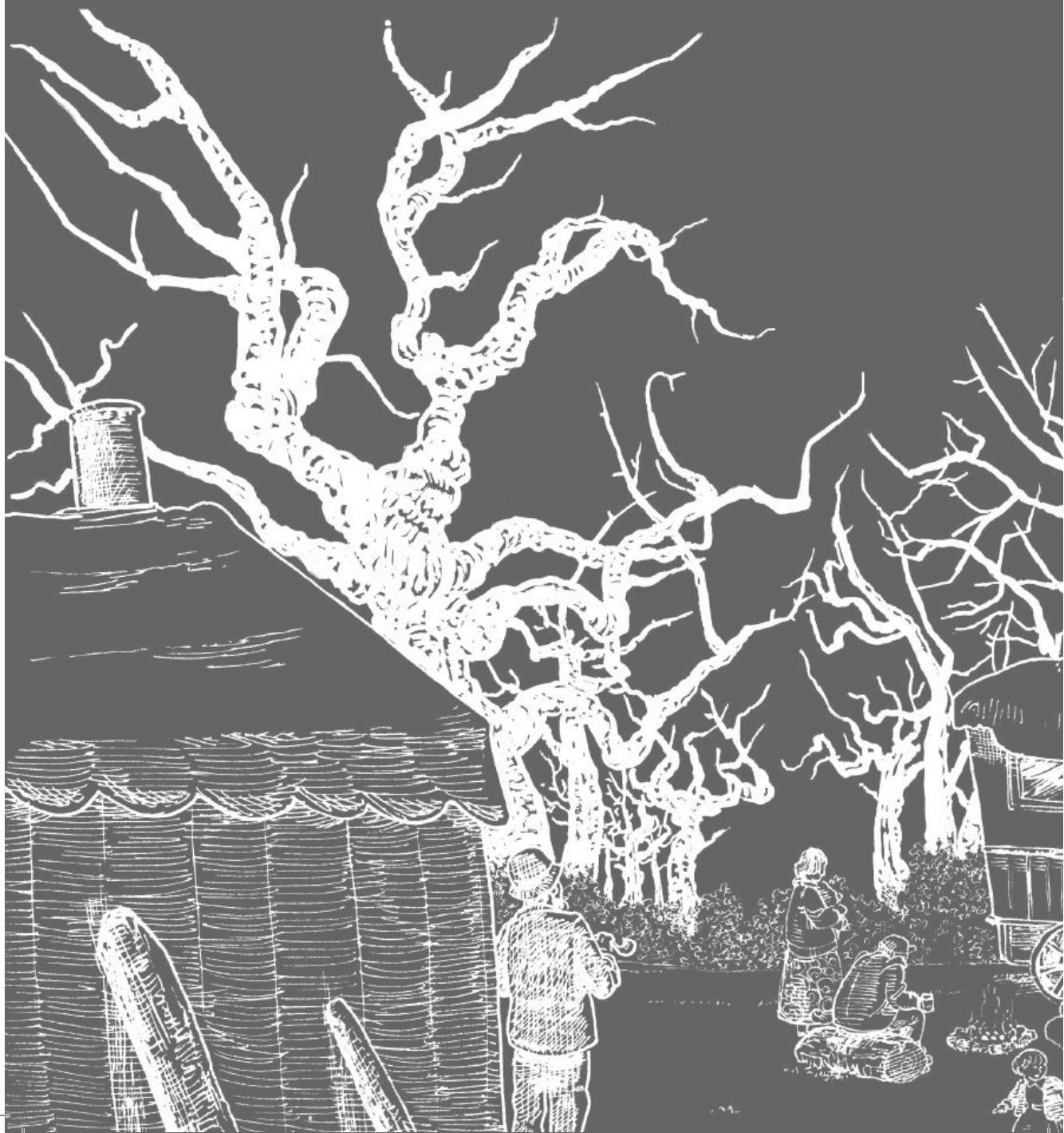


A Graphic
History
of **Gypsies**
and
Travellers
in **Modern**
Britain

No Place to Be


Gerardo D'Ambrosio & Becky Taylor




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A Graphic History of **Gypsies** and **Travellers** in **Modern Britain**

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THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS CHANGING QUICKLY AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. HOW WOULD THE NEW WORLD LOOK FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS?



"MODERN CIVILIZATION, OF COURSE, WAS NOT DESIGNED FOR SUCH PEOPLE..."



THEY THROW THE MACHINERY OF ADMINISTRATION OUT OF GEAR.

THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 1951

IS THIS MACHINERY ADAPTABLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE GYPSIES TO SURVIVE, OR WILL THEY BE CRUSHED INTO ABANDONING THEIR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE?"



FOOD RATIONING, HEALTH INSURANCE, PENSIONS, ALLOWANCES, REGISTRATION AND CAMPING CONTROL UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANNING ACTS MEAN A REGULATION OF LIFE THAT IS FOREIGN TO THEM...

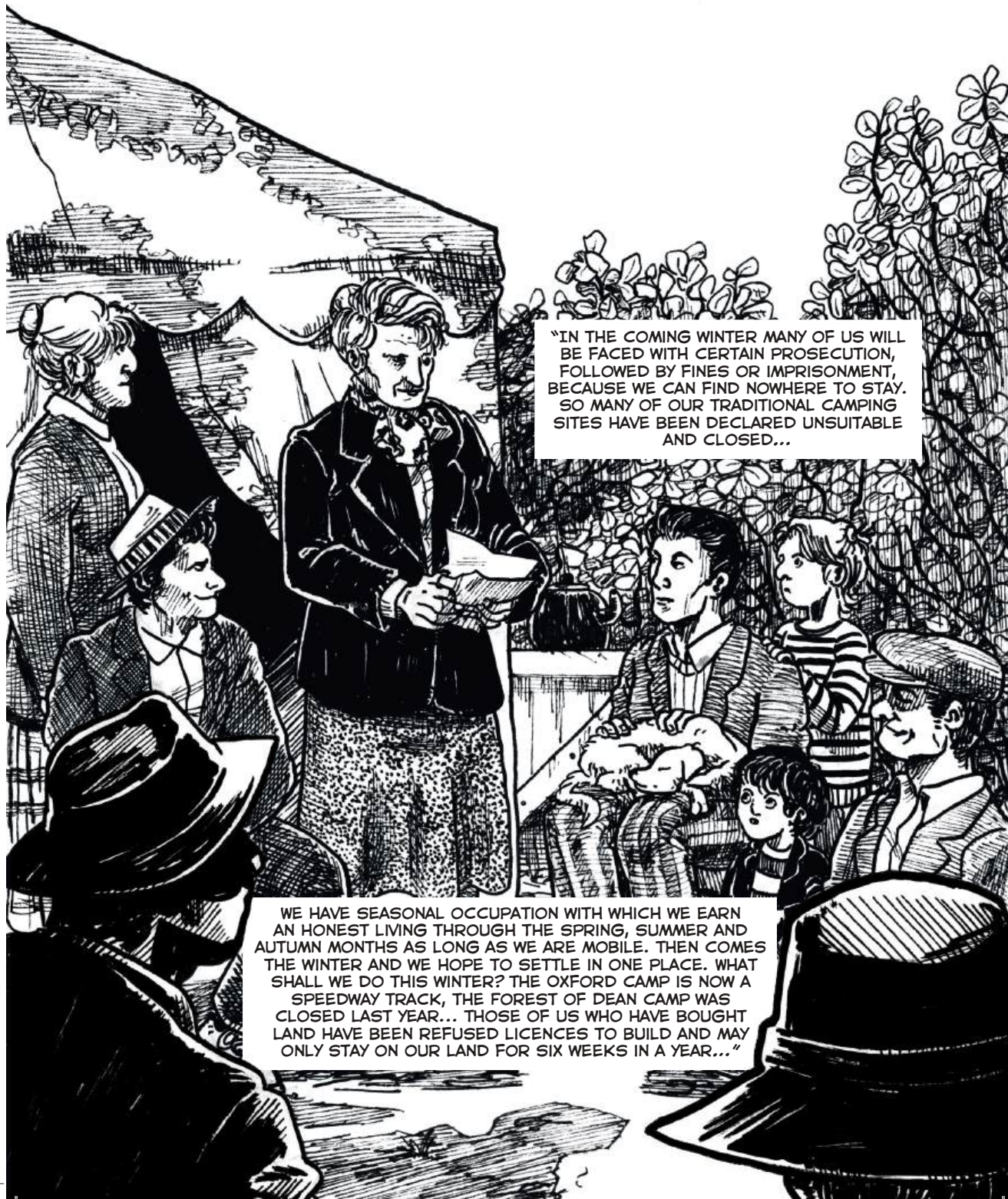


INCREASING DIFFICULTIES OF THIS SORT IN THE MODERN PLANNED SOCIETY HAVE



LED SOME OF THEM TO SET OUT WHAT THEY THINK MUST BE DONE IF THE GYPSIES ARE TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS."

CITIES WERE GETTING BIGGER - AS NEW ESTATES WERE BUILT TO HOUSE PEOPLE CLEARED FROM THE SLUMS - AND ENCIRCLED BY ROADS AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS. IT WASN'T UNUSUAL FOR GYPSIES TO RETURN TO A TRADITIONAL STOPPING PLACE AFTER A YEAR TO FIND IT BUILT OVER, WITH MAYBE ONE OF THE NEW STREETS CALLED GYPSY LANE...




"IN THE COMING WINTER MANY OF US WILL BE FACED WITH CERTAIN PROSECUTION, FOLLOWED BY FINES OR IMPRISONMENT, BECAUSE WE CAN FIND NOWHERE TO STAY. SO MANY OF OUR TRADITIONAL CAMPING SITES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE AND CLOSED..."

WE HAVE SEASONAL OCCUPATION WITH WHICH WE EARN AN HONEST LIVING THROUGH THE SPRING, SUMMER AND AUTUMN MONTHS AS LONG AS WE ARE MOBILE. THEN COMES THE WINTER AND WE HOPE TO SETTLE IN ONE PLACE. WHAT SHALL WE DO THIS WINTER? THE OXFORD CAMP IS NOW A SPEEDWAY TRACK, THE FOREST OF DEAN CAMP WAS CLOSED LAST YEAR... THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BOUGHT LAND HAVE BEEN REFUSED LICENCES TO BUILD AND MAY ONLY STAY ON OUR LAND FOR SIX WEEKS IN A YEAR..."


THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT ASKED THE POLICE TO FIND OUT IF THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN HARASSMENT AND EVICTIONS. IT FOUND THIS WAS CERTAINLY TRUE IN SOME AREAS - KENT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE - BUT SAID IT WASN'T THE CASE NATIONALLY.

1950s



IN SOME PLACES THE POLICE 'FORGOT' TO INCLUDE SOME MAJOR INCIDENTS: MANCHESTER POLICE DIDN'T RECORD THE EVICTION OF 74 PEOPLE FROM A LONG-TERM SITE IN THE CITY.

THE BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER DID HIS OWN RESEARCH AND FOUND THAT THE POLICE WERE RIGOROUSLY USING THE 1835 HIGHWAYS ACT TO MOVE ON GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS. HE CONCLUDED:

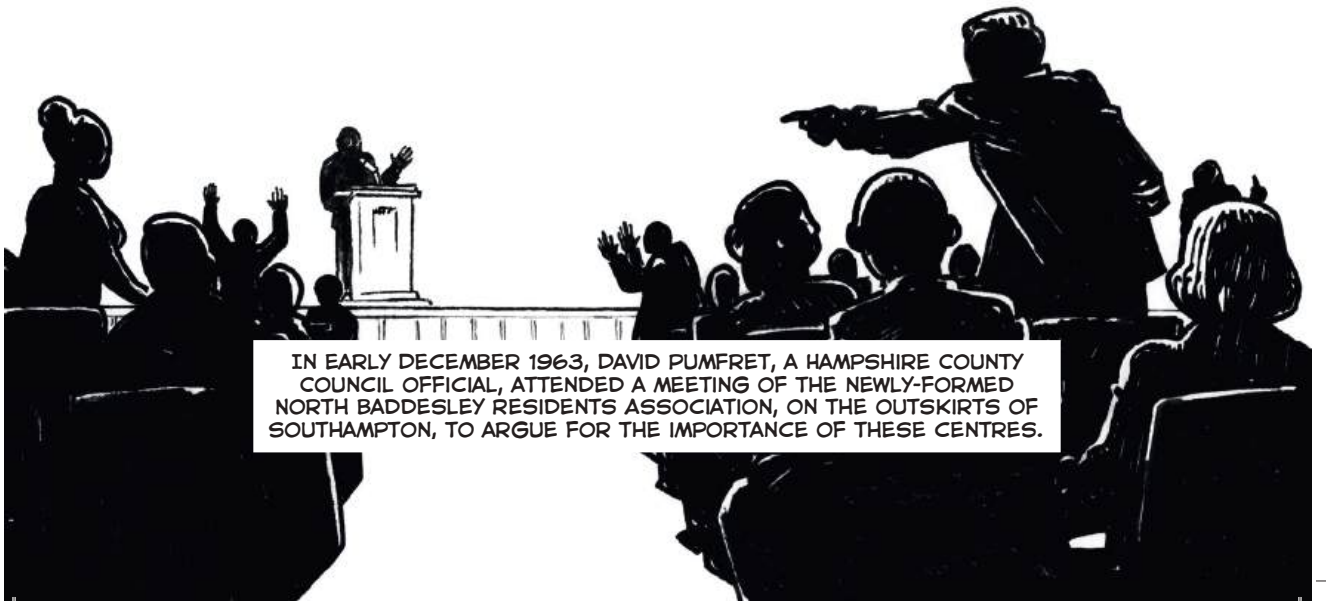


"WE CANNOT AS A NATION TREAT THE GYPSIES AS THOUGH THEY DID NOT EXIST... THEY CANNOT BE EXTERMINATED... ON THE OTHER HAND... THEY ARE GENERALLY UNPOPULAR AND NO ONE WANTS THEM TO SETTLE FOR LONG PERIODS IN ANY GIVEN NEIGHBOURHOOD."

1960s

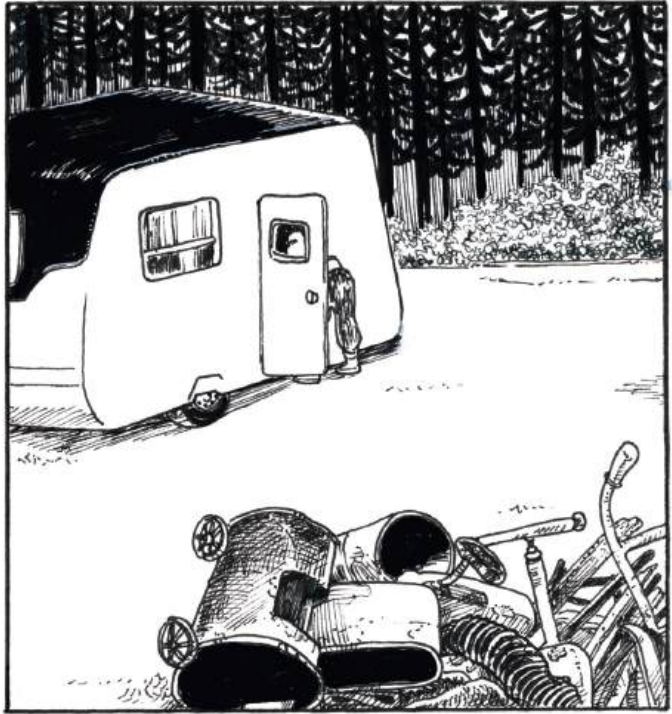


WHILE SOME COUNTIES WERE EVICTING THEIR GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS TO GET RID OF THEM, IN OTHER PLACES COUNCILS WERE USING THEIR NEW POWERS UNDER THE WELFARE STATE TO TRY AND 'REHABILITATE' THEM. TO PUT THEM IN SUPERVISED CENTRES WHERE THEY LIVED IN SIMPLE BUNGALOWS AND WERE TAUGHT HOW TO LIVE LIKE THE REST OF THE POPULATION.



IN EARLY DECEMBER 1963, DAVID PUMFRET, A HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICIAL, ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE NEWLY-FORMED NORTH BADDESLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SOUTHAMPTON, TO ARGUE FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE CENTRES.

"THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE REHABILITATION PROCESS... DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED IT TO ASSIMILATE INTO THE WAYS AND VALUES OF MAINSTREAM SOCIETY."



WITH ANY SIGNS OF 'GYPSY-NESS', CLOTHING, OCCUPATION, FAMILY STRUCTURE, OR DWELLING, LEFT BEHIND.



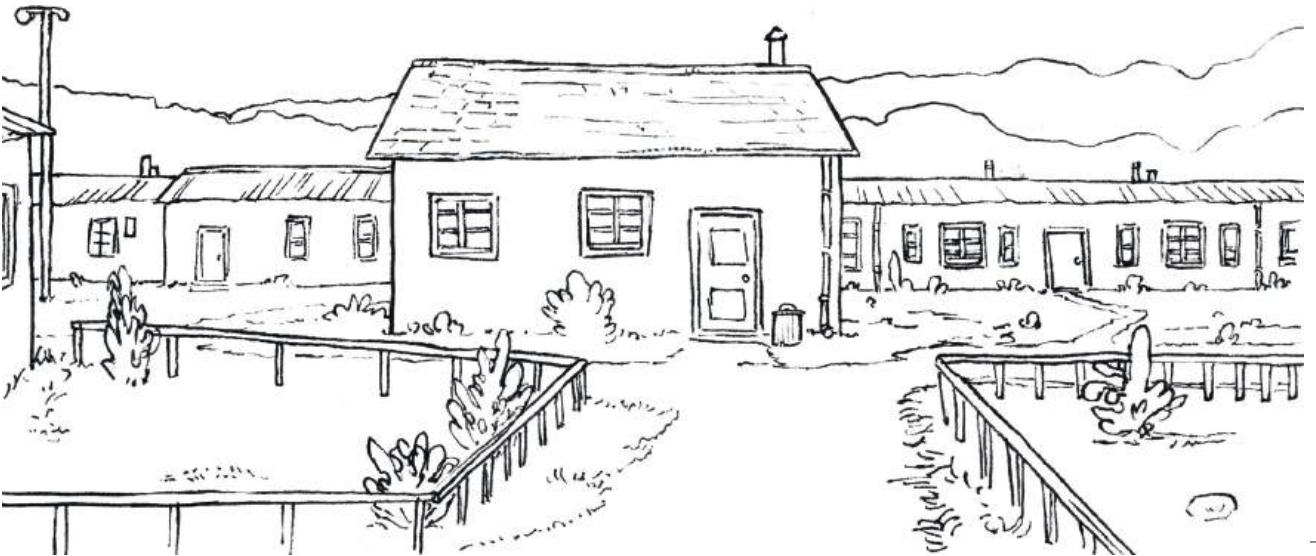
AND SO SYMBOLS OF THEIR OLD LIFE WERE TO BE PUT ASIDE.



HORSES WERE TO BE SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY, AND, MIRRORING WHAT TRADITIONALLY HAPPENED WHEN A GYPSY DIED, CARAVANS WERE BURNT AS A SIGN OF THE 'DEATH' OF THEIR OCCUPANTS' GYPSYNESS...



...AND THEIR 'REHABILITATION'.



"THE WELFARE STATE - WHICH WAS MEANT TO HELP PEOPLE - BROUGHT MUCH SUFFERING, CONFUSION AND UNHAPPINESS TO MANY TRAVELLERS. THE MIDDLE-AGED AND OLDER ONES, ESPECIALLY, WERE FORCED TO GO AND LIVE INTO HOUSES ALL THE TIME AND WERE GIVEN MONEY FOR DOING NOTHING, LIKE WILD BIRDS IN CAGES... MANY WERE GIVEN JOBS, BUT THIS TOO WAS HELL FOR THEM. THEY HATED BEING TIED AND HAVING NO FREEDOM... IT WAS THE COMPULSION THAT IRKED THEM.



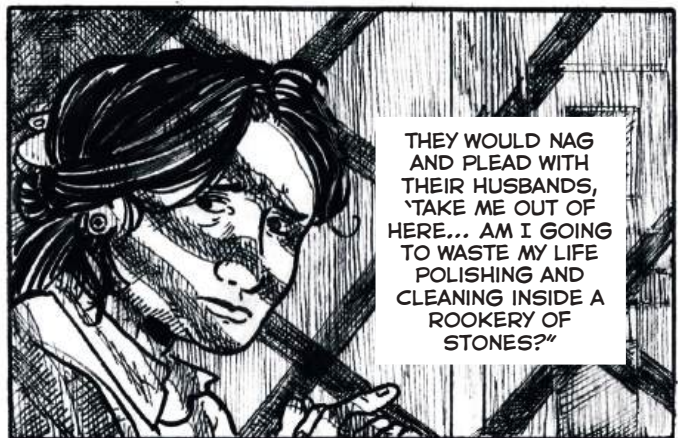
THEY WOULD OVERDO THEMSELVES CLEANING THEIR HOUSES AND KEEPING THEIR CHILDREN AS CLEAN AND AS TIDY AND AS QUIET AND WELL BEHAVED AS SETTLED POPULATION WERE. THE EFFORT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THEM...



WOMEN HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME... UNUSED TO MAKING A WAGE SPIN OUT FOR A WEEK, THEY COULDN'T DO IT.

BEFORE, THEY HAD LIVED FROM DAY TO DAY... NOW THEY HAD TO COMPETE WITH THE VERY OFTEN CRITICAL COUNTRY HANTLE*.

BETSY WHYTE WRITING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY TRAVELLERS WHO MOVED INTO COUNCIL HOUSING

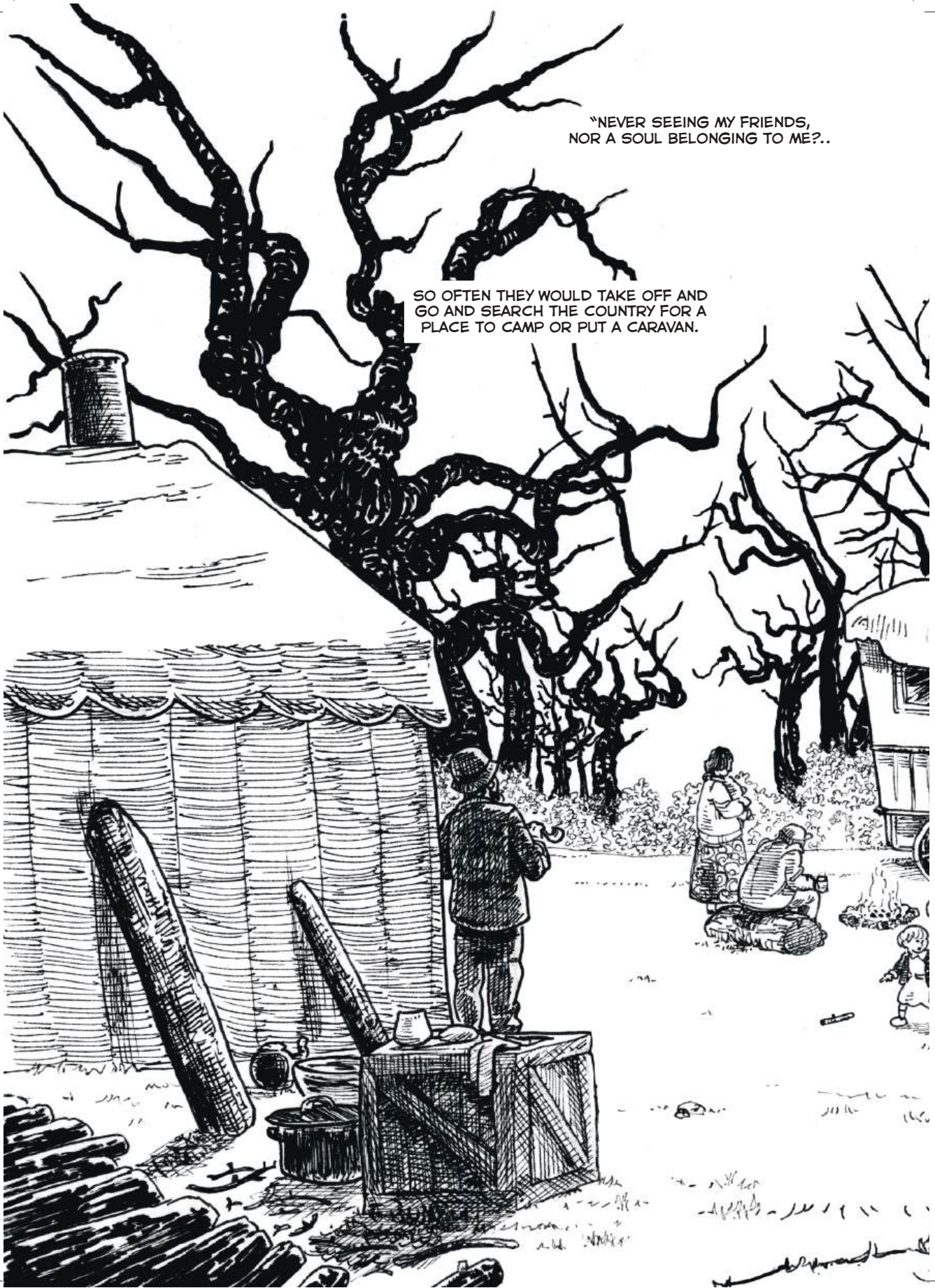


THEY WOULD NAG AND PLEAD WITH THEIR HUSBANDS, "TAKE ME OUT OF HERE... AM I GOING TO WASTE MY LIFE POLISHING AND CLEANING INSIDE A ROOKERY OF STONES?"

*SETTLED POPULATION

"NEVER SEEING MY FRIENDS,
NOR A SOUL BELONGING TO ME?..

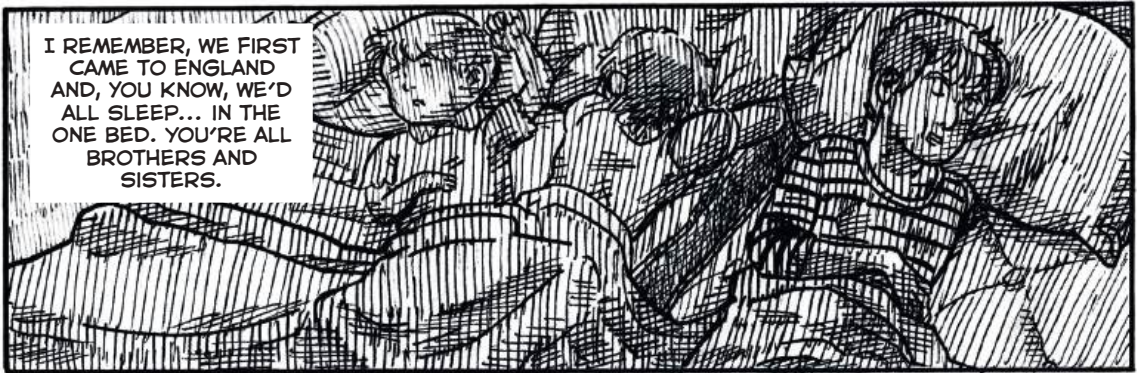
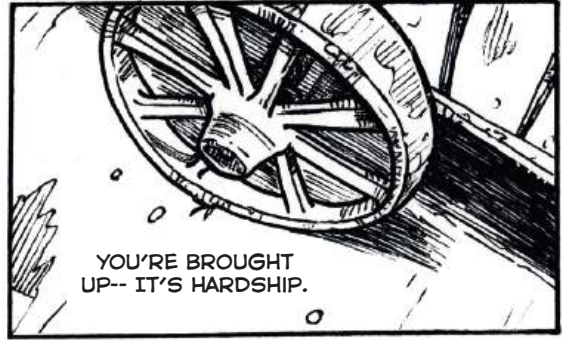
SO OFTEN THEY WOULD TAKE OFF AND
GO AND SEARCH THE COUNTRY FOR A
PLACE TO CAMP OR PUT A CARAVAN.

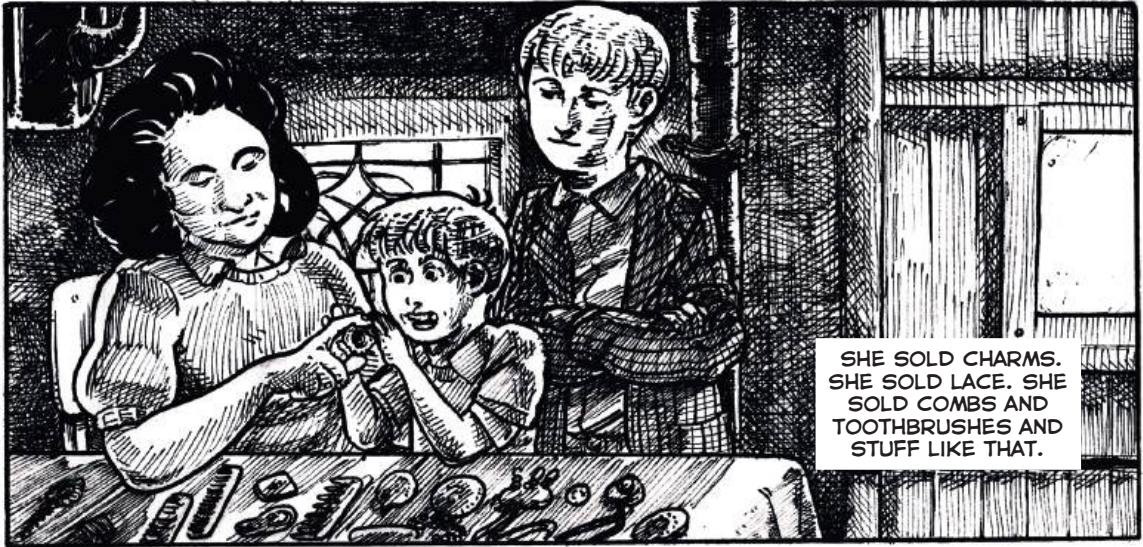




THEN PERHAPS SOME
OTHER WELFARE
PEOPLE WOULD TAKE
OVER AND THE WHOLE
THING WOULD START
ALL OVER AGAIN."

OTHER CHANGES WERE HAPPENING TOO. FLEEING INCREASED REPRESSION OF THEIR WAY OF LIFE IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND A DIRE ECONOMIC SITUATION, GROWING NUMBERS OF IRISH TRAVELLERS WERE MAKING THEIR WAY TO GREAT BRITAIN TO TAKE UP WORK OPPORTUNITIES.





SHE SOLD CHARMS. SHE SOLD LACE. SHE SOLD COMBS AND TOOTHBRUSHES AND STUFF LIKE THAT.



AND THEN AS THE YEARS WENT ON, SHE GOT HER OWN LITTLE TRUCK AND SHE USED TO GET HER SCRAP AND SHE'D WEIGH IN HER SCRAP AND THEN ANY MONEY MY DAD WOULD GET FOR WORK AND SHE'D SAVE THAT.

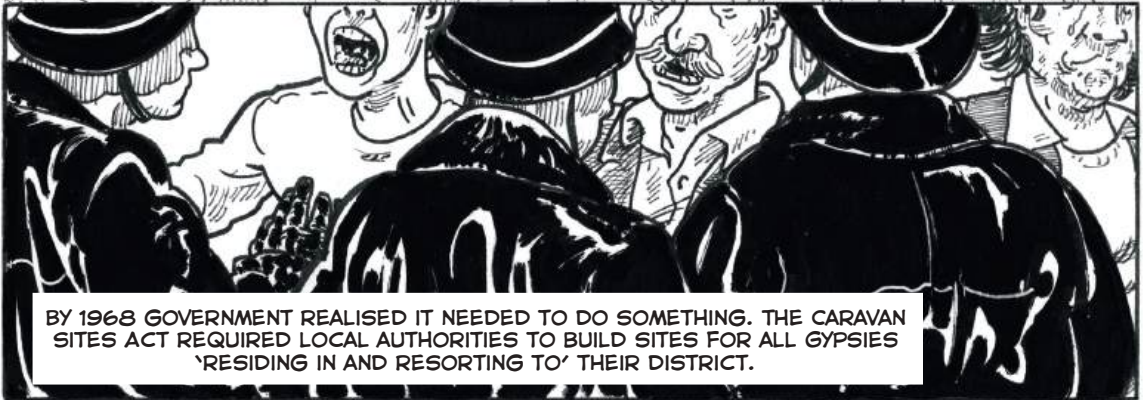
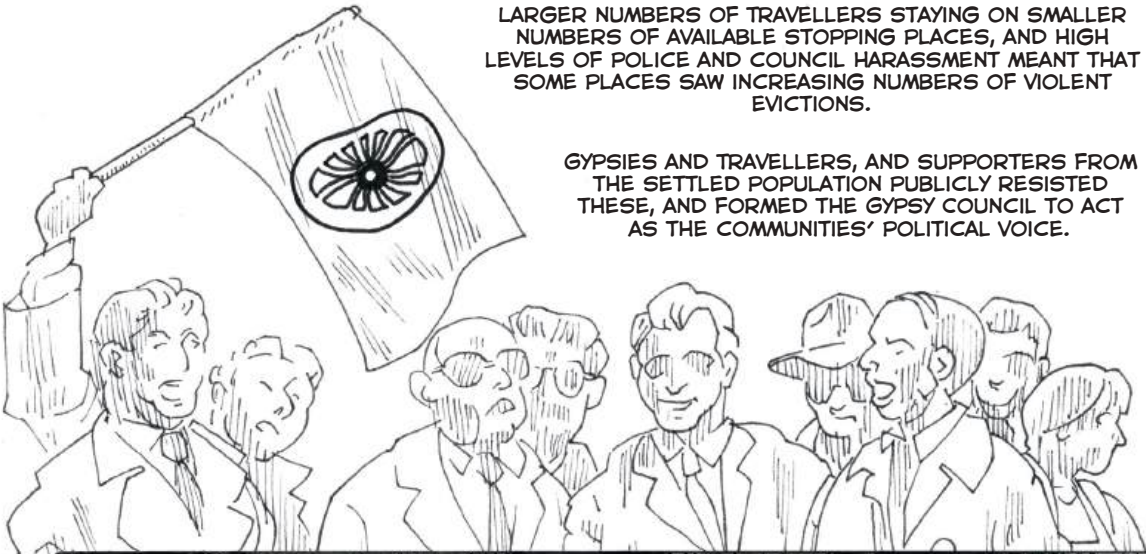


AND THE MONEY SHE'D EARN, SHE'D LIVE OFF OF THAT. AND THAT'S HOW SHE GOT TO SAVE."

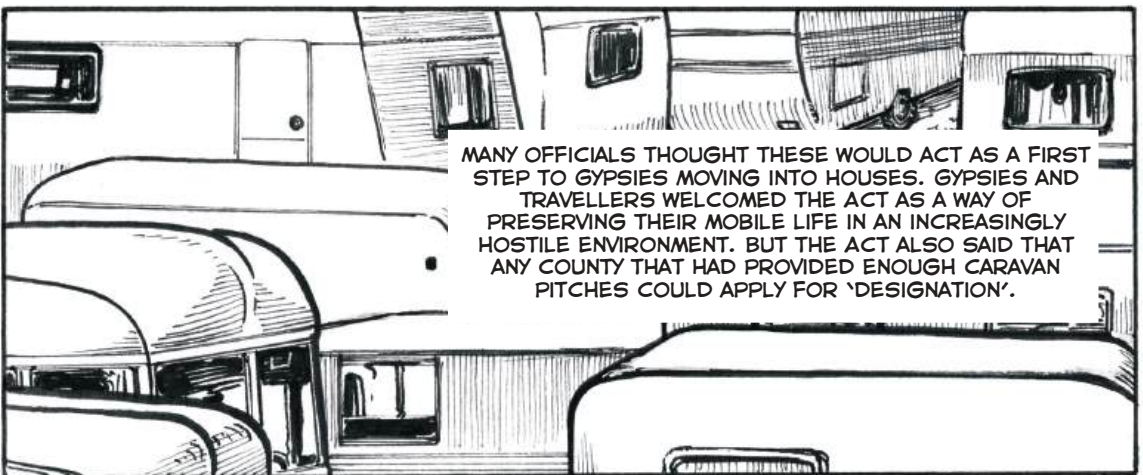
IRISH TRAVELLER JOHN TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE WAS A CHILD AND CAME TO ENGLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME

LARGER NUMBERS OF TRAVELLERS STAYING ON SMALLER NUMBERS OF AVAILABLE STOPPING PLACES, AND HIGH LEVELS OF POLICE AND COUNCIL HARASSMENT MEANT THAT SOME PLACES SAW INCREASING NUMBERS OF VIOLENT EVICTIONS.

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS, AND SUPPORTERS FROM THE SETTLED POPULATION PUBLICLY RESISTED THESE, AND FORMED THE GYPSY COUNCIL TO ACT AS THE COMMUNITIES' POLITICAL VOICE.



BY 1968 GOVERNMENT REALISED IT NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING. THE CARAVAN SITES ACT REQUIRED LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO BUILD SITES FOR ALL GYPSIES 'RESIDING IN AND RESORTING TO' THEIR DISTRICT.



MANY OFFICIALS THOUGHT THESE WOULD ACT AS A FIRST STEP TO GYPSIES MOVING INTO HOUSES. GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS WELCOMED THE ACT AS A WAY OF PRESERVING THEIR MOBILE LIFE IN AN INCREASINGLY HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. BUT THE ACT ALSO SAID THAT ANY COUNTY THAT HAD PROVIDED ENOUGH CARAVAN PITCHES COULD APPLY FOR 'DESIGNATION'.

THIS MEANT THAT IT WAS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE FOR A GYPSY OR TRAVELLER TO STOP ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF AN OFFICIAL SITE. SOME CITY AREAS - LIKE THE INNER LONDON BOROUGHS - ONLY HAD TO PROVIDE PITCHES FOR 15 CARAVANS, NO MATTER THE NUMBER OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS IN THEIR DISTRICT.

THE 1970S WAS A TIME OF HOPE AND FAILURE. GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS, ORGANISED THROUGH THE GYPSY COUNCIL AND A GROWING NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS, STARTED CAMPAIGNING FOR BETTER ACCESS TO EDUCATION AS WELL AS DIFFERENT KINDS OF AUTHORISED SITES.

1970s



SOME COUNCILS USED THE 1968 ACT AND WORKED WITH THEIR LOCAL GYPSY AND TRAVELLER POPULATIONS TO BUILD GOOD QUALITY SITES. WHILE OTHERS IGNORED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

AT THE SAME TIME TECHNOLOGY - NEWER, BIGGER TRAILERS WITH INDOOR COOKING FACILITIES, AND ELECTRICITY POWERED BY GENERATORS - WAS IMPROVING LIVING STANDARDS FOR PEOPLE ON THE ROAD.

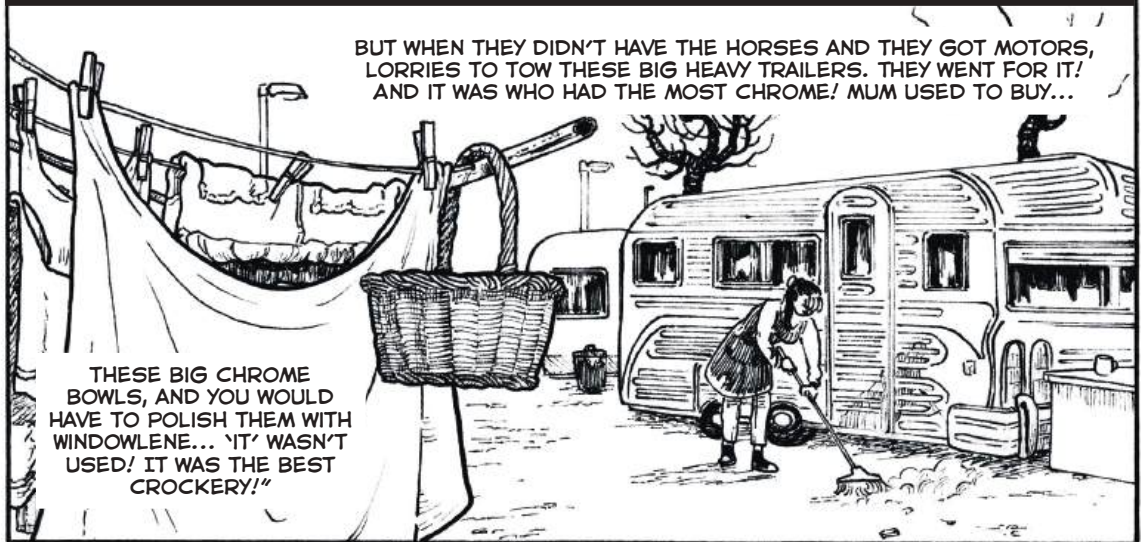


EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED, THEY WENT FROM WAGONS AND... TENTS AND BENDERS AND SETTING OUTSIDE GROUND FIRES... ALL OF A SUDDEN IT WENT TO THESE CHROME FLASHY THINGS!



"TRAVELLERS HAVE ALWAYS LIKED FLASHY STUFF AND PRETTY COLOURS, BUT THEY'VE NEVER REALLY HAD THE ROOM."

LYDIA REMEMBERED WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEING A GIRL AND SPENDING HER DAYS DOING THE CLEANING



BUT WHEN THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE HORSES AND THEY GOT MOTORS, LORRIES TO TOW THESE BIG HEAVY TRAILERS. THEY WENT FOR IT! AND IT WAS WHO HAD THE MOST CHROME! MUM USED TO BUY...

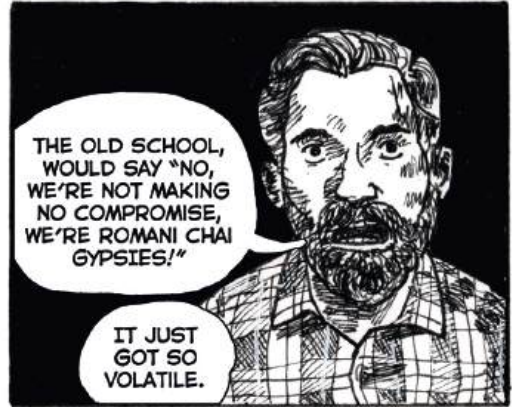
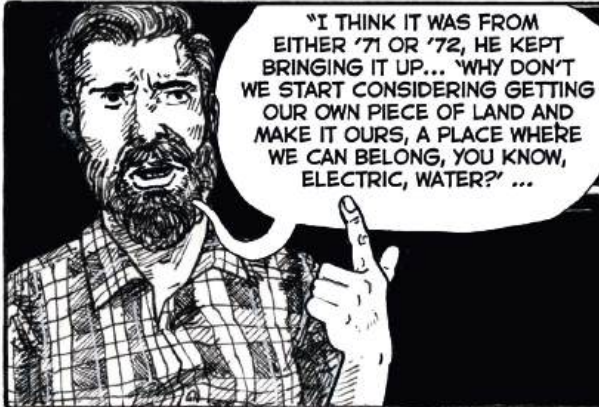
THESE BIG CHROME BOWLS, AND YOU WOULD HAVE TO POLISH THEM WITH WINDOWLENE... 'IT' WASN'T USED! IT WAS THE BEST CROCKERY!"



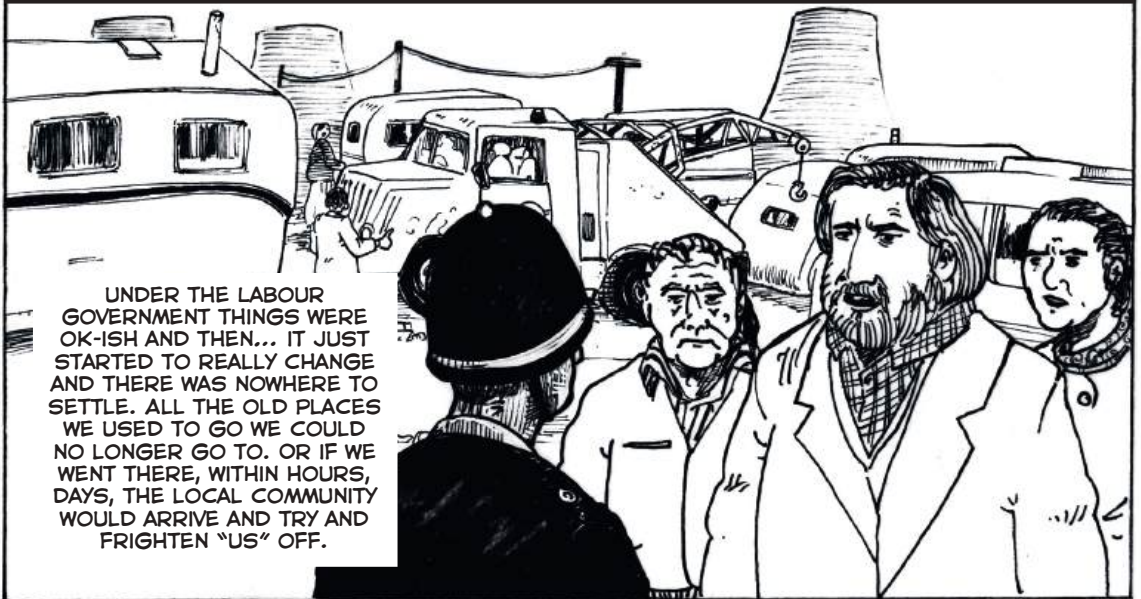
YOU WOULD HAVE TO WASH THAT UP EVERY DAY. THAT WAS JUST FOR SHOW?

"OH, YES, IF YOU USED IT SHE WOULD BREAK YOUR FINGERS!... THE TRAVELLERS USED TO POLISH THEM AND IT WAS MY JOB, BEING THE OLDEST GIRL, TO CLEAN UP AND DO ALL THAT BECAUSE IF YOU DIDN'T, OTHER TRAVELLERS WOULD CRY 'SHAME ON YOU!'"

MANY COUNCILS THOUGHT THAT IF THEY IGNORED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES GYPSIES WOULD GO AWAY. BY THE MID-1970S ECONOMIC CRISIS AND GOVERNMENT CUTS SAW COUNCILS ARGUING IT WAS WRONG TO BUILD GYPSIES SITES AS THEIR MONEY WAS NEEDED FOR THEIR 'LOCAL' POPULATION. SHORTAGES OF AUTHORISED SITES AND GROWING NUMBERS OF UNAUTHORISED ONES SAW ANTI-GYPSY HOSTILITY GROWING AND LOCAL RESIDENTS STARTING TO ORGANISE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ANY NEW COUNCIL OR PRIVATE SITES.



FRED TALKING TO ZOË ABOUT HOW GYPSIES BECAME PUSHED INTO WANTING SETTLED SITES RATHER THAN BEING MOBILE





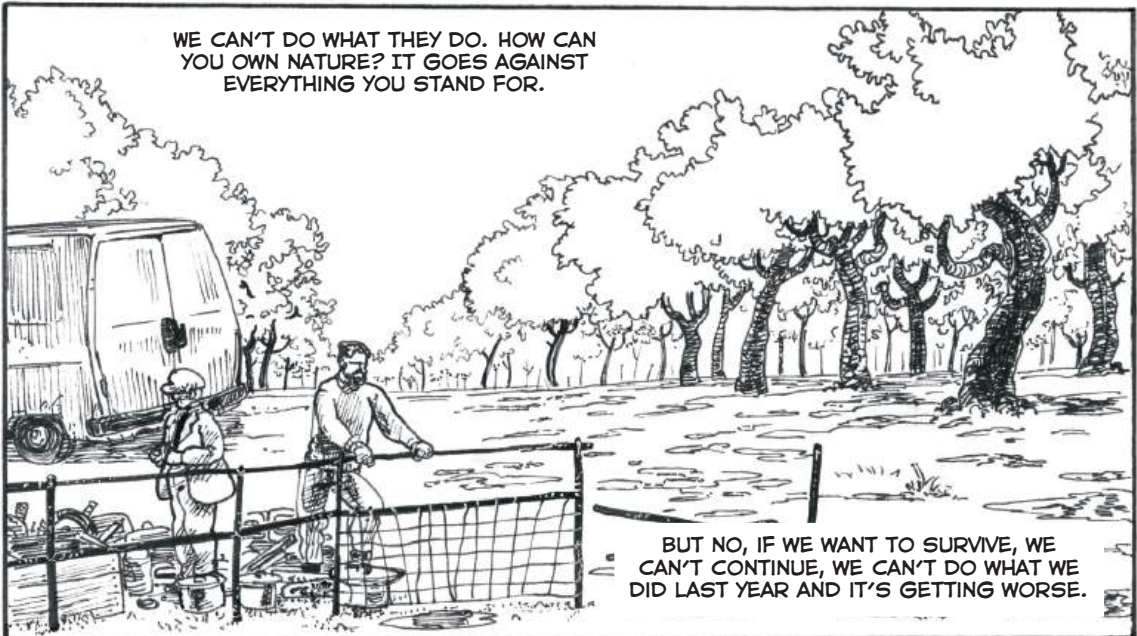
"IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE OR GOING OUT SELLING LUCKY HEATHER... PEOPLE WOULD GET VERY ABUSIVE AND SEXIST WITH THE WOMEN, CALL THEM SLAGS AND "WE'RE GOING TO DRAG YOU OFF INTO THE WOODS AND RAPE YOU IF YOU DON'T GO AWAY."



YEAH.

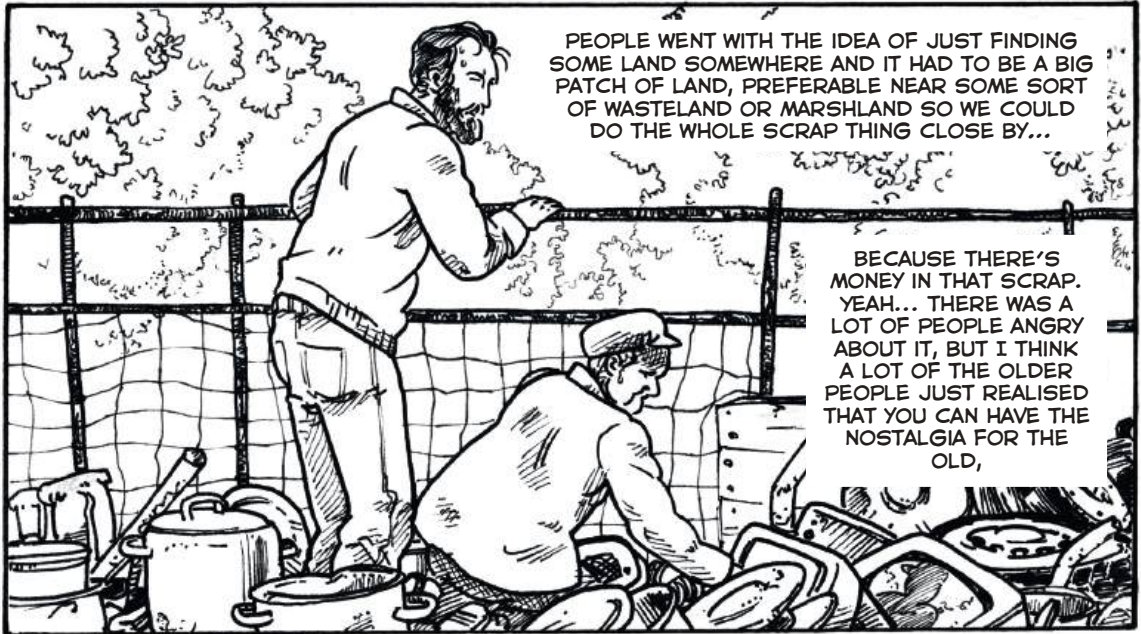
"DIRTY SCUM!", THERE WAS A LOT OF THAT STARTED GOING ON. YEAH, THEY WERE MAKING IT KNOWN THAT YOU DON'T COME HERE ANYMORE, WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE ...

THEN PEOPLE STARTED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER GETTING THEIR OWN LAND, BUT THE OLD SCHOOL ARGUMENT WAS 'YOU CAN'T BUY NATURE, NATURE'S FOR EVERYBODY.



WE CAN'T DO WHAT THEY DO. HOW CAN YOU OWN NATURE? IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR.

BUT NO, IF WE WANT TO SURVIVE, WE CAN'T CONTINUE, WE CAN'T DO WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR AND IT'S GETTING WORSE.



PEOPLE WENT WITH THE IDEA OF JUST FINDING SOME LAND SOMEWHERE AND IT HAD TO BE A BIG PATCH OF LAND, PREFERABLE NEAR SOME SORT OF WASTELAND OR MARSHLAND SO WE COULD DO THE WHOLE SCRAP THING CLOSE BY...

BECAUSE THERE'S MONEY IN THAT SCRAP. YEAH... THERE WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE ANGRY ABOUT IT, BUT I THINK A LOT OF THE OLDER PEOPLE JUST REALISED THAT YOU CAN HAVE THE NOSTALGIA FOR THE OLD,

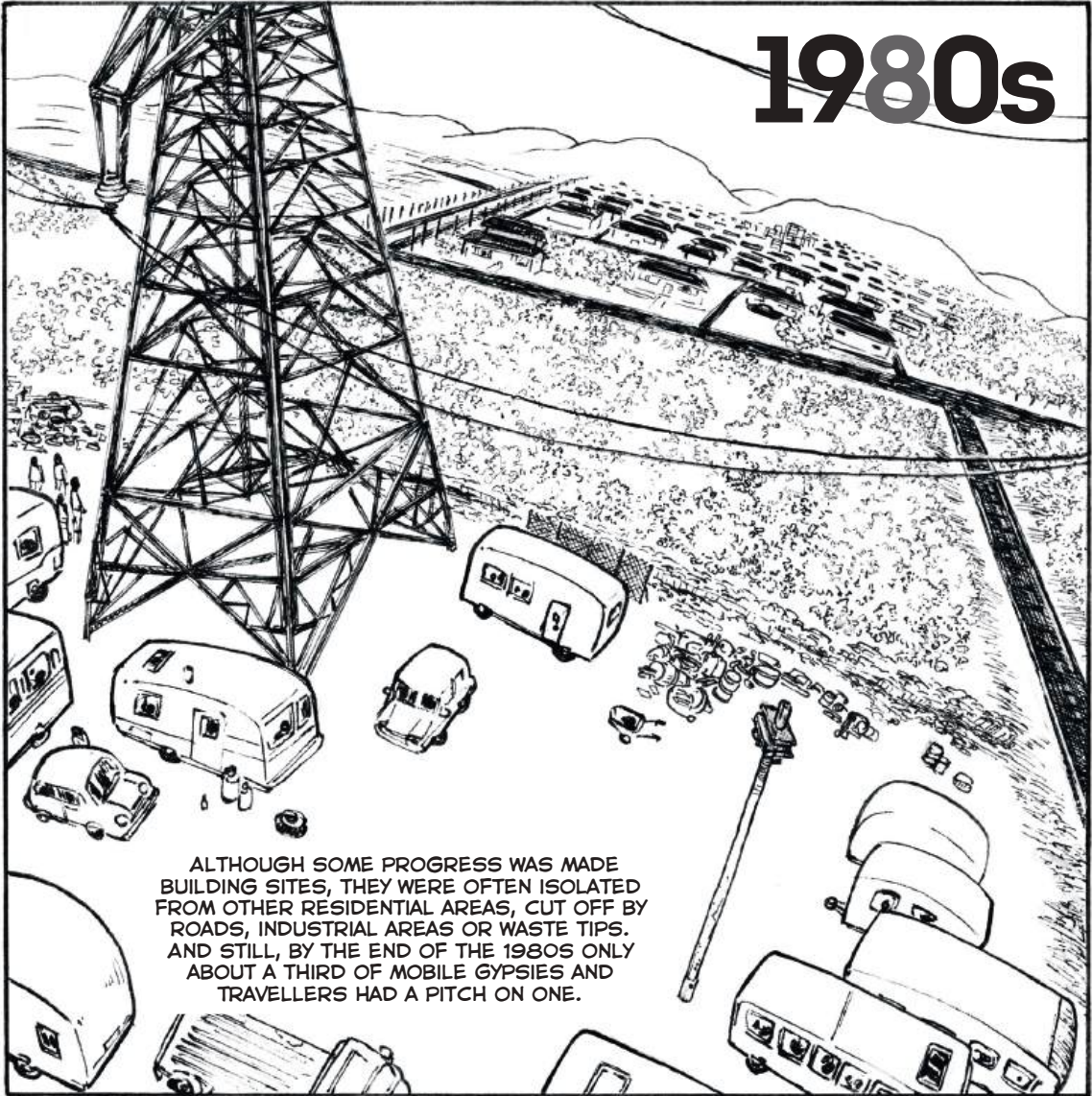


BUT THIS IS THE NEW. AND MATERIALISM BY THEN WAS REALLY KICKING IN. CARS WERE CHANGING. THERE WAS NO RADIO, THERE WAS TELEVISIONS, YOU KNOW.

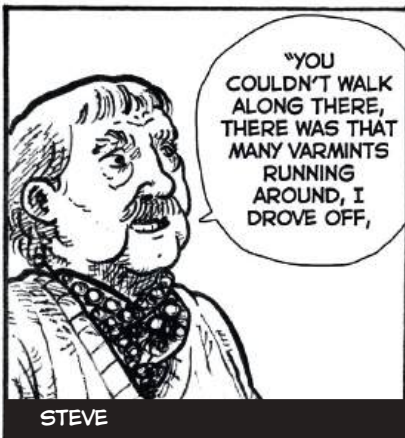


I THINK MY DAD COULD JUST SEE IT. HE COULD JUST SEE, YOU KNOW."

1980s



ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE BUILDING SITES, THEY WERE OFTEN ISOLATED FROM OTHER RESIDENTIAL AREAS, CUT OFF BY ROADS, INDUSTRIAL AREAS OR WASTE TIPS. AND STILL, BY THE END OF THE 1980S ONLY ABOUT A THIRD OF MOBILE GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS HAD A PITCH ON ONE.



"YOU COULDN'T WALK ALONG THERE, THERE WAS THAT MANY VARMINTS RUNNING AROUND, I DROVE OFF,

STEVE



IT'S RIDICULOUS, YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE A DOG TO LIVE IN THAT KIND OF THING! SO, AT THE END OF THE DAY, RATHER THAN ME LIVING LIKE THAT, WELL, I'LL CARRY ON TRAVELLING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROADS...

WHEN YOU GO TO PULL ON A SITE AND YOU'VE GOT A TIP NEXT DOOR TO YOU, WHERE THE WHOLE OF THE CITY IS DUMPING IN, HOW COULD YOU LIVE THERE? YOU'RE LITERALLY TOUCHING THE WALL OF IT. WHEN YOU'RE EATING YOUR FOOD OF A NIGHT-TIME, YOU'RE SMELLING RUBBISH FROM THE DUMP."

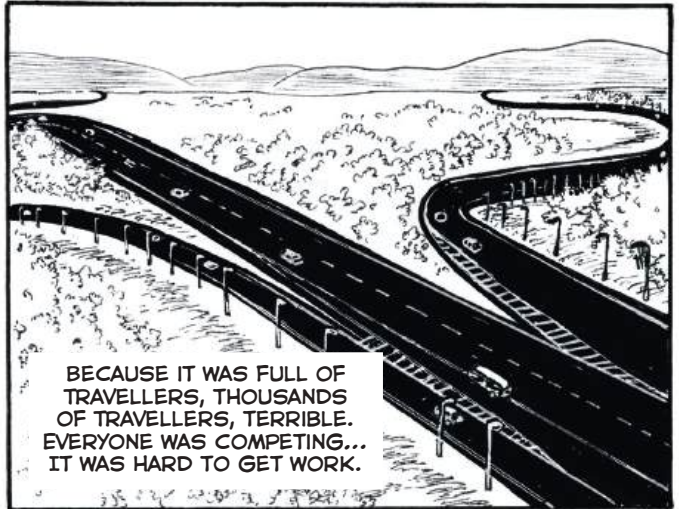


THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION FOR FIFTY YEARS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS TO MAKE A LIVING.

"WE WENT TO LONDON FOR WORK... BUT WE WEREN'T THERE LONG. BECAUSE WORK WAS HARD.

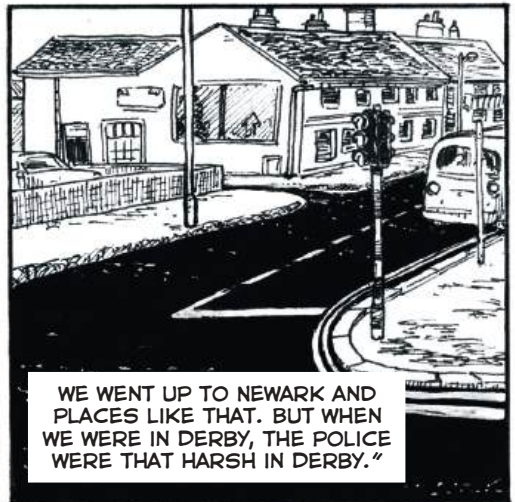


ANNE-LEE



BECAUSE IT WAS FULL OF TRAVELLERS, THOUSANDS OF TRAVELLERS, TERRIBLE. EVERYONE WAS COMPETING... IT WAS HARD TO GET WORK.

SO YOU JUST TOOK WHAT YOU COULD... WE'VE MOVED FROM THERE FROM MANCHESTER, WE MOVED ON TO OLDHAM...

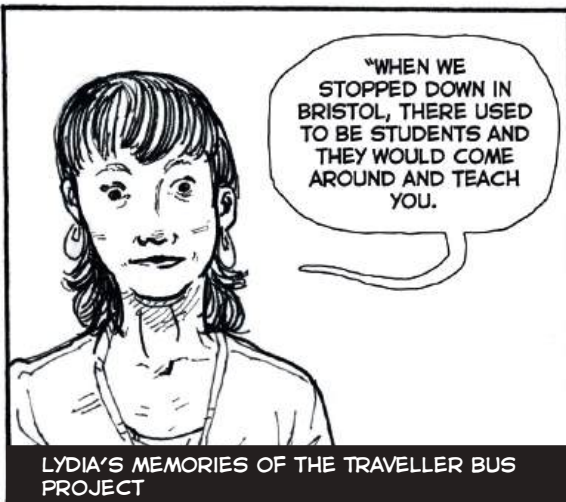


WE WENT UP TO NEWARK AND PLACES LIKE THAT. BUT WHEN WE WERE IN DERBY, THE POLICE WERE THAT HARSH IN DERBY."



PEOPLE WHO WERE STILL MOBILE FACED INCREASING HARASSMENT FROM THE POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS GROWING MEDIA HOSTILITY. THEY WERE CRITICIZED FOR THE COSTS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING AUTHORISED SITES; FOR THE COSTS OF EVICTING THEM FROM UNAUTHORISED SITES; AND OF CLEANING UP AFTER THEY HAD BEEN MOVED OFF.

SOME MORE PROGRESSIVE COUNCILS, WORKING WITH GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ORGANISATIONS, DEVELOPED TRAVELLER EDUCATION AND OTHER SERVICES THAT RECOGNISED THEIR DISTINCTIVE HERITAGE AND WAY OF LIFE.





"THEY WOULD COME AROUND WITH A SCHOOL BUS, WITH BOOKS AND PENS, AND LEARN US DIFFERENT THINGS. THEY DID IT AGAIN WHEN WE STOPPED DOWN IN LONDON, WE USED TO CALL IT THE TRAVELLING SCHOOL."

SHE LET US GO, THEY WOULD PICK ME AND MY BROTHER UP AND MY LITTLE SISTER AND THEY WOULD TAKE ALL THE TRAVELLING CHILDREN ON THE BUS OFF FOR THE DAY. WE USED TO GO ONCE A WEEK TO DIFFERENT PLACES AND THEY WOULD MAKE UP GYPSY SONGS FOR US TO SING. IT WAS REALLY EMBARRASSING BUT I STILL REMEMBER THEM. I CAN'T SING."



YOU'RE SMILING REMEMBERING IT, THEY WERE--

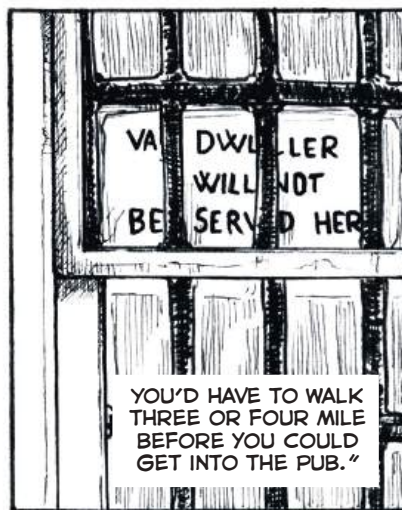
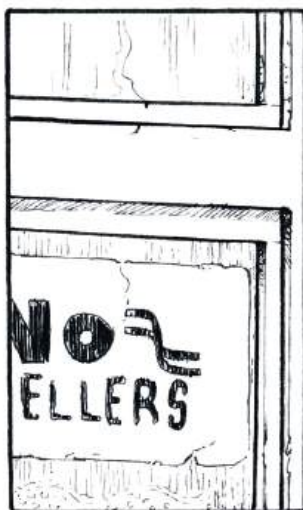
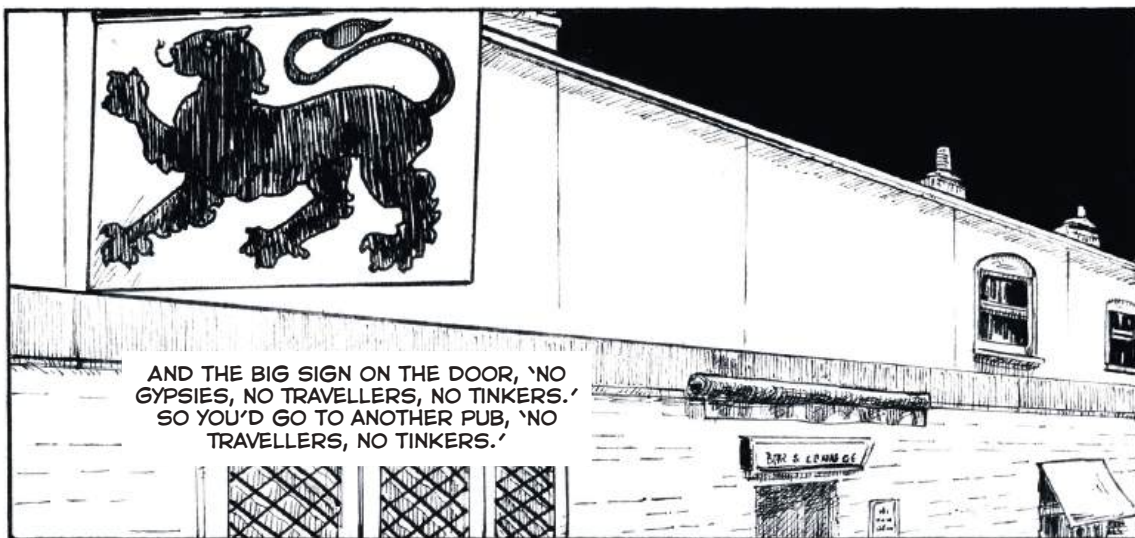
"VERY GOOD TIMES, VERY, VERY GOOD TIMES. WE WENT TO COLCHESTER ZOO, THEY WOULD TAKE US TO THE BEACH, THEY WOULD LEARN US."



HAD YOU BEEN TO THE BEACH BEFORE?

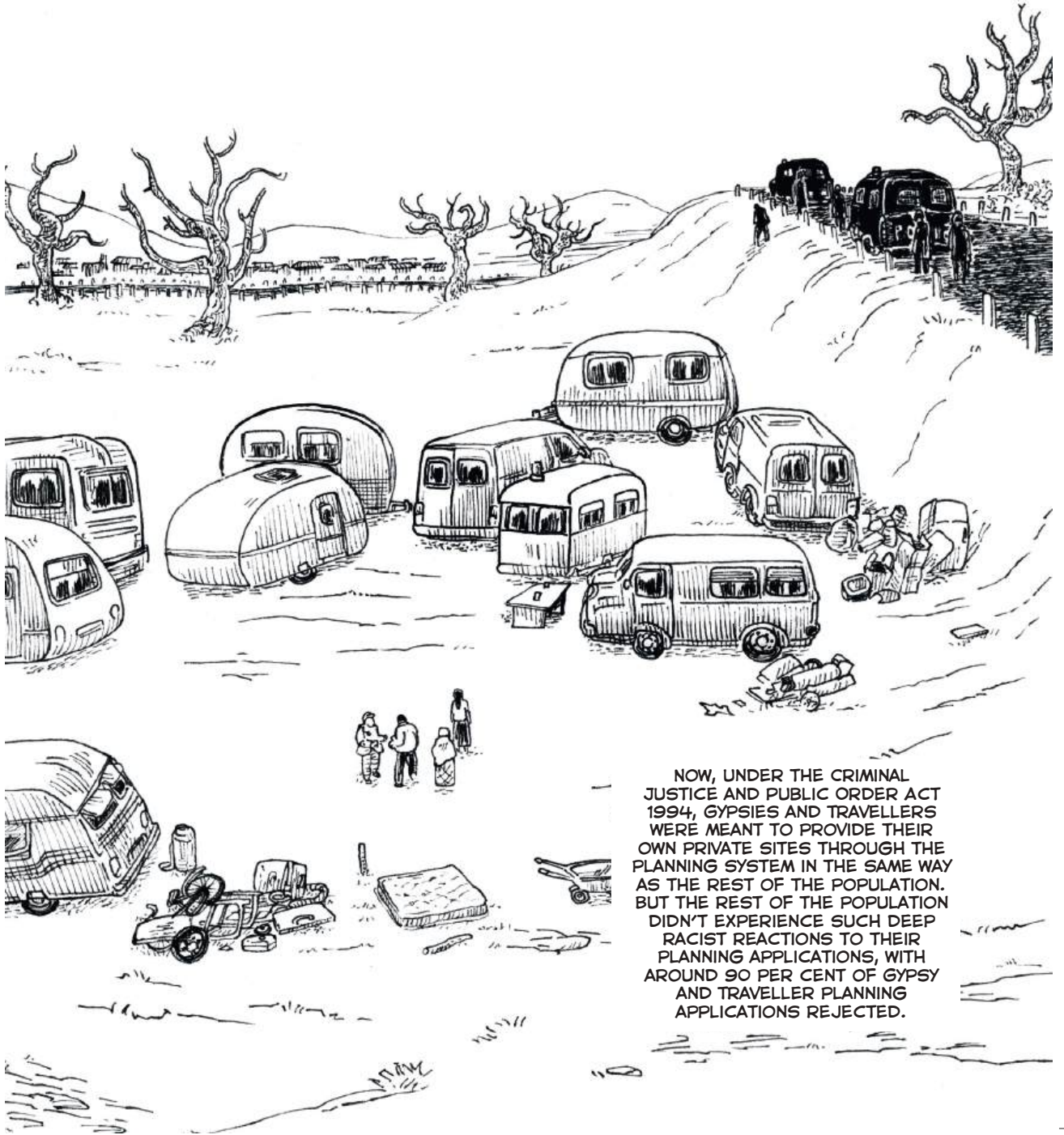
"NOT A LOT, NOT REALLY. WHEN TRAVELLERS GO TO THE BEACH, THEY'RE LIKE A LOAD OF ANIMALS, ALL JUMPING IN WITH THEIR CLOTHES ON. IT WAS A LITTLE BIT MORE ORGANISED WITH THESE CIVILISED PEOPLE. WE WERE GOING AND WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE BACK UNTIL FAIRLY LATE, WE HAD ALL GOT PERMISSION, THEY TOLD US TO PACK SWIMWEAR AND WE COULD GO. I WAS ONLY LITTLE SO, I THOUGHT 'I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!'. WE WERE SO LUCKY."

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME POSITIVE CHANGES GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS STILL EXPERIENCED RACISM AND HARASSMENT AS PART OF THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES.



BY THE EARLY 1990S IT WAS CLEAR THAT COUNCILS HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE SITES. EITHER BECAUSE THEY WERE PREJUDICED THEMSELVES OR BECAUSE THEY HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO STAND UP TO LOCAL OPPOSITION CAMPAIGNS. BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING COUNCILS TO BUILD SITES, THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM WAS TO REMOVE THE DUTY ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO BUILD THEM AND TO GIVE THE POLICE MORE POWERS TO EVICT UNAUTHORISED CAMPS.

1990s



NOW, UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1994, GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS WERE MEANT TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN PRIVATE SITES THROUGH THE PLANNING SYSTEM IN THE SAME WAY AS THE REST OF THE POPULATION. BUT THE REST OF THE POPULATION DIDN'T EXPERIENCE SUCH DEEP RACIST REACTIONS TO THEIR PLANNING APPLICATIONS, WITH AROUND 90 PER CENT OF GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PLANNING APPLICATIONS REJECTED.

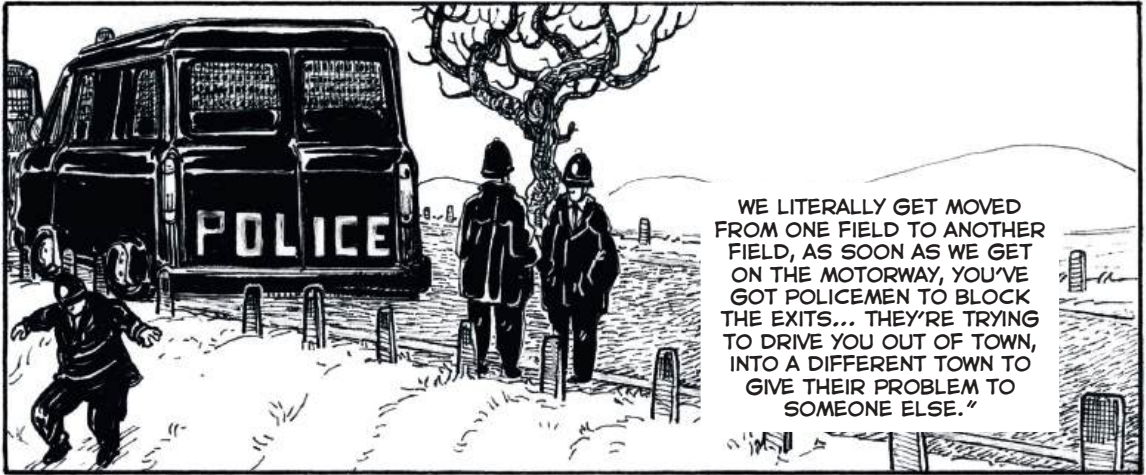
STEVE



"THE COUNCIL WILL COME DOWN AND THEY PROMISE YOU IF YOU BUY A PLACE, THAT THEY'LL GET IT PASSED FOR YOU, AND THEN ONCE YOU BUY ONE, THEY'RE MAKING EVERY EXCUSE THAT THEY NEVER SAID IT. AND THE PERSON THAT SAID IT, DIDN'T SAY IT! AND THEY'RE TRYING TO GET RID OF YOU AGAIN..."



IF PEOPLE WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTING WITH THE TRAVELLERS, THEN THEY WOULD MAKE AN EASIER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES, AS ONE, AND THEN THEY'D MAKE IT A LOT EASIER FOR EVERYBODY, EVEN FOR THE GYPSY COMMUNITY ITSELF. WHEN GYPSIES HAVE GOT PROPERTIES, LIKE HERE, I'VE BEEN LIKE 22 YEARS TRYING TO GET PLACES PASSED AND THEY HAVE REFUSED EVERY ONE OF THEM, EVERY ONE!



WE LITERALLY GET MOVED FROM ONE FIELD TO ANOTHER FIELD, AS SOON AS WE GET ON THE MOTORWAY, YOU'VE GOT POLICEMEN TO BLOCK THE EXITS... THEY'RE TRYING TO DRIVE YOU OUT OF TOWN, INTO A DIFFERENT TOWN TO GIVE THEIR PROBLEM TO SOMEONE ELSE."

LOUISE



"WE'VE GOT YOUNG GIRLS AND THINGS GROWING UP, THEY NEED SHOWERS, THEY NEED TOILETS, THEY NEED ALL THAT, IT'S HUMAN RIGHTS ISN'T IT?"

THEY'LL GO TO THE VILLAGE AND THEY'LL SHUT ALL THE TOILETS IN THE VILLAGE, DON'T THEY? THEY SAY THEY'RE ALL OUT OF ORDER AND EVERYTHING."

HARASSMENT BY COUNCIL WORKERS AND THE POLICE, AND INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE MEDIA ATTENTION FILTERED INTO ALL PARTS OF GYPSIES' AND TRAVELLERS' LIVES. EVEN SPACES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAFE AND WELCOMING, LIKE SCHOOLS.





I USED TO GET ARRESTED.
MY DAD USED TO COME IN
THERE ALL THE TIME."





BECAUSE HE WAS BEING CALLED BY OTHER PUPILS AT THE SCHOOL P---- THIS AND P---- THAT.



"SO FROM MY GENERATION TO HIS GENERATION, 20 YEAR LATER, STILL HAPPEN TO HIM. AND NOW HE'S 20. MY KIDS, MY GRANDKIDS ARE 14."



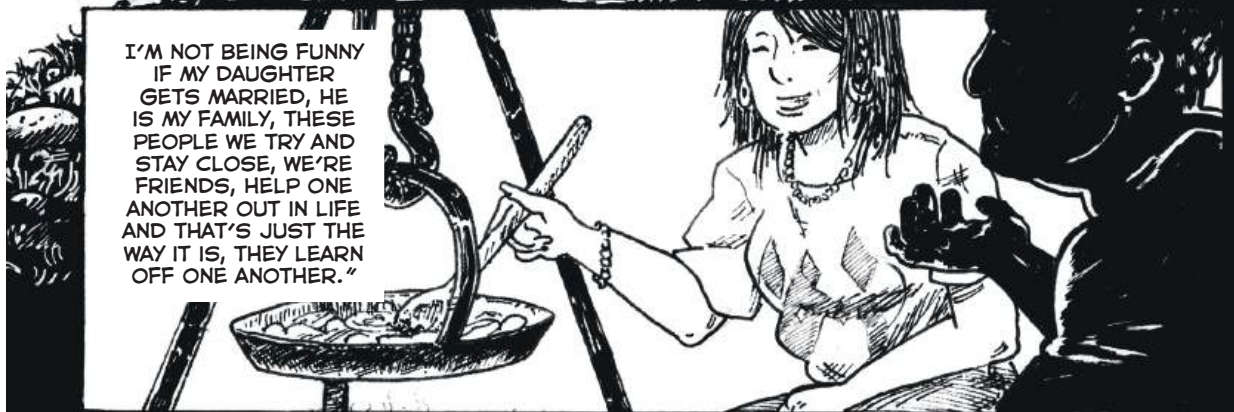
THEY'RE STILL GETTING IT. SO HOW HAS IT CHANGED?

DESPITE ALL THE DIFFICULTIES GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS FACE ON THE ROAD, IT'S STILL A WAY OF LIFE THAT THEY VALUE AND WANT TO PASS ON TO THEIR CHILDREN.

"YOU COME BACK FROM WORK, AND THE BOYS SAY, OH, WE'RE ALL GOING FISHING, ME AND THE BOYS WILL GRAB A ROD A PIECE, WE GO DOWN TO THE RIVER AND HAVE A LAUGH, A BIT OF BANTER FOR THE DAY, WITH MATES YOU AIN'T SEEN FOR A LONG WHILE..."

"IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN REALLY AND HAVING A GOOD FAMILY, A GOOD CLOSE FAMILY, AND LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER... MY MUM AND MY DAD, MY SISTERS, EVERYONE, BROTHERS-IN-LAW."

I'M NOT BEING FUNNY IF MY DAUGHTER GETS MARRIED, HE IS MY FAMILY, THESE PEOPLE WE TRY AND STAY CLOSE, WE'RE FRIENDS, HELP ONE ANOTHER OUT IN LIFE AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS, THEY LEARN OFF ONE ANOTHER."



"LIFE IS ONLY SHORT AND
WELL WE ALL KNOW IT."

STEVE



"WHEN YOU SEE ON A FIELD
AND IT'S ALL GREEN AND
LOVELY AND THE SUN IS
SHINING

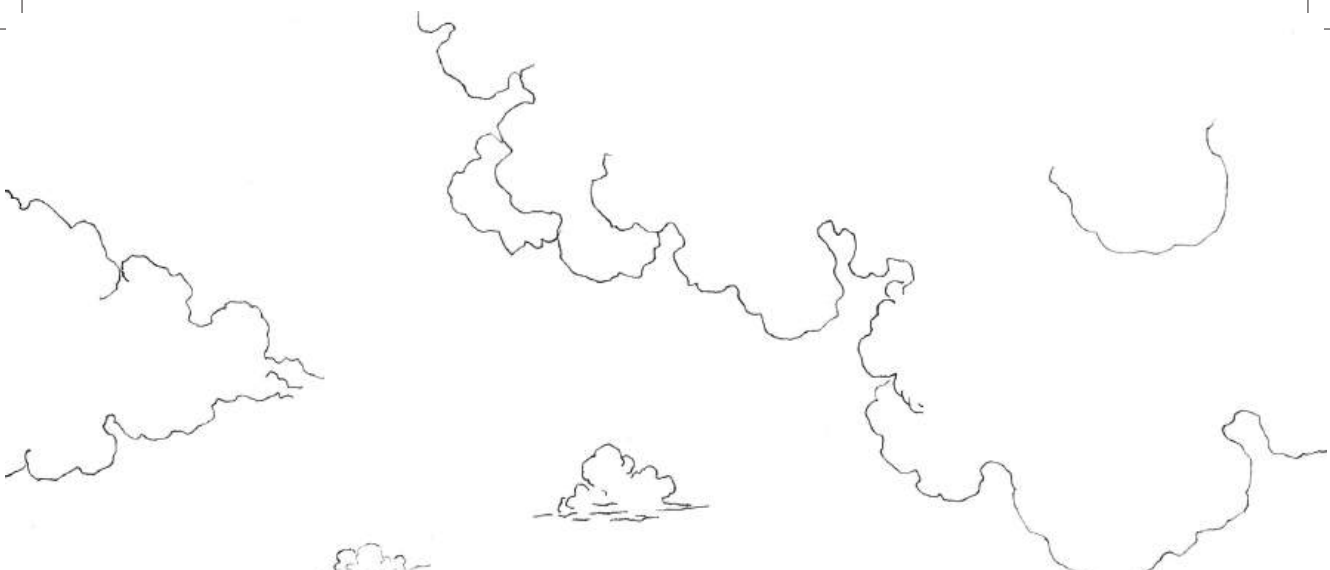


YOU'RE JUST GETTING ON
DOING YOU'RE CLEANING
UP, DOING WHATEVER,



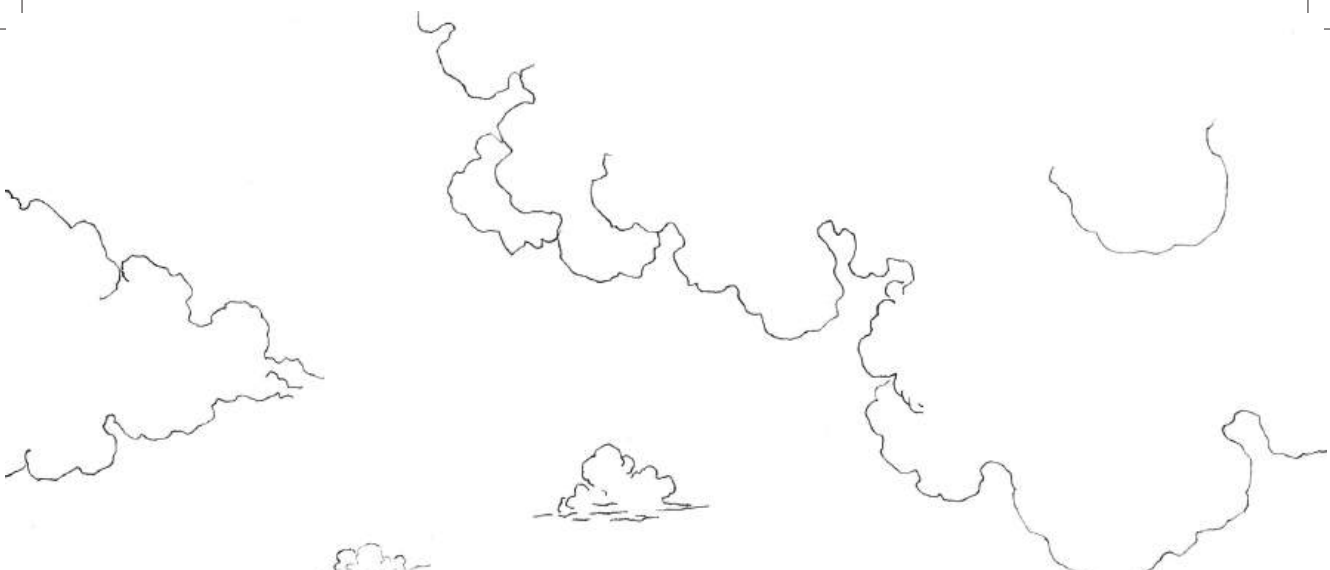
BUT YOU CAN SEE YOUR CHILDREN
ALL OUT THERE PLAYING, HAPPY,
SMILING, LAUGHING, JOKING OUT IN
A BIG GREEN FIELD...





IT'S THE COMPANY, THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, IT'S SEEING THE CHILDREN ARE HAPPY, THEY'RE MIXING WITH THEIR OWN."

LOUISE



NOT ENOUGH PITCHES ON AUTHORISED SITES. CRIMINALISED FOR BEING MOBILE AND PULLING UP SOMEWHERE. PLANNING PERMISSION FOR LIVING ON THEIR OWN PLOTS OF LAND TURNED DOWN.

WHERE WERE GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS TO GO? WAS THERE REALLY NO PLACE FOR THEM IN MODERN, MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN?



Further reading

Colin Clark and Margaret Greenfields, *Here to Stay. The Gypsies and Travellers of Britain* (Hatfield, 2006).

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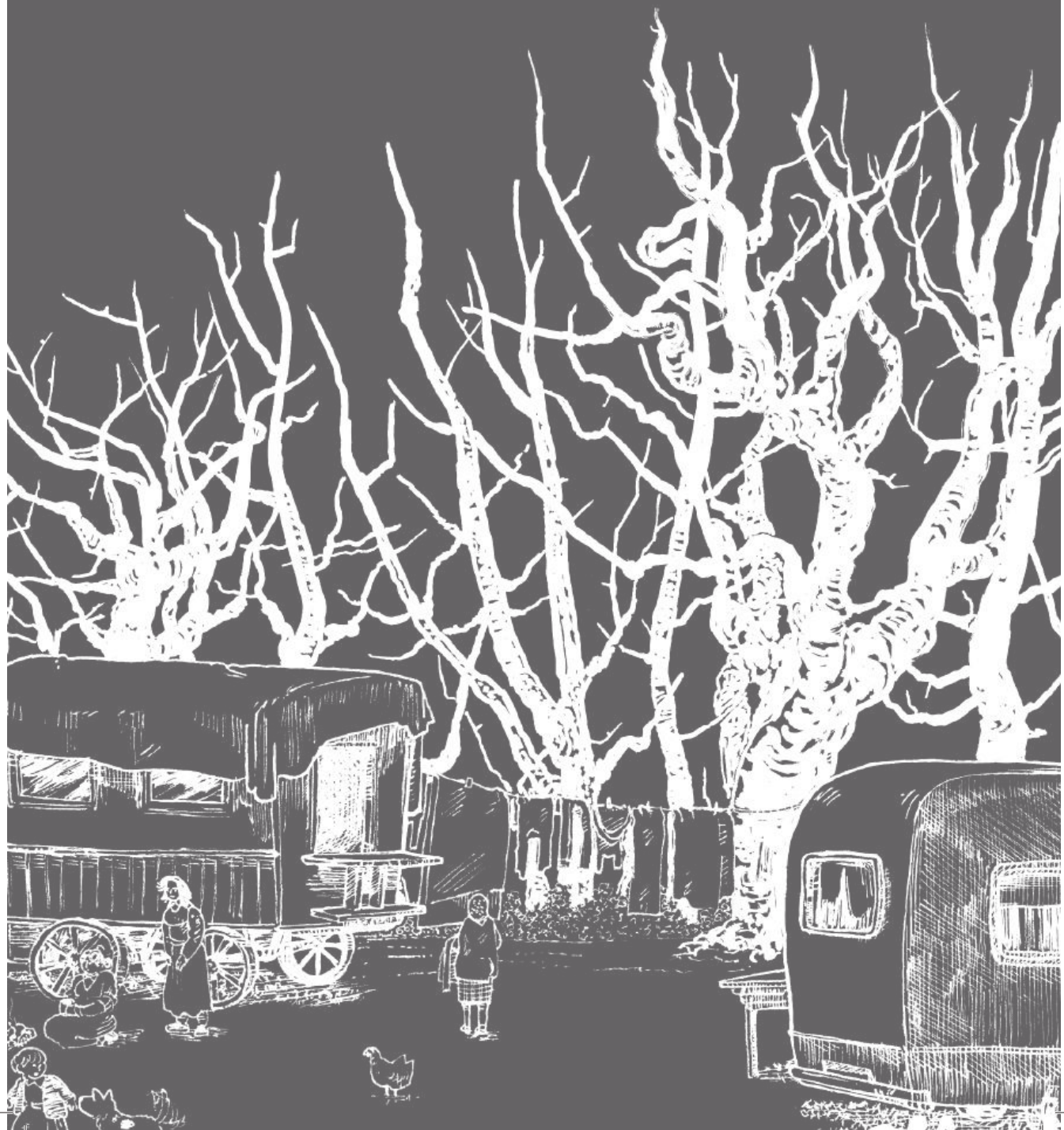
Betsy Whyte, *The Yellow in the Broom* (Edinburgh, 1979).

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THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS CHANGING QUICKLY AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. HOW WOULD THE NEW WORLD LOOK FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS?

THIS GRAPHIC HISTORY TAKES US FROM THE YEARS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO THE PRESENT TO LOOK AT HOW GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS LIVES HAVE CHANGED, THE GROWING CHALLENGES THEY HAVE FACED AND WHY, DESPITE EVERYTHING, PEOPLE CONTINUE TO WANT TO TRAVEL.



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