exciting props are used to make the experience visual. Tricia masterfully captures the essence of traditional Gypsy, Roma and Traveller stories through singing, dancing and the spoken word. An interactive session not to be missed for both adults and children alike.



#### West Norwood Library

**Tuesday 1 June**

Time 2.30 – 3.30pm

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### Clapham Library

**Wednesday 2 June**

Time 11am – 12 noon

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### South Lambeth Library

**Wednesday 2 June**

Time 2.30 – 3.30pm

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### Minet Library

**Thursday 3 June**

Time 11am – 12 noon

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### Brixton Library

**Thursday 3 June**

Time 2.30 – 3.30pm

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### Carnegie Library

**Friday 4 June**

Time 11am – 12 noon

Ages 4 – 11 years

#### West Norwood Library

**Friday 4 June**

Time 2.30 – 3.30pm

Ages 4 – 11 years

## Primary schools

### Theatre Performance with music and storytelling workshops

In toto Theatre presents - Jankyn and the witch's daughter; a Roma tale from Romania. A unique and vibrant Gypsy tale about a young man and his heroic quest to keep the girl he wants to marry. This story is performed using puppets and objects, dynamically woven together with driving rhythms from a range of instruments. The performance is suitable for children 6 years upwards.

Following the theatre show, In toto are offering further one-hour music and storytelling workshops based on the performance. Limited spaces will be available for the workshops.

#### Nettlefold Hall, West Norwood Library

**Tuesday 8 June**

Time

10.00 – 11.00am: Theatre performance

11.00 – 11.40am: Music workshop 1

11.40 – 12.20pm: Music workshop 2

11.00 – 11.40am: Storytelling

workshop

Ages 6 – 11 years

### Author Visit

Writer of over 40 children's books, author Pippa Goodhart reads excerpts and talks about her book, Toffee and Pie. A story about a boy named John from a Gypsy family. John has a pony called Pie who he has to leave when he reluctantly needs to start at a new school. However, he befriends a boy who has a pony as well.

#### Clapham Library

**Wednesday 9 June**

Time 10.30 – 11.30am

Ages 7 – 11 years

#### Streatham Library

Time 1.30 – 2.30pm

Ages 7 – 11 years

### Reminiscence Workshop

A not to be missed opportunity to meet Carol De'ville, an English Romany brought up in a very rich culture. Carol talks about her life and compares her upbringing to other cultures. Learn about some of the traditional artifacts, which Carol will share with you.



### Minet Library

**Thursday 10 June**

Time 10.30 – 11.30am

Ages 7 – 11 years

### South Lambeth library

**Thursday 24 June**

Time 10.30 – 11.30am

Ages 7 – 11 years

### Dance Workshops

Back by popular demand, the Roma Culture Workshop aims to promote an understanding of Roma culture by opening up access to Roma heritage to wider audiences. These workshops create a wonderful opportunity to join in, enjoy and practice the Roma dance routines. They inform pupils about the influences of music and dance and the importance it holds



in Roma culture. Pupils will learn traditional dance movements and listen to traditional music and instrument used.

### Carnegie Library

**Friday 11 June**

Time

10.30 – 12 noon: Workshop 1

1.00 – 2.30pm: Workshop 2

### Circus Skills and storytelling

Some Travellers are from circus families, which tour countries and cities old and new to entertain people with their skills and craftsmanship. Ghanaian born, Emmanuel the Magnificent brings to life traditional and cultural circus skills including hat juggling and African bowl spinning and acrobatics in this mind-blowing interactive performance.

This is a very lively, energetic and charismatic performance for both adults and children not to be missed.

### Nettlefold Hall, West Norwood Library

**Tuesday 15 June**

Time 10 – 11am

Ages 4 – 11 years

### Films

#### Danny Champion of the World

Rural England 1955. William Smith and his son Danny live in a caravan



on a few acres of land, making their living by running a filling station and car repair service. When the refuse to sell up to a local landowner Hazell, who claims to want the land so that he can expand his vast pheasant-school, he turns nasty and threatens to get them out one way or another. William retaliates by taking up poaching again, and before long, Danny joins in, with an idea of catching hundreds of birds in one night.

Before and after the film screening children could have the opportunity to meet Carol De'vile, an English Romany brought up in this very rich culture. Carol talks about her life and compares her upbringing to other cultures. Learn about some of the traditional artifacts, which Carol will share with you.

### Clapham Picture House

**Friday 18 June**

Time 10 am

### The Ritz

**Friday 25 June**

Time 10 am

### Storytelling

Come and listen to Storyteller Kate Corkery.

### West Norwood Library

**Tuesday 22 June**

Time 9.45 – 10.45am

Ages 4 – 7 years

### Clapham Library

**Tuesday 22 June**

Time 2.00 – 3.00pm

Ages 4 – 7 years

**Booking is required for all school events. Contact the appropriate libraries.**

## Secondary Schools

### Theatre performance

#### Romany Theatre Company presents O Romani Tober

O Romani Tober (The Romany Road) is a 30 minute drama that explores the extraordinary history and journey of the Romany people. From the exodus of musicians, dancers, storytellers, acrobats, herbalists and fortune tellers from India 200 years ago and their migration to Europe and Great Britain, on to the plight of Romany people today. The story is told through drama, poetry and music, with songs performed in the Romani language. The performance is followed by a workshop on Romany culture and heritage and a Q&A session.

#### Thursday 10 June

Nettlefold Hall, West Norwood Library

Time 11:15 – 11:45: Performance  
11:45 – 12:45pm: Workshop

Ages Year Group 7 and above

### Film Screenings

#### Latcho Drom

Latcho Drom (which translates as “Have a Good Journey” or “Safe Journey”) documents the lives and sounds of Gypsy musicians and dancing troupes from almost a dozen countries - including India, Turkey, Romania, Slovakia, France and Spain. It retraces the steps of the original Gypsies from a thousand years ago as they journeyed from northern India to Europe and North Africa. The film has a magical quality that does not require a commentary: we see the harsh conditions and abject poverty that many of the nomads endure. Through music, we witness the common thread that binds the various tribes - their clear passion for complex rhythm, which acts like a kind of folk history.

**Schools’ screening Wed 16 June,**  
10am at the Ritzy

#### Flamenco Workshop

Following on from the film screening of Latcho Drom, two schools have an opportunity to work with International Flamenco artists from Spain in this vibrant and colourful workshop.



#### Brixton Library

Flamenco workshop 1:

11:30am – 12:10pm

Flamenco workshop 2:

1:00 – 1:40pm

#### When the Road Bends – Tales of a Gypsy Caravan

110 mins, Director Jasmine Dellal

“You cannot walk straight  
when the road bends.”

Romani proverb



This dynamic musical documentary follows five Gypsy bands from four

countries who unite for the Gypsy Caravan. As we are drawn behind-the-scenes on the tour we discover the real lives of these musicians, and the tales of these characters are woven between their performances – allowing us to understand and celebrate Romani culture and prejudice of their shared ancestry.

**Schools’ screening Tue 29 June,**  
10am at The Ritzy

For schools enquiries and bookings please call 0207 326 2611 or email [elinor.w@picturehouses.co.uk](mailto:elinor.w@picturehouses.co.uk)

**Booking is required for all school events. Contact the appropriate libraries.**

## Under 5s

Resident storyteller of the Irish Cultural Centre, Kate Corkery retells Irish Traveller tales, which she has been inspired by.

**West Norwood Library  
Tuesday 22 June**

Time 11am – 12 Noon

## Community Events

### Family Fun Day

Streatham Vale Park, Abercairn Road,  
London SW16 5AL

**Saturday 12 June**

### Storytelling with Tricia George

An interactive session not to be missed for both adults and children alike.

Time 1:00 – 2:00pm

Ages All

## Adult Events

### Thursday 17 June

Local History Talk - Norwood's Gypsy, Traveller history with Lambeth Archivist Len Reilly

**West Norwood Library**

Time 7pm

Norwood was so named after the Great North Wood and at its centre lived a bustling Gypsy community. From North of the river gentlemen brought their ladies to have their fortune told, stopping at the Gypsy Tavern, and when taking in the sights

seeing Margaret Finch, the Gypsy Queen. The community left its mark on Norwood with the naming of the local roads but find out more about this heritage in Norwood and the surrounding area with a fascinating talk by Lambeth Archivist Len Reilly.



© Lambeth Archives

### Tuesday 22 June

Walk: On the trail of the Gypsy's: a walk around West Norwood with Lambeth Archivist Anne Ward

**West Norwood Library**

Time 6.30pm

“The village of Norwood is delightfully situated in the skirts of an extensive wood, and has long been famed... for the beauty of its surrounding scenery... [Where] the nut-brown

Gypsy pitched his camp under the shades of its forest...” (Norwood and Dulwich, 1860).

Join Anne Ward to view many of Norwood's historic institutions and follow the trail of the original Norwood Gypsy Queen, Margaret Finch.

### Thursday 24 June

Flamenco performance,

**Brixton Library**

Time 7pm

Flamenco is music and History all rolled into one. The fiercest expression off the human spirit ever devised. The flamenco Express policy is simply to obtain the best flamenco performers available, give them artistic freedom, and present them to international audiences. The result is an amazing diversity of voices all committed to delivering their own view of the world, in their own unique way.

### Tuesday 29 June

Over 50's

Flamenco Tea Time Treat

### Wednesday 30 June

Ritzy Cinema

Music Event: Gypsy Fever

## Exhibition

**West Norwood Library Exhibition Room**

**Exhibition 1 June – 30 June 2010**

Be - longing Photography Exhibition by Eva Sajovic portraying Gypsy Roma Travellers in England and Slovenia.



## Film Screenings

### Ritzy Cinema

Brixton Oval. Coldharbour Lane,  
SW2 1JG. Tel: 0871 704 2065

### Clapham Picture House

76 Venn Street, London SW4 0AT,  
Tel: 0871 704 2055

### Latcho Drom, 1993, 103 mins, Director Tony Gatlif, Cert U

Playing as the World Cinema Matinee

### Friday 11 - Thursday 17 June 2010

Time For screening times please  
check with The Ritzy.

### When the Road Bends – Tales of a Gypsy Caravan

110 mins, Director Jasmine Dellal.  
Playing as the World Cinema Matinee.

### Friday 25 June - 1 July 2010

Time For screening times please  
check with The Ritzy.

### Saturday Kids Club

### Saturday 19 June Clapham Picture House

£3:00 per child,  
accompanying adult's free  
Time 10:30am

### Saturday 26 June

#### The Ritzy

£2.00 per child,  
accompanying adult's free  
Time 10.30am

Before and after the film screening  
children could have the opportunity  
to meet Carol De'vile.

### Gypsy Fever 30 June

Time Please check with The Ritzy  
Prepare to have your soul tenderised  
in a simmering goulash of Romany  
gypsy tunes, traditional Balkan folk,  
Russian Gypsy romance and  
Gypsy Fever's own ethno-rhythms.  
Guaranteed to stir your nomadic  
spirit and get your soul (and your  
feet!) dancing.

Upstairs Bar  
at The Ritzy.



## Links

### Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

Find out about Gypsy, Roma  
and Traveller history and culture,  
and about plans for the month.  
[www.grthm.co.uk](http://www.grthm.co.uk)

### The Roma Support Group

The RSG was established by the  
Roma people and is led by them  
today.  
[www.romasupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk)

### The National Association of Teachers of Travellers

Find contact details for the Traveller  
Education Support Services and  
other useful information.  
[www.natt.org.uk](http://www.natt.org.uk)

### The Irish Traveller Movement

ITM seeks to raise the profile of Irish  
Travellers in Britain and increase  
their say in decision-making.  
[www.irishtraveller.org.uk](http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk)

### Southwark Travellers' Action Group

Support service for the Traveller  
community in Southwark, offering  
advocacy and advice to the  
community.

Tel: 020 7639 1823  
Peckham Settlement, Goldsmith  
Road, London SE15 5TF

### Lambeth Traveller Education Service

The service aims to enable Traveller  
pupils in Lambeth to gain equal  
access to their legal entitlement  
to education and to help raise  
their level of attainment.

Tel: 020 7926 9680  
E-mail: [nolano@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:nolano@lambeth.gov.uk)

## Libraries Contact details

### Brixton Library

Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ.  
Tel: 020 7926 1056

### Carnegie Library

188 Herne Hill Road, SE24 0AG.  
Tel: 020 7926 6050

### Clapham Library

1 Northside, Clapham Common  
SW4 0QW.  
Tel: 020 7926 0717

### **Durning Library**

167 Kennington Lane, SE11 4HF.  
Tel: 020 7926 8682

### **Lambeth Archives and Minet Library**

52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY.  
Tel (Library): 020 7926 6073  
Tel (Archives): 020 7926 6076

### **South Lambeth Library**

180 South Lambeth Road, SW8 1QP.  
Tel: 020 7926 0705

### **Streatham Library**

63 Streatham High Road, SW16 1PL.  
Tel: 020 7926 6768

### **Waterloo Library**

114-118 Lower Marsh, SE1 7AG.  
Tel: 020 7926 8750

### **West Norwood Library and Nettlefold Hall**

1 Norwood High Street, SE27 9JX.  
Tel (Library): 020 7926 8092  
Tel (Archives): 020 7926 8070

### **Reading Groups:**

Lambeth libraries run adult, teenage, family and children's reading groups. Also over 50s silver surfers and parent and toddler groups. For more information contacts your local library.

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*Gypsy Roma Traveller*

**HISTORY MONTH** June 2010



**If you would like this information in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or in another language, please phone 0207 926 9680.**