

PRESS RELEASE

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`The Book' is back!

Travellers' Times, the national magazine for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK will re-launch this winter, following the intervention of the Government's Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Travellers Times, popularly known as The Book by the Travelling community, has been circulating among Britain's estimated 400,000 Gypsies and Travellers for almost a decade and gained wide respect within the community.

Funding for the award winning magazine ran out earlier this year, but in July the DCLG stepped in with two-year's support. Travellers Times is produced by The Rural Media Company in Hereford. "We are delighted by the news," declared Nic Millington, The Rural Media Company's chief executive. "Gypsies and Travellers are among the most marginalised ethnic communities, especially in rural areas. They lack legal sites and stopping places, and, as a result experience, some of the worst health and education services of any minority. The Book was the one national publication for them to air their grievances and celebrate their culture."

Earlier this year, news that the magazine might be at risk brought messages of support from across the country.

"Lancashire Libraries actively works towards community cohesion and Travellers' Times plays a very important role in that work," declared the library service's Linda Robinson while Lorraine Hodgson from Wokingham said the magazine was essential to her work in traveller education. "Many Traveller communities are isolated enough without removing this vital source of information, advice and news," she said.

Release ends

Note to Editors

- **The Rural Media Company** is a Charity and company limited by guarantee and is supported by ScreenWM, Elmley Foundation and Herefordshire Council.

- For interviews and images, Natalie Preece on **01432 344039**.
- **Picture caption:** Front cover of current (Summer 2009) Travellers' Times magazine

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