



WAGTAIL TALE

Gypsy Life of Bygone Days

PETER INGRAM

The 1961 summer of Welsh Border Gypsies Jimmy and Katie Lock

Illustrated by K. B. Morgan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter (Pete) Ingram was born in rural Worcestershire. He bought his first living-wagon (Gypsy caravan) in his early teens and this led to his main occupation of 'Builder, Restorer and Decorator of Living-wagons'.

In 1976 he established the Romany Folklore Museum, the first museum of its kind in Great Britain. He closed the museum and workshops in 1995, having decided to 'see the world'. His last commission to paint a living-wagon was in America in 2005. He 'retired himself' in 2007, and now lives a quiet life in a small village in Hampshire.

He is co-author of *Romany Relics – The Wagon Album* (the definitive book on the Gypsy caravan), published by John Barker (2010).

A 19-track CD of songs and Romani language examples, featuring the voice of Peter Ingram, is available to complement the book. See overleaf to order.

Old Fiddle Tunes & Sentimental Songs of Welsh Border Gypsies



Photo © Simon Brown

*'When you see the wagtail
you will see Gypsies'*
(old Welsh Gypsy saying)

A long-lost way of life, under conditions of some privation by modern standards, is brought vividly to life in this book. Accurate details and the Romani language, both impeccable, combine to make this one of the most interesting and genuine accounts that I have read. The narrative works extremely well, allowing the juxtaposition of the old and the new, and throughout the book the 'rightness' of dialogue and description are fascinating. Factual events are woven into a tale of merit that will captivate the reader, young or old, from cover to cover.

Dominic Reeve



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limesendyard@outlook.com

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