

Report of Romany Gypsy status of Daniel Bowers.

1. The Bowers family are a well-known Romany Gypsy family in and surrounding Southampton. They have travelled around and resided across Hampshire and Sussex for several centuries.
2. Daniel Bowers' grandfather on his father's side Alfred Barney was born into a large travelling family. He was born and raised in a traditional Romany Gypsy bow top wagon in Romsey, Hants. At 16 years old he married Valerie White and went on to have eight children, they all travelled together in their horse drawn wagon across Dorset, Somerset and Devon. On their travels they would visit lots of markets and horse fairs, where he would sale his own made iron works including pot ware, stoves and various tools.
3. Daniel's maternal grandmother Rosie Bowers was born in Southampton to Joey and Rachael-Rose Bowers, she was she was born into a Romany travelling family and had two siblings Frederick and Henry in their family horse drawn wagon. Her parents were seasonal agricultural workers picking fruits, hops and collecting moss around the south downs area of Hampshire. When Rosie was sixteen, she met and married Jonathan Bowers and had four children.
4. Daniel's grandparents continued to travel around the country after they married until eventually moving onto a family-owned plot of land in Botany Bay Road, Sholing Southampton. After a while they decided to purchase their own plot of land in botany bay road next to lots of family-owned yards. They resided in caravans until they built a bungalow, with their children in static caravans surrounding them on the same plot.
5. Botany Bay Road in Sholing, Southampton is a well-known home to lots of Romany traveling gypsies going back to the mid-1700s. Travellers from far and wide would come and stay here as there was a lot of surrounding farmlands for grazing horses and agricultural works. It is still to this day home to lots of Romany Gypsy families mostly Bowers family. Daniels great grandmothers mother Lavinia Bowers nee Barney was a well-known and popular amongst the travelling people, she was referred to as "*The queen of the gypsies*" this is well documented throughout lots of local history books one being "*The bygone days of Sholing*" and found on google. Lavinia and her husband Noah had ten children: Vanlo, Henry, Frederick, Noah, Betsy, George, Jimmy, Albert, Charlie and Elijah. They resided at Botany Bay Road on their own purchased land with their children living in wagons and canvas tents around them, this is the same land that Daniels family still live on to this day. It is documented from an old newspaper article "*Queen of the Gypsies cremated with her belongings in her Romany wagon on Sholing common*" this was a traditional Romany way; it is said that several hundreds of Romany gypsies came from across the country to attend and stayed for a week to mourn their loss.
6. Daniel's father Mark continued his traveling traditions and earned his money roofing, where he built a reputable roofing company in Southampton which is still running today.
7. Daniel's mother Georgina and Father Mark married in Southampton in 1987 they moved on to their own plot in Botany Bay Road, where Daniel was born in a static caravan. They would travel frequently for work and attend horse fairs across the country at months at a time until they decided to reside 1991 to reside for longer periods at Botany Bay Road to allow Daniel and his siblings to attend the local schools.
8. Daniel's family, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles and their children all lived on the same plot growing up, with his close family all nearby and would be visited regularly by-passing traveling family members and friends staying at a week at a time.

9. Daniel absolutely loved his life on Botany Bay Road having his family all around him, he had his own static caravan when of age and his horse kept in a stable right next to him. Daniel hopes for this with his own family to be around him now and his son to also have his horse next to him as he did.
10. Daniel and his siblings and cousins all attended Saint Monica infants and junior schools, they were all registered as Romany travelling Gypsies.
11. Daniel met his wife Keily a local Romany travelling girl from the travelling Smith family of Titchfield. They Had their first Daughter Emma-Louise in 2006, they would travel to various sites until their daughter was of school age. Daniel started off roofing at fifteen with his father and managed at eighteen to gain an apprenticeship in plumbing, now he is a fully qualified plumbing and Gas engineer. They both went on to have their second daughter Evelyn in 2012 at this time they were between various gypsy sites and staying regularly at Keily's family's land at Titchfield. Daniel gained different works contracts across the country that would see him travelling for his works one place to another on lots of different sites. Keily and their children would travel with Daniel a lot of the time, this arrangement continued till late 2019 when covid hit and Keily decided to move in with her grandparents to help care for her grandmother. Daniel stayed on the road for filling his works contracts until early 2024. Daniel and Keily after much thought have now decided to reside more permanently closer to Southampton and would like a more settled life for their two younger children for schooling and to be closer to family. Daniel has secured a new works contract in April 2024 with southern gas networks which now means he is based in and around the Hampshire area to carry out his every day role as a emergency gas responder which he dose going from job to job, he is still required to be readily available to travel as he is required from time to time to attend maintenance and replacement programs at different utility Gas sites across the country, Daniel will take his touring Caravan for longer periods away and stay in his van or B&B'S for shorter trips . This new job role has now meant quickly requiring a more permanent place to live and have the option for storage for Daniels work machinery. Daniel and his family have enquired and completed applications via Hampshire County council for availability on council owned sites and had little to no response also enquiring at touring/ static caravan sites and parks most confirming unable to accommodate them. Daniel and his family have decided to move onto their own purchased land at Willowbee, Allington Lane, where they have sited their mobile home and touring caravans.
12. Daniel has always lived a nomadic lifestyle from birth and has always travelled for his work a lot of the time with family members with him, he has had numerous static caravans and always had his own touring caravan to which he and his family would every year to their cultural traditions travel and stop along their way at relatives sites to attend most horse shows across the country where he would purchase horse tack and exchange horses, whilst his family would also purchase house hold items and clothing. Daniel and his family look forward to this to catch up with relatives and friends and always have their next gathering or fair booked in their schedule.
13. Daniel's Grandparents live within a mile from the site at Allington Lane which has proven to be useful to help care for his grandmother, which is going to more so needed in the near future due to declining health.
14. Daniel's four-year-old son Bleu is due to start school in September 2025 where they hope to enrol at Fair Oak Infants school where his cousins attend. Daniel & his family have all enrolled with the local doctor's surgery at Chartwell Green surgery. Daniel will remain to still travel as he has always done but looks forward to a more settled future with his family around him. Daniel, his wife and children are all residing at Willowbee at Allington lane and are living in their caravan and motorhome with their dayroom alongside them.

15. Daniel's eldest Daughter Emma-Louise who is eighteen and her fiancé Oliver Adams who is twenty, were previously both residing on Olivers family-owned land in Southampton, in a small touring caravan which they would often travel to different family-owned sites staying at a week at a time and often visiting Daniel while he was away. The land that Olivers father owns in Southampton became unsuitable for them to regularly stay at due to being at its maximum electricity capacity due to the number of units present on site which meant continuous problems tripping the electric and sometimes they would find themselves with no electric for days at a time. Emma-Louise has now secured a job at Hayes Travel in Eastleigh town centre and Oliver is a Driveway and landscaper which he travels for his work. They are both looking forward to having a more permanent and settled lifestyle and have purchased themselves a mobile unit residing on Willowbee, Allington Lane with Emma-Louise's family. They look to start their own family now they are settled and due to be married early 2025. Both Emma-Louise and Oliver will hold to their traditions, attend seasonal horse fairs and group traveller gatherings as they have always done.

Daniel Bowers
10 January 2025

Appendices:

1 - Photographs