

Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service



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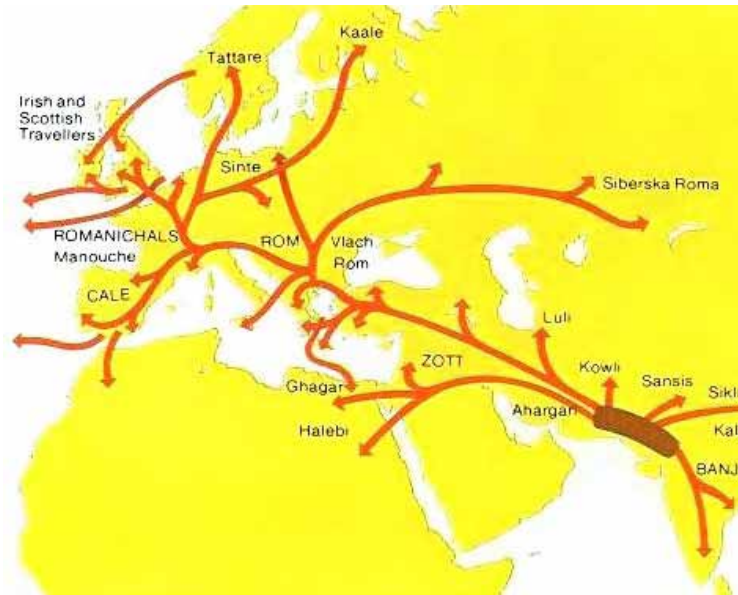
7th January 2011

Welcome

Cambridge

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

A short history



◆ 1505 - First record of Gypsies in Britain

◆ 1530 - First law making being an immigrant Gypsy punishable by death

◆ 1596 - 106 Gypsies condemned to death at one sitting in York

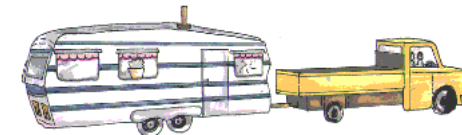
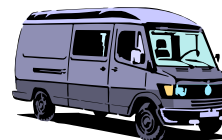
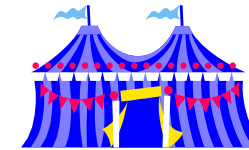
◆ 1783 - First act repealing the above legislation

- Second World War 300-500,000 Gypsies died in the concentration camps
- 1989 - Anglo-Romany Gypsies legally recognised as an ethnic group
- 2000 - Irish Travellers legally recognised as an ethnic group

Who are the Travellers?

There are several main groups of Travellers in the United Kingdom

- Anglo-Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers, Welsh Gypsies and Scottish Travellers
- Fairground or Show people
- Circus families
- Boat people
- New Travellers
- Roma



Occupations

- ◆ Traditionally worked in agriculture
- ◆ Men: horse-trading and handling
- ◆ Women: selling door-to-door
- ◆ Whole family took part in earning the living
- ◆ Crafts passed on from parents to children
- ◆ Industrialisation meant traditional occupations became unprofitable

Occupations continued

- ◆ Still involved with horse-trading
- ◆ Horse racing and harness racing and related occupations
- ◆ Car sales
- ◆ Dressmaking
- ◆ Almost anything

Occupations

- ◆ “In reality there is no such thing as a “traditional Gypsy trade”. Travellers have always changed with the times. The only real tradition is the constant identification of trading opportunities suited to current market needs in order to produce wealth in an independent and often highly mobile way.”
- ◆ (Prejudice and Pride: The Experience of Young Travellers)
Romany journalist Jake Bowers 2004

Education

- ◆ Traditionally not valued as parents passed on skills/crafts to children
- ◆ Now more children accessing education
- ◆ More going to Primary schools
- ◆ More transferring to Secondary schools
- ◆ More staying on to Y11
- ◆ But: education still not fully valued
- ◆ Secondary curriculum seen as irrelevant
- ◆ Basic literacy & numeracy seen as enough
- ◆ Problems with certain subjects e.g. PSHE

Where do Travellers live?











Abraham Loveridge



Emily Allum



Jimmy Crow's Family



Fred Allum



Cooking outdoors

Moving and communication

- ◆ Women selling door-to-door in one area
- ◆ Men move to the next stopping place or “Atching tan”
- ◆ How do the women know how to find the men?



This is the interior of a wagon built for Swales Forest of Kent in 1906 by John Rudderham of Leytonstone, London. A wall pulls out to form the bunk.



www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/expatpicturegalleries/7885692/The-forgotten-art-of-Romani-varDOS.html



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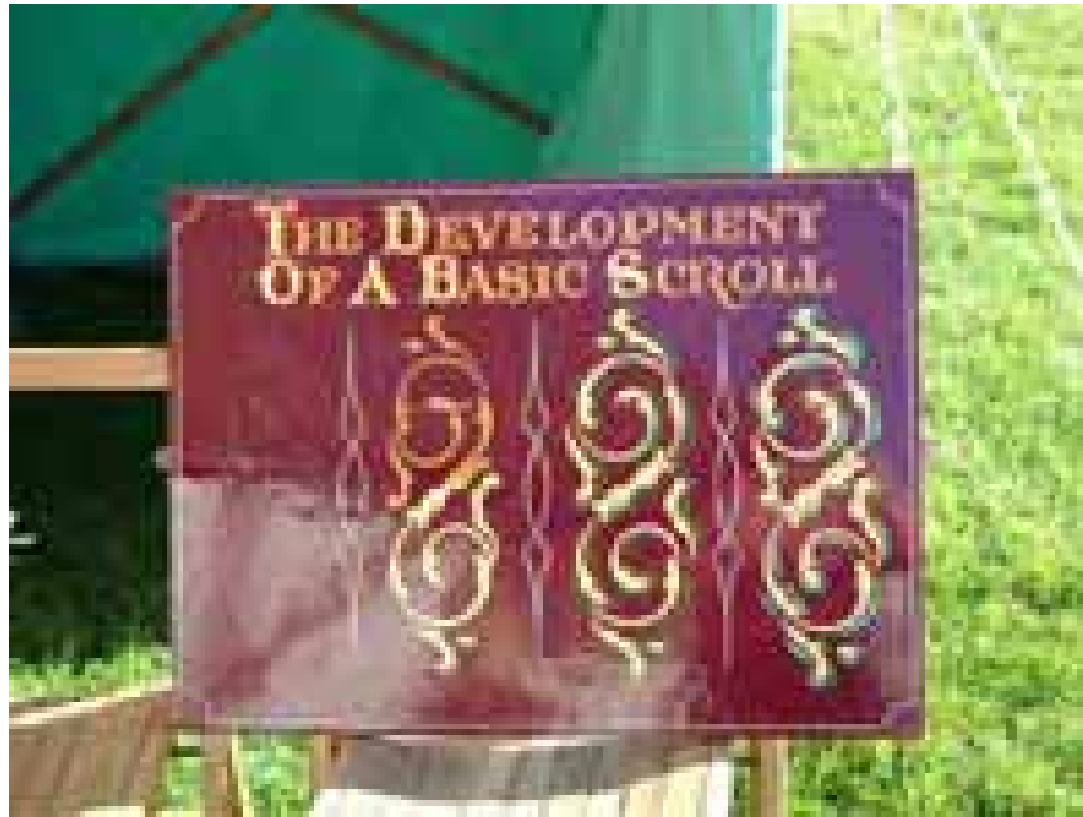






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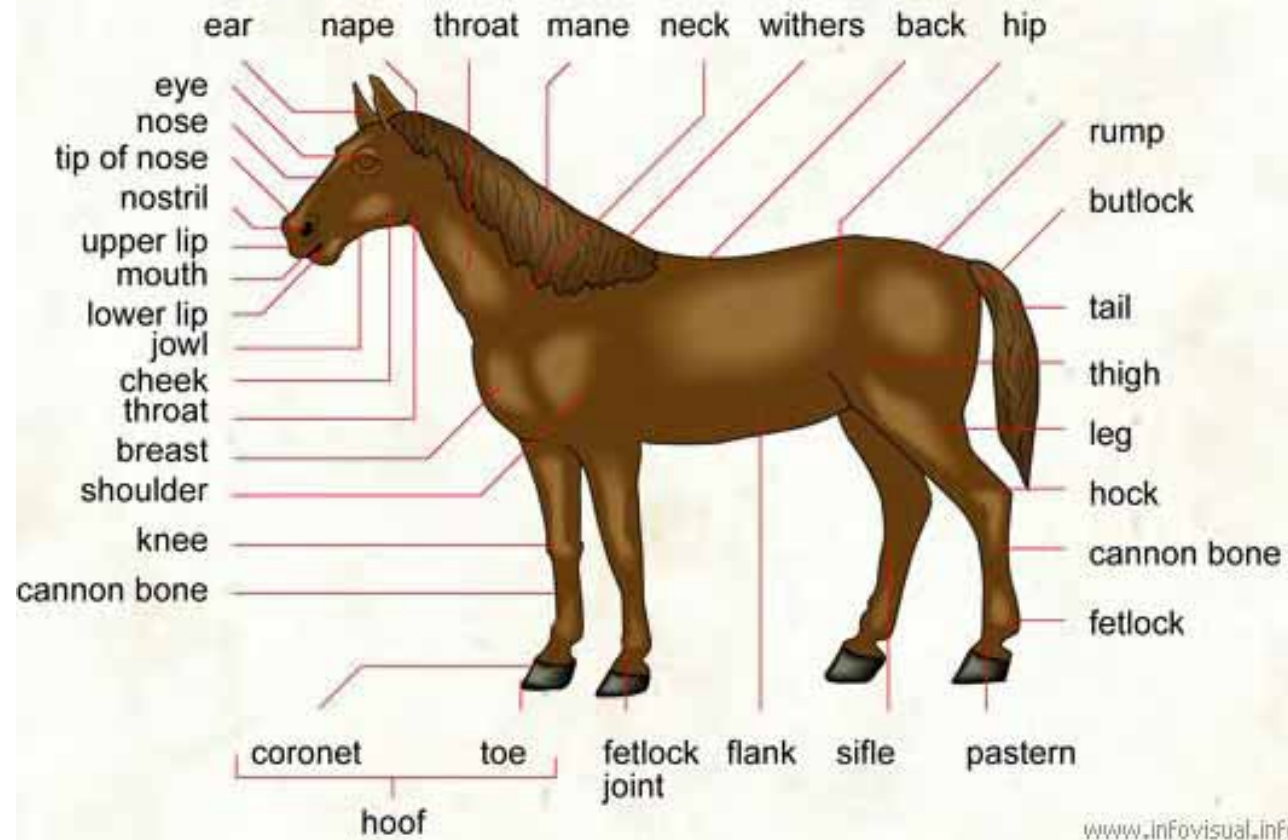
The Gypsy horse came about through a combination of different ponies. They have been bred to be wonderful family horses. They are also called Drum horses, and are most often black and white, or brown and white in colour.



The Gypsy way of life means that their horses need to be very calm and that have a good temperament.



MORPHOLOGY OF A HORSE



Ferreting

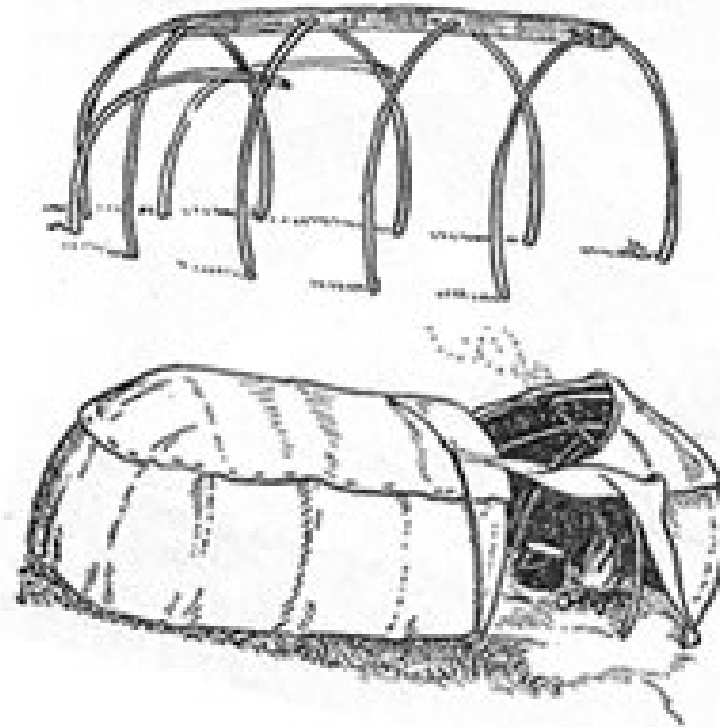


Willow tree



Willow carvings





Moving On by Kathleen Cunningham

We're moving! We're moving!
Come on everyone.
Get all your things packed down,
It's time for moving on.

Pick up all your children's things,
Your kettles, bowls and pots,
Pick up all your water cans
And your black kettle props.

Take down the line of washing
And put it in the van,
Harness up the pony,
Find the puppy if you can.

Gather up the chickens
And put them in the cage,
They don't like to be moving,
They crow and squawk with rage.

Make sure all the children
Are warm and safe inside,
On the floor of the caravan,
For that's where they must ride.

The steps are lifted on the rack,
The spare pony he is tied up to the back
And the dog he sits on mother's lap
Out on the wagon footboard.
Dad he takes the driving reins
And his place at the outside.

“Come on girl! Gee up!” He says
And off we start to go,
How long we will be moving for
No one seems to know.

It may be hours, it may be days,
Before we find another place,
Where we can rest and stay a while
And enjoy a little space.

People stand and watch and stare
And we hear them breathe a sigh,
But is it of relief – or envy,
As we go slowly by?

Bender Tents



A family with a bender tent at Mitcham Common in 1881



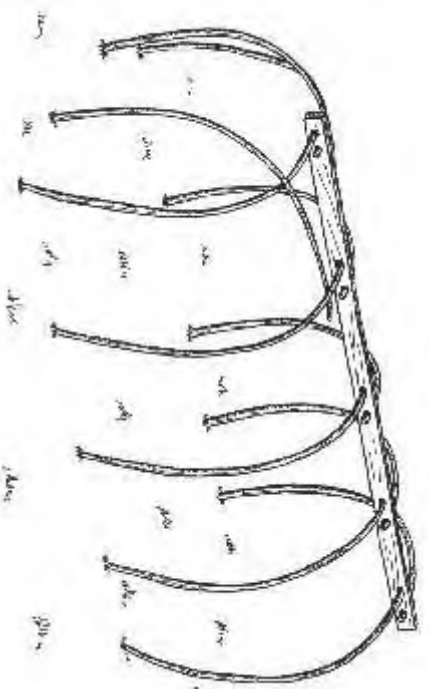
A photo from 1910 or so with a 'double bender' tent on either side and the fire in between.



Romnichel winter double-bender. This large tent has a yurt-like chimney. Circa 1910.



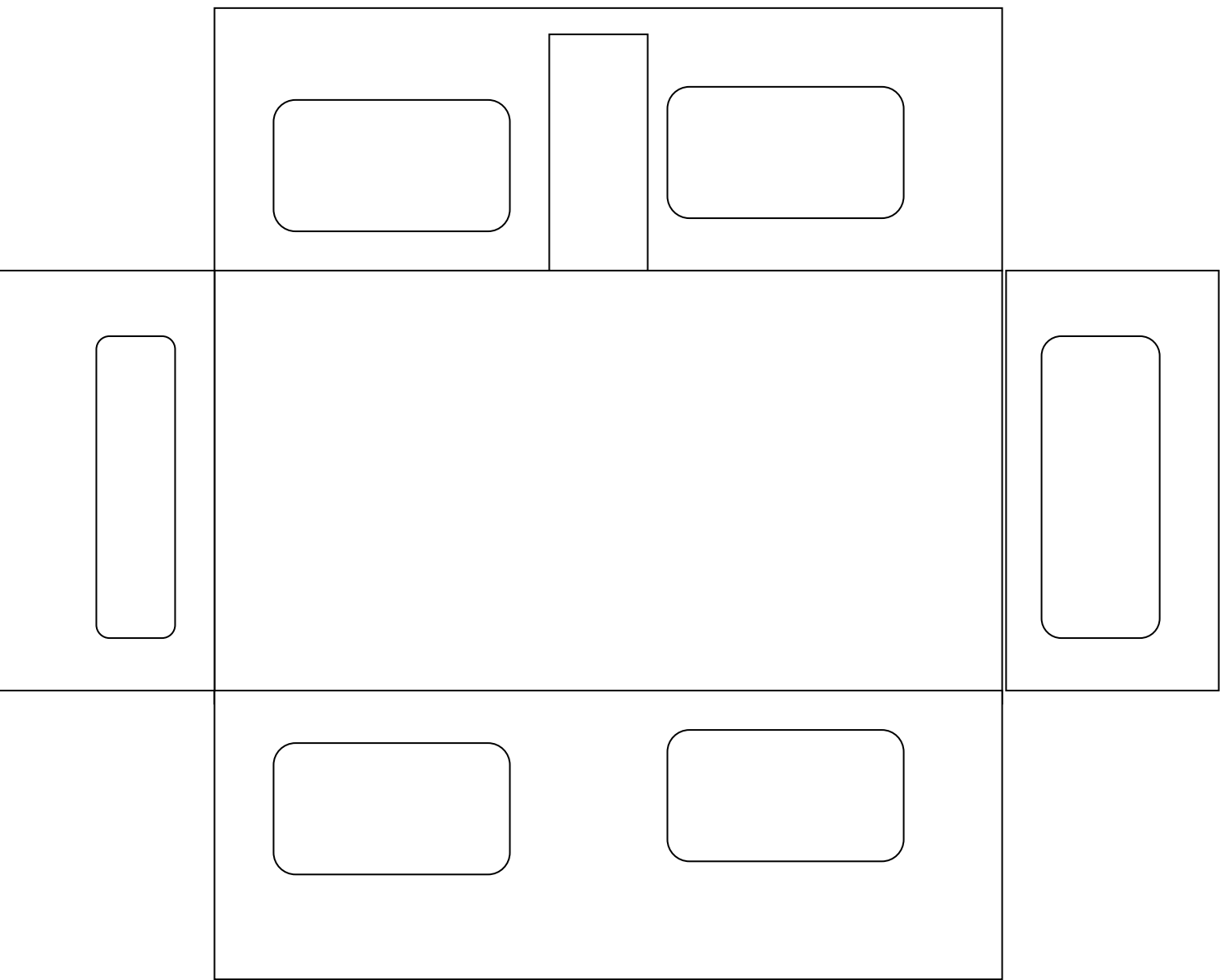
Taken in the last couple of years.



Framework for Bender Tent

Design your own trailer

Here is the basic net. What do you want to put inside?
What colours and patterns do you want to use on the outside?



Peg Making: A traditional Gypsy Traveller craft...

A traditional occupation associated with Gypsy Travellers has been making and selling wooden clothes pegs.



Pegs were traditionally made from wood from the willow tree, this is because there are lots of willow trees and they grow very quickly. The willow wood is also quite soft, so it is easy to shape with a sharp knife.

- Cut a branch of willow, about 1cm to 1.5 cm thick.
- Remove the bark, and cut the branch into roughly 10 to 12cm lengths.
- Place a thin (0.4cm) band of thin metal, usually from an old tin) and place around the top before the willow stick.
- Use a bradawl to make a hole in the band and stick. Wrap the band around the stick, about 2 cms from the top, and then use a thin tack to secure the band onto the wooden peg.
- Then use a knife to split the stick lengthways to the point of the band.
- Use the knife to shape the end of the pegs into a semi-circular shape.
- Use sand paper to smooth the finished peg

The split willow peg kept the clothes on the line.