



ROMANI CULTURAL & ARTS COMPANY



Rover Way Caravan
Site, Cardiff, Wales

For Gypsies, with Gypsies, by Gypsies

We exist to ensure that Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities, their children and young people live in a more open, tolerant society where they are accepted.

We believe that the people best-placed to affect change for Gypsies, Roma & Travellers are Gypsies, Roma & Travellers. We are 100% Gypsy, Roma & Traveller led and managed. We are unique.

We make a difference.

**“THIS IS A UNIQUE
WELSH-BASED
COMPANY THAT
SHOULD BE
SUPPORTED IN EVERY
POSSIBLE WAY. “**

*- YVONNE CHEAL, ARTS COUNCIL
OF WALES REPORT, 2012*



Our deep roots within the GRT communities

We are proud of our heritage and roots. All our staff are from the Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities; many having lived on caravan sites throughout the UK. This is important for us. We believe that our community has the ability and strength to have their rich culture and heritage acknowledged whilst being accepted by the mainstream.

The usual ‘trust’ barrier that blocks other agencies gaining access to site-based communities is not an issue for us. We are the community, we are trusted as our community knows we only have their interests at heart.

**Child on Rover Way
Caravan Site, Cardiff,
Wales**

Some Gypsy & Traveller Caravan Sites are not adequately managed or maintained by local authorities. Historically, the low literacy levels of residents have been exploited by authorities who could maintain a high degree of fear and control. Residents can still pay very high charges and utility bills and be afraid of complaining of poor standards in case they are forced to leave the site and move off their pitch.



**“WITHOUT THE
ROMANI CULTURAL &
ARTS COMPANY, OUR
CHILDREN WOULD
HAVE NOTHING TO DO“**

*- PARENT & RESIDENT FROM
ROVER WAY CARAVAN SITE,
CARDIFF, WALES*

A Caravan Site
resident from Cardiff
speaking at a RCAC
event

Consultation with the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities can be a challenge for most organisations and agencies. With little trust for authorities and agencies that are seen to have systematically failed them, the GRT community can become reclusive and detached; only compounding their sense of disengagement and vulnerability. The lack of trust becomes a vicious circle.

Allowing our community to stand up, speak out and be noticed

With our unrivalled connections with the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities we are able to support, encourage and facilitate consultation and discussion directly with and even led by the GRT community.

We ensure deep, thorough, meaningful consultation to enable the true voice of the GRT community to be heard and harnessed.

We believe that the community has the skills and confidence to express themselves - our organisation has become the ‘microphone’ of choice, through which the community speaks.

Taking workshops and activities directly onto caravan sites

We have a ground-breaking project management process. We take outstanding, life-changing arts and crafts workshops directly onto caravan sites for the social, emotional and educational benefit of Gypsy & Traveller children and young people.

Our aim is to ensure that children and young people experience their own culture and heritage in a hands-on way while developing social engagement, self-esteem and personal confidence levels. We ensure that children and young people mix and socialise in ways that other agencies cannot support. We are proud of the positive changes we see as a result of our work.

“MY CONFIDENCE HAS IMPROVED BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN GOING TO WORKSHOPS ON SITE“

- YOUNG PERSON & RESIDENT FROM GYPSY CARAVAN SITE

Gypsy, Roma & Traveller children performing at one of RCAC's events

Since 2009, RCAC has become the organisation that has led and developed national Welsh events and exhibitions. These events showcase the best of the rich culture and heritage that Gypsies, Roma & Travellers are quite rightly wishing to hold onto and be proud of. Many children and young people prepare and attend these exciting events and benefit from them.



Gypsy, Roma & Traveller children performing at RCAC's History Gala Event

The National Welsh Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History month is an excellent event. Planning starts early in the previous autumn to allow for partnership working and also to allow schools to prepare and attend the Gala Event in the summer of the following year. Hundreds of children and young people attend from all over Wales and benefit enormously.

National Welsh Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History Month

We organise and facilitate many events, locally and nationally. We work in partnership with several agencies and statutory bodies. More importantly, we work very closely with the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities themselves to harness their great spirit and pride for their own culture and heritage.

Our outstanding project management processes lead to a variety of national activities that lead up to the special Gala Event, usually held in the summer months.

We are very proud of our community for their vibrant, colourful contributions, for their confidence and their showmanship.



“MY CHILDREN LOVE THE GALA EVENT - THEY CAN SHOW OFF ON STAGE“

- PARENT & RESIDENT FROM GYPSY CARAVAN SITE

**“LOVING THE
CONFERENCE! SO
INSPIRING!”**

*- DELEGATE TWEETING DURING
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, 2014*



Conferences & events

We organise and facilitate symposiums and conference events to encourage open, honest debate about the current and pressing issues affecting our community.

Our network of academics, politicians, public service leaders and civil servants is unrivalled and we always ensure a lively discussion.

We believe these events should be for Gypsies, Roma & Travellers, with Gypsies, Roma & Travellers. Therefore, we always ensure a good number of community members are present. This leads to a healthy degree of challenge for experts, politicians and civil servants and puts them on the spot to deliver on promises and the points they make.

Gypsy, Roma & Traveller National Symposium organised by Romani Cultural & Arts Company

Since 2009, we have held an annual National Symposium to enable experts from around the globe to attend and debate the most current and pressing issues affecting the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities in Wales, UK and beyond. Many of our experts are also community members; something we feel is significant and of great benefit.



Isaac Blake, RCAC
Director with some of
the academics who
deliver at training
events

Since 2009, we have developed an extensive programme of training events. Our events bring together a blend of experts and experienced community members who provide delegates with a 'real, lived' experience from the heart of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities. We feel the community is best-placed to train others about their needs and aspirations.

**“EXCELLENT TRAINING
@ROMANIARTS
YESTERDAY- I
LEARNED MUCH MORE
ABOUT ROMA PEOPLE,
AND (FOR THE FIRST
TIME ON A COURSE)
FROM ROMA PEOPLE!”**

*- DELEGATE TWEETING FOLLOWING
TRAINING EVENT, 2016*

Training

We organise and facilitate local, regional and national training events about Gypsy, Roma & Traveller issues and how to successfully engage with the communities.

Our unrivalled network of experts and Community Champions means that we can offer a unique experience to delegates. Delegates get to hear from the very community they seek to learn about.

Delegates leave our training events feeling that they have benefitted; not only, from an expert view, but more importantly, from a community view of the issues facing people and how best to engage and improve the situation. We are proud of our network and our Community Champions.

Community Champions

We are proud to put our community first in everything we do. We believe our community are best-placed to speak out for themselves and work for a more inclusive, open, tolerant society where Gypsies, Roma & Travellers are shown the dignity and respect, thousands of years of rich heritage and culture deserves.

We have developed a network of Community Champions who are the voice of their community. They are confident, strong individuals who are from the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities they serve; not from detached agencies or remote statutory bodies who cannot truly understand our needs and aspirations.

Our deep-rooted bonds and empathy with our community is what makes us unique and so successful at all we do.

“I FEEL SO MUCH MORE CONFIDENT NOW. I AM GOING TO SPEAK OUT FOR MY COMMUNITY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

- A COMMUNITY CHAMPION & MOTHER FROM A LOCAL GYPSY CARAVAN SITE

Dr Daniel Baker is a Romani Gypsy and experienced artist.

Since 2009, we have developed a strong network of Community Champions. These are community members; some of whom work for us, who provide advocacy, support and an essential voice on behalf of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities. Using their unique talents and personal confidence, they support our events and training and some of them are part of our artistic team who develop ground-breaking art exhibitions. These breath-taking displays of new and established works are open to the wider public.



One of RCAC's exhibition launches at The RiverFront, Newport, Wales.

Since 2009, we have commissioned the best Gypsy, Roma & Traveller artists to prepare exciting new pieces of work and to exhibit them in accessible local venues and galleries. We believe that art should be available for the benefit of the whole of society so we do not charge for access. We also make sure that our artists build links with local schools so that they can offer workshops to children and young people. All our exhibitions use a variety of tools to ensure that the widest audience possible can access our events



Art Exhibitions

We showcase and commission the very best of Gypsy, Roma & Traveller artists. Our ground-breaking exhibitions are open to the wider public and allow everyone to experience the rich, vibrant talent and artistic endeavour threaded throughout our amazing community.

We work with the very best to produce unique, original pieces of work that portray and embody the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities and challenge perceptions and thinking. Our aim is to break down the barriers to a more open, tolerant society so that more and more people from the mainstream are educated in the culture and heritage of Gypsies, Roma & Travellers.

All our exhibitions see the artists delivering workshops for schools and young people. We aspire for all our events to be accessible to the widest audience possible.

“A GOOD PLACE TO HEAR *FROM* GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS, RATHER THAN *ABOUT* THEM - "TALES FROM THE TRAILER"”

- DAMIAN LE BAS, FOLLOWING A VISIT TO ONE OF OUR EXHIBITIONS, 2014



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