

Press release

9 June 2009

Hackney Homes Roma residents put on a free concert for local people

A group of Roma residents are to put on a FREE concert on Tuesday 16th June 2009 outside Hackney Central Library as part of Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History month.

Called Kalo Drom, the family band will perform traditional folk songs they grew up with as well as a sprinkling of well known tracks for the audience to hum and dance along to.

The band will be dressed in self designed costumes and their performance will offer an insight into traditional Roma dance, singing, and instrument playing.

Band member Rita Dytulow aged 15 said: "We are so excited about performing for our neighbours in Hackney. We love Hackney and hope many people can come to watch us to get a picture of the Roma culture".

Hackney Homes Traveller Outreach Support Team work with Roma, Gypsies and Irish Travellers in the borough by providing assistance where possible to allow the communities to gain empowerment, by offering advocacy, benefit advice, training/work options advice, accessing medical care, and developing social enterprise amongst a whole host of additional support packages.

Chief Executive of Hackney Homes, Charlotte Graves said: "Hackney Homes is proud to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of this borough. That is why we are giving this platform to the band so that they can help raise awareness about their culture to Hackney's residents".

Councillor Nargis Khan, Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "Hackney has a wonderfully diverse community that we are keen to share and celebrate. I urge everyone to join us and be part of the national celebrations for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month to find out more about Hackney's vibrant history."

Ends

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Notes to Editors

Our mission for the future to deliver excellent, accessible services and quality homes that people want to live in.

- **Photo Opportunity & Interview:** 16th June. From 3:30pm, Outside Hackney Town Hall.
- Throughout the month of June, Hackney Library on Reading Lane hosts an art exhibition entitled 'Here I am' lead by the Traveller Education Service (TES) and Hackney Library Services. This exhibition showcases the art work of children including those from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community within schools in Hackney.