

Romany Theatre Company

Atching Tan Project

Reminiscence Interview – Transcription of Edited Interview

Date of Interview	Interviewer	Interviewee	Age Range of Interviewee	Duration of Edited Recording
23/07/10	Sinead	Bonnie	54	0:05:12

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview – Bonnie 2
00:00	Bonnie	<p>I did live in a house once from Rymer Point, but I've always lived round here. I think I had about 3 years in a house and I hated every minute of it.</p> <p>There was a bit in the paper and it was 'call for calm in the village now the gipsies have gone' 'cos we packed our stuff up, got our trailers and left 'cos we couldn't stick it no more. And it was forever the children was getting picked on, the police was always at the gate and it wasn't nothing they was doing. I mean my old boy got followed home on a bus once by the police 'cos people had made allegations against him, yet soon as we move me children was safe again because we was with my own people. It's changed a lot from when me mum, me mum and dad and when we was at home. I suppose it was more, it was alright for me, I was brought up to it, but my children hadn't, so then I had to teach them and soon as I, my eldest son was bullied at school and I went to the school and my boy was left outside the headmaster office and I said what's my boy doing out there, so some of the others don't pick on him, I said don't you think the people that are picking on him, the boys that are picking on him, don't you think they should be outside your office? I took him out of school. He was thirteen. I took him out. He'd been bullied for 6 months and they never done nothing about it. So I suppose to protect him I kept him away from school, that was where I went wrong, but there weren't that much help then as what there is now 'cos I know the people to go to now. It was unfortunate that the children had to put up with what I put up with.</p>
01:23		<p>The thing that makes a gypsy is the way that they've been brought up. Like my mum and dad was brought up in wagons and they had trailers when they got married and they fetched us up in trailers, but they always told us about our Romany life. So you couldn't by a trailer and go on the road and say you're a traveller, you've got to have the blood of a traveller and when travellers talk to each other they know that they're travellers and you know people that i'nt travellers. You only got to look at one another and you know in a second that that's another traveller and I don't know what that is, I think it's a gift and that's like a gut feeling – ooh they're travellers. That's a true Romany Gypsy is where your roots are. If you find your roots, your born in wagons with the old traveller names then you know full well you're a traveller well your not a traveller you're a gypsy, you're a Romany Gypsy and that's what I am, I i'nt just a traveller, I'm a Romany Traveller, so I've got a right what every Romany Travellers got, which is not a lot (laughs).</p>
02:18		<p>I would like the travellers from now on or the Romany Gypsies to be recognised. I'd love it to happen. I don't think it ever will, but Id like it to happen, you know, so as my Grandchildren can look up an' say, you know, they're proud to be gypsies. That's what I'd like, but I'm comfortable as I am now because people are used to me, but its been a hard old struggle getting to where I am today, a really hard struggle. Then nobody knows unless they've lived it and you been through it and its torturous because you never forget it. And I can tell you when I first went to school, so it shows you how much it imprints on your mind, you know, from being a young child.</p> <p>I see a big change for gypsies because of people like yourself and other people recognising what you are doing for travellers. For you to recognise and you to tell other people that they are gypsies and, you know, its nice to know you because you're a gypsy can you tell us about your life and people being interested in what you are and not what</p>

04:07	<p>you make out to be and its like me, I've been after so many jobs, its unreal, to try and get a job. Soon as they know that you're a gypsy they don't want to know. You're unworkable, unless they can chuck you in the back and they don't treat you like you're a normal person, what they call normal people. See I am not normal, but they are.</p> <p>What you're trying to do at the moment trying to get that understanding over to normal people, Ill say, then that's a good thing. Your doing a good job and I can only praise you up for it. Travellers will do it, but they don't know how to start because they in't got the education and its people like you giving people like me a voice and I'm so pleased of it and I'm pleased that you've come here and I can tell people what its like being a traveller. Its not easy and its still hard and its going to be hard for these, when they get older because they come from a Romany background.</p> <p>When we use to come home from work, we used to play outside and we used to make a shop. We used to get the tins and set them up on boxes and the others would have a little 'ouse. We only had one pencil or a half a pencil an a bit of paper an we used to have dirt for a cake and wed make out, nail 2 tins on the end of bit of wood and set it on a brick and we used to make out to weigh the cake you know so as we could wrap it up so we was pretending we was working in a shop and that was good fun. When we used to catch the butterflies and look for the bird's nests and the pheasant's nests 'cos they're on the ground and skylark and things like that. So we understood all of that.</p> <p>They was really, really good memories of being a child, you know, of the things that we used to see. So its like, 'cos we was fetched up outside weren't we so that's the reason that we knew all the animals and trees and the things like that and when we used to go and pick the blue bells in the woods and things like that with me sisters. That was really good, really good. So they're fond memories, but we only had it between ourselves but nobody else could understand.</p>
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