

### **Act 3 : Get To Work!!!**

**From Sayers Creek to St Andrews Dock;**

**An alternative history of folk music & England**

### Pre-enclosure England



To recap.

By 1760 England was still largely agricultural, however, you may notice a slightly stronger and more unpleasant aroma wafting about. This is the stench of the new industrialised towns like Hull.

Since the 1500's large landowners had taken over small-holdings in a slow, haphazard and, often, illegal manner. This was about to change in 1760 with the passing of the Land Enclosure Acts.

These acts represented the largest transfer of wealth and land from the poor to the rich since 1066.

Poor cottagers were swindled out of the common land and, lost their rights to free grazing.

## Enclosure

### English Nursery Rhyme

They hang the man and flog the woman  
That steal the goose from off the common,  
But let the greater villain loose  
That steals the common from the goose.

The law demands that we atone  
When we take things we do not own,  
But leaves the lords and ladies fine  
Who take things that are yours and mine.

- circa 1764



Hull Advertiser & Exchange Gazette Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1794

### KIRK ELLA

#### To Be Sold By Auction

*On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November, at the house of Mrs Bamford, the George Inn, Whitefriargate, in the town of Kingston upon Hull, precisely at three o'clock in the afternoon, unless previously disposed of by private Contract, of which notice in that case will be given.*

Thirteen Acres and Three Roods of rich arable land, most advantageously situated in the best sales of the open Fields of Kirk Ella, and West Ella, in the County of Kingston upon Hull, well adapted for all the advantages and improvements to be derived from the enclosure of those Fields, which will now most assuredly take place.

Applications to own land or to object to its enclosure had to be made in writing. Only the rich could read and write and it was the rich landowners who sat in judgement of any case brought before them.

**Song: Song on the Times – John & Rosie**

## Industrial Revolution



Song: A Song on the Times

## **Song on the Times**

**You working men of England one moment now attend  
While I unfold the treatment of the poor upon this land  
For nowadays the factory lords have brought the labour low  
And daily are contriving plans to prove our overthrow**

**So arouse! You sons of freedom!  
The world seems upside down  
They scorn the poor man as a thief in country and in town**

**There's different parts in Ireland, it's true what I do state  
There's hundreds that are starving for they can't get food to eat  
And if they go unto the rich to ask them for relief  
They bang their door all in their face as if they were a thief**

**Alas how altered are the times, rich men despise the poor  
And pay them off without remorse, quite scornful at their door  
And if a man is out of work his Parish pay is small  
Enough to starve himself and wife, his children and all**

**So to conclude and finish these few verses I have made  
I hope to see before it's long men for their labour paid  
Then we'll rejoice with heart and voice and banish all our woes  
Before we do old England must pay us what she owes**

Extract of a letter to the

Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal 19th Feb 1796

If all the commons are enclosed, what resource is there for materials to repair the roads, either public or parochial?

And what recompense will the poor cottager have for the loss of fuel and feed for his flock of poultry and pigs, which is the woman's care, while the man is out at his daily labour? - One thing is certain; it will increase the poor poor-rates.

Your's

ARICQ.A.

The upper classes seized their chance and large estates were expanded at the expense of the poor.

Locally the Sykes family at Sledmere moved both the village of Sledmere and the main road to York as "the view was not pleasing".

At Howsham the Cholmley family demolished the old church and 26 houses to accommodate parkland.

The now homeless and landless poor either stayed put and starved to death or migrated to become the new working classes in the industrialised towns.

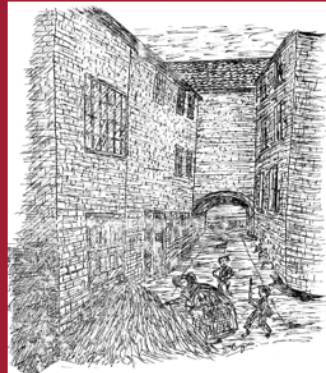
Conditions in the towns and factories were horrendous and mortality rates extremely high. Even as late as 1847 in Hull conditions were intolerable:



Living conditions in Kingston upon Hull in 1847



View showing narrow entrance and area of court Robinson's Square, New George Street.



Little Lane, Humber Street, showing narrow court and covered entrance.

Early attempts at reform were often met with violence. As discovered by followers of the orator and reformer Henry Hunt in 1819 in Manchester. The gentlemen Cavalry charged a peaceful protest injuring and killing many with their sabres in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre.

**Song: With Henry Hunt we'll Go – HFC Start note D**

Song: With Henry Hunt We'll Go



## With Henry Hunt We'll Go

With Henry Hunt we'll go me boys with Henry Hunt we'll go  
We'll mount a cap of liberty in spite of Nadine Joe

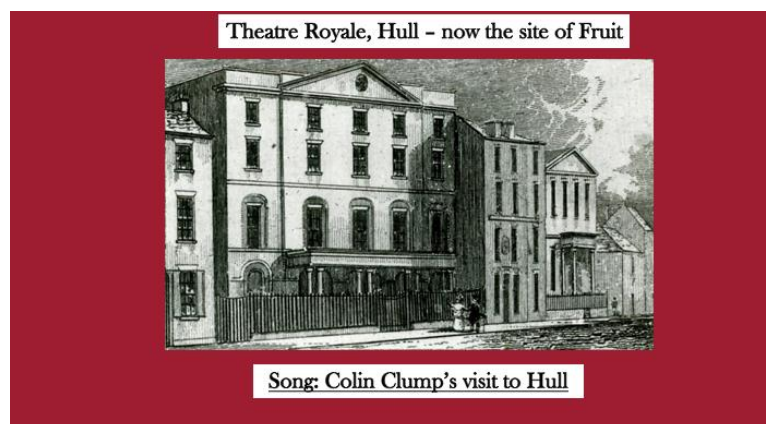
On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August in Eighteen Hundred and Nineteen  
A meeting held in Peters Street was glorious to be seen  
Joe Nadine and his big bulldogs as you might plainly see  
And on the other side stood the bloody cavalry

With Henry Hunt we'll go me boys with Henry Hunt we'll go  
We'll mount a cap of liberty in spite of Nadine Joe

Gradually embryonic trade unions formed and reform movements  
such as the Chartists brought some much-needed reform.

Despite all of this, good times could still be had as visitors to the  
Theatre Royale in Humber Street, Hull would attest to on January  
10<sup>th</sup> 1823.

### **Song: Colin Clumps Visit to Hull – Tom Gaynard**





### Colin Clump's Visit to Hull (abridged)

It's bad, and worse than that, and so you'll all allow,  
For I have lost my sweetheart Nan, and I don't know what  
to do;

I raves both night and day, I'm heartless as a stone  
I've wasted all away, till I'm nought but skin and bone  
**I've wasted all away, till I'm nought but skin and bone**

Together we come here to view this fine Hull town,  
To see the Greenland ships, and to wander up and down,  
King William and his horse, as I was staring at it,  
Nan ran away wi' Humphrey Woodenjaws, odd rot it.  
**Nan ran away wi' Humphrey Woodenjaws, odd rot it.**

So I set off to seek her up and down the streets,  
And asked if they had seen her, every one I meets,  
They told In Blanket Row that she was on the pier,  
And they said she was gone off by steam, when I got there.  
**And they said she was gone off by steam, when I got there.**

**Aboard the steam packet I went, but there was such noise  
and reek,**

**When I asked for our Nan, they couldn't hear me speak;  
So I found out she wasn't there ashore I made my way,  
There I met folk, who said she was off t' play.**

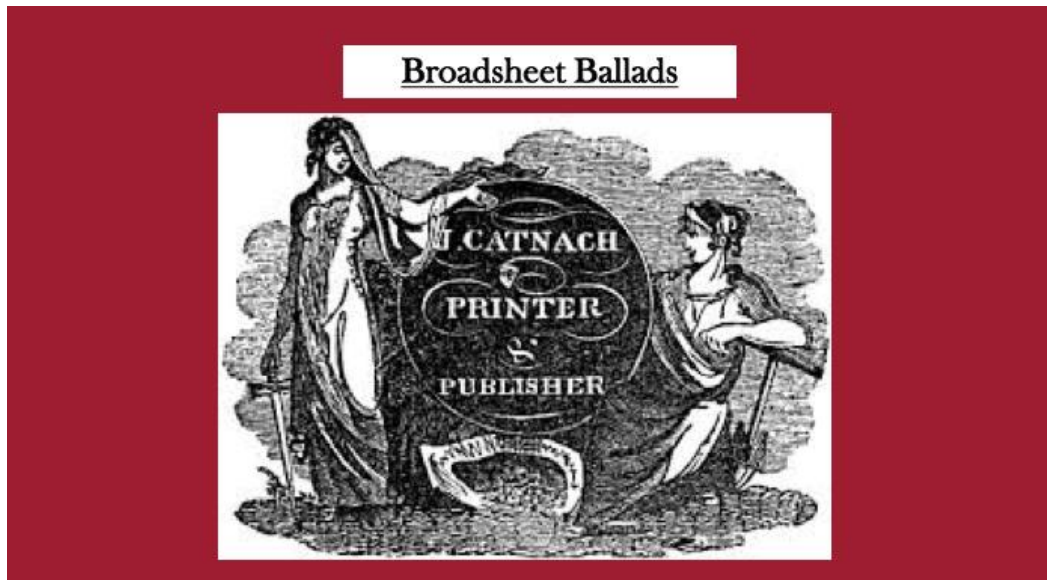
**There I met folk, who said she was off t' play.**

**So off I went to see if Nan is in this place,  
And if she is I think she'll be ashamed to show her face,  
Then I see her there dressed in her fine fallery,  
With Humphrey Woodenjaws stuck up in shilling gallery.**

**With Humphrey Woodenjaws stuck up in shilling gallery.**

**I'll thank you all to take care they don't get away,  
I'll knope Humphrey Woodenjaws directly after play,  
As for thee, Madam Nan, I wish – I tell thee true,  
I wish thou may die an old maid, aye I'm sure I do  
I wish thou may die an old maid, aye I'm sure I do**

## Broadsheet Ballads



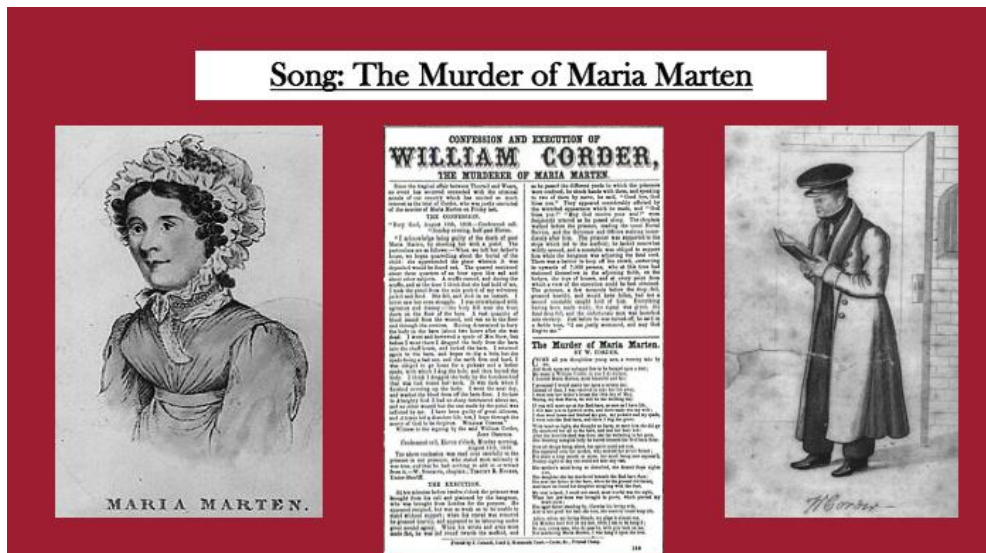
A relaxation of licensing laws lead to a boom in printing and many provincial printers emerged. In Hull the most prominent was John Ferraby of Market Place. Meanwhile in London the biggest two printers Jemmy Catnach and John Pitts were in competition often leading to unscrupulous practices.

However, in 1828 Catnach struck gold. His broadsheet ballad on the Murder of Maria Marten and trial of her killer William Corder became the best-selling broadsheet ballad of all times.

### Western Times 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1828

“The Lord Chief Barron then proceeded to pass sentence on him, which was – that you, William Corder, be hanged on Monday next, and your body be cut down and given for dissection.”

**Song: The Murder of Maria Marten - HFC , guitar, lute CAPO 1<sup>ST</sup> FRET**



**The Murder of Maria Marten**

**Come all you thoughtless young men, A warning take by me,  
And think of my unhappy fate To be hanged upon a tree.**

**My name is William Corder, The truth I do declare:  
I courted Maria Marten, Both beautiful and fair.**

**I promised that I'd marry her All on one certain day,  
Instead of that I was resolved To take her life away.**

**I went unto her father's house The eighteenth day of May,  
Saying, "Come, my dearest Maria, Let us fix our wedding day.**

**"If you'll meet me at the Red Barn, As sure as I have life,  
I'll take you down to Ipswich town And there make you my wife."**

I straight went home and fetched my gun, My pickaxe and my  
spade. I went unto the Red Barn, And there I dug a grave.

With heart so light she thought no harm, To meet me she did go.  
I murdered her all in the barn And I laid her body low.

Now all things being silent, She could not take no rest  
But appeared at her mother's house, That had suckled her at her  
breast.

Her mother dreamed a dreadful dream, She dreamed it three nights  
o'er,

She dreamed her dearest Maria Lay beneath the Red Barn floor.

They sent her father to the barn And in the ground he thrust,  
And there he saw his daughter dear All a-mingling with the dust.

Adieu, adieu, remember me, My glass is almost run.

For early in the morning I am sentenced to be hung.

So all young men that do pass by With pity look on me,  
For the murder of Maria Marten I was hanged upon a tree.

## Music Hall

Music Hall



Since the 1820's a new form of entertainment was emerging. Originally intended for the upper classes in places like the Coal Hole and Cyder Cellars in London it's format proved popular with the working classes. The Music Hall.

Bolton Chronicle August 24<sup>th</sup> 1844

29  
CONCERT-ROOM,  
STAR INN,  
CHURCHGATE,  
BOLTON.



**For Six Nights only.**  
Commencing on Monday Afternoon, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and every Evening during the week.

Mr W.G. Ross

The celebrated comedian and Comic Vocalist, who's powers are now well known to the Bolton Public, and who's performance of the "STAGE STRUCK HERO", have been hailed by the most rapturous marks of approbation.

**Song: Samuel Hall Chimney Sweep – sung by Maggie Graham.**



Song: Samuel Hall Chimney Sweep



W.G Ross as Sam Hall

Early Music Hall songs were little more than folk tunes with new, often bawdy lyrics. One of the major stars of the North East being Ned Corvan of Tyneside.

**Song: Cullercoates Fish Lass – HFC, Dulcimer**

Morpeth Herald 4<sup>th</sup> October 1856

We are informed that the celebrated Mr Corvan, singer of the Melodies of Tyneside, and who is famed for his sketches of Durham and Northumberland character, intends visiting this town; should he do so, from his popularity there is fear of obtaining a full house.

Song: Cullercoates Fish Lass

## **Cullercoates Fish Lass**

Aw's a Cullercoats fish-lass, se cozy an' free  
Browt up in a cottage close on by the sea;  
An' aw sell fine fresh fish ti poor an' ti rich--

**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

Byeth barefoot and barelegged aw trudge mony a week,  
Wi' a creel on mee back an' a bloom on mee cheek;  
Aw'll supply ye wi' flat fish, fine skyet, or fresh ling,  
And sometimes pennywilks, crabs, an' lobsters aw bring.

**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

Aw work hard for mee livin', frev a frind aw ne'er begs,  
An' aw huff the young gents when they peep at my legs;  
Aw's hilthy an' hansom, quite willin' and strong,  
To toil for my livin', cryin' fish the day long.

**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

Aw's a Cullercoats fish-lass, se cozy an' free  
Browt up in a cottage close on by the sea;  
An' aw sell fine fresh fish ti poor an' ti rich--

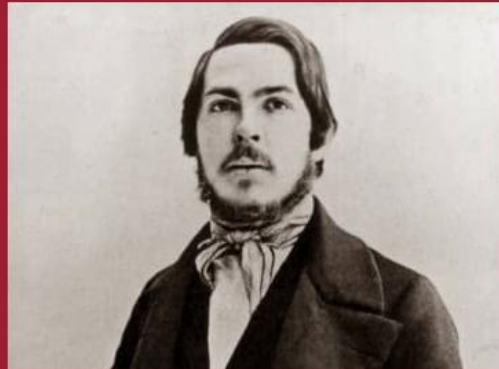
**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

**Will ye buy, will ye buy, will ye buy maw fresh fish?**

The nature of music enjoyed by the working classes was changing and was reflected in his Conditions of the Working Classes in England by a young Frederick Engels.

Extract from the Conditions of the working class in England  
by  
Frederick Engels (1845)



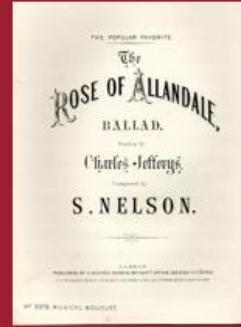
Hull Advertiser & Exchange Gazette 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1852

BROADWOOD AND SONS'  
COTTAGE PIANO FORTES.  
J. W. HOLDER  
RESPECTFULLY INFORMS PURCHASERS OF  
PIANO FORTES,  
That he has just completed a purchase of a number of the  
above Instruments, from a provincial Music-Seller,  
and is now offering the same  
AT A VERY REDUCED PRICE!!  
ALSO, SEVERAL CABINETS & SQUARES,  
BY THE ABOVE MAKERS.  
Now on view at his Piano-Forte and General Musical  
Repository,  
1, WHITEFRIARGATE, HULL.



Soon enterprising composers and publishers saw there was an almost insatiable appetite for folk song. A demand driven in part by the invention of the Cottage Piano by John Broadwood and Sons.

## Fake-song?



Song: The Rose of Allandale

**If it was too difficult to collect folk songs then, why not write your own?**

**Song: Sweet Rose of Allandale – HFC, lute**

### **Sweet Rose of Allendale**

**Oh the morn was fair, the sky was clear, no breath came over the  
sea**

**When Mary left her highland home and wandered forth with me  
Though flowers decked the mountain side and fragrance filled the  
vale**

**By far the sweetest flower there was the Rose of Allendale  
Sweet Rose of Allendale, sweet Rose of Allendale  
By far the sweetest flower there was the Rose of Allendale**

**Where e'er I wandered to the east or to the west and fate began to  
lour**

**A solace still was she to me in sorrow's lonely hour  
Though tempests wrecked my lonely barque and they rent the  
quivering sails**

**One maiden form withstood the storm, was the Rose of Allendale  
Sweet Rose of Allendale, sweet Rose of Allendale  
One maiden form withstood the storm was the Rose of Allendale**

**And it's when my fever lips were parched on Africa's burning sands  
She whispered hopes of happiness and tales of foreign lands  
My life had been a wilderness, unblessed by fortune's gale  
Had fate not linked my lot to her, sweet Rose of Allendale  
Sweet Rose of Allendale, sweet Rose of Allendale  
Had fate not linked my love to her, sweet Rose of Allendale**

## The Folk Revival

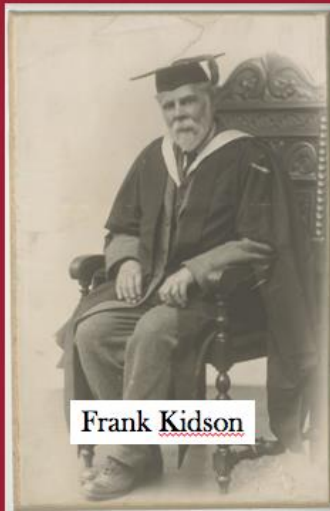
The Folk Revival



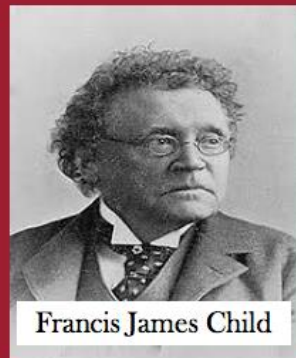
Bidford Morris 1875



Lucy Broadwood



Frank Kidson



Francis James Child

The loss of folk song was most keenly felt, not by the working classes, but by the Upper Middle Classes who frowned and looked down upon the music hall songs.



A surge in collecting folk songs was led by Lucy Broadwood (daughter of the piano maker), Sabine Baring-Gould, Francis James Child and Frank Kidson.

Interestingly, they presented their songs nicely ready to play on the parlour piano!

However, by the 1870's fervent nationalism was in the air. Germany was coalescing into a single unified country and challenging Britain as an industrialised nation. This nationalism spread to song collecting. This impetus was purely English led as it was felt we had collected plenty of songs from Ireland and Scotland.

Any English songs collected had to be superior to those collected on the continent – this attitude is reflected in the numerous newspaper reports of the time.

Above all English folk song had to be modal.

In the 1895 Sabine Baring Gould collected this song from a fisherman on the River Humber.

**Song: I Saw Three Ships – HFC START NOTE A/D**



Sabine Baring-Gould

Song: I Saw Three Ships

### I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing by,  
I saw three ships come sailing by,  
*By, by, by,*  
I saw three ships come sailing by.

I asked them what they'd got on board.

They said that they had got three crowns.

I asked them where they was taking them to.

They said they was going to Köln upon Rhine.

I asked them where they was bringing them from.

They said they was coming from Bethlehem.

I saw three ships come sailing by.

Sheffield Independent 14<sup>th</sup> May 1894

But it must be done quickly, he said, because only the old people know the airs, the young preferring the latest music hall songs.

Mr Baring-Gould, however, made a rather good point in asserting the genuineness of the English folk-song, as contrasted with the French and German airs which are in great part echoes of old opera. He further imputed the same lack of originality to the folk songs of all European countries except England.

1898

Formation of the Folk-Song  
Society



End of Act 3

10 minute drinks break!

