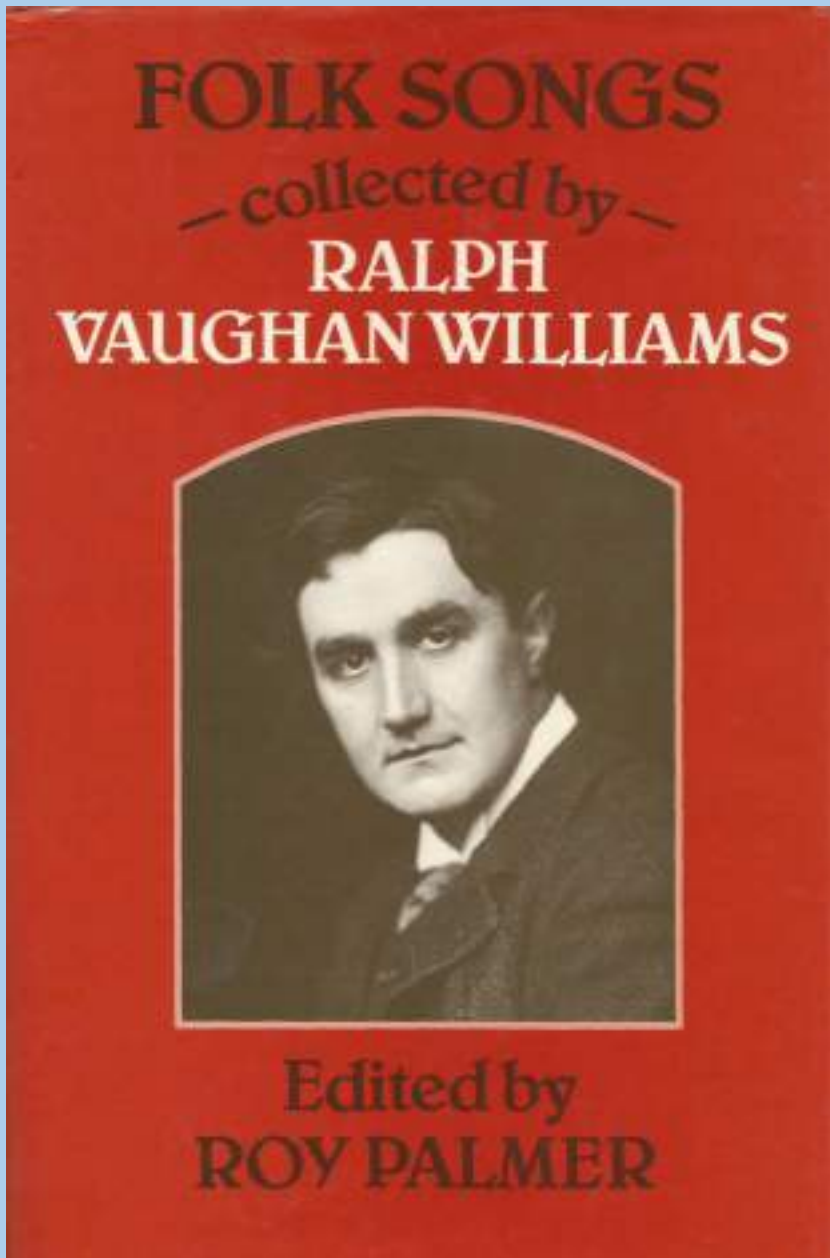




# **“Up from the sea and in from the fields”**

**An overview and update of research and projects  
from King’s Lynn to Southwold, via South Norfolk**

**Katie Howson 26 November 2022**



The first book to include songs from Vaughan Williams' Suffolk collecting, published in 1983.

No. 86, *The Red Running Rue* was from Billy Waggs from Orwell (actually in Cambridge of course, not Suffolk).

#### SUFFOLK

- 78 Eggleston Hall 122
- 79 Wild and Wicked Youth 123
- 80 *The Royal George* 124
- 81 Jack Tar 125
- 82 Lovely Joan 127
- 83 The Dew is on the Grass 129
- 84 The Basket of Eggs 130
- 85 Broad-striped Trousers 132
- 86 *The Red Running Rue* 133
- 87 The Barley Straw 134

ms bk. ix) pp. 354-377 'Suffolk' appears on first page, with first song.

354	Lovely Joan	William Hurr	Southwold, Sffk.	24. x. 10	= I/370	Crossed out in blue ink
355	Three Jolly Butchers [ <u>Three Butchers</u> ]	[? also W. Hurr?]	"	"	W	
356	Royal George	"	"	"	W	
357	Loss of the London	William Hurr	"	25. x. 10	17/331	
358	When I was bound apprentice [ <u>London Apprentice</u> ]	"	"	"	17/329	
359	Georgie	[Mr] Nearby	Almshouses, Reydon,	"	17/332	
360	Forty Miles	"	Southwold, Sffk.	"	Noted by G.S.K.B.]	
362 1)	The Cobbler	Ben Hurr	Southwold, Sffk.	24. x. 10		
2)	Isle of France	"	"	"		
363	When Jones' ale was new [ <u>Jones' ale</u> ]	"	"	"	W	
365 1)	Tiresome wife	Robert Hurr	"	"		
2)	In London town I was bred & born [ <u>Nenny Fields</u> ]	"	"	"	W	
366 1)	Bold Princess Royal [ <u>Princess Royal</u> ]	"	"	"		
2)	A health (WORDS only)	Mr Keble	Shadingfield, Sffk.	"	W	
367	Bold Princess Royal [ <u>Princess Royal</u> ]	? William Hurr	[Southwold, Sffk.]	"		
368	It's of a rich old farmer [ <u>The Tinker</u> ]	Unspecified	"	"	W	
369	Liverpool Hornpipe (concertina) [ <u>Dance Tune</u> ]	Robert Hurr	"	25. x. 10]		
370	Lovely Joan	William Hurr	"	"	= I/354 17.330 +verse from C/25	

# **EATMT projects based on Vaughan Williams' song collecting**

Blyth Valley Voices (Southwold) 2003-2004

Waveney Voices (south Norfolk) 2005

North End Voices (King's Lynn) 2005-2007

Vaughan Williams in the East 2009

## **Each of these projects included the following elements:**

- 1.** Research into the songs collected by Vaughan Williams and others in these locations
- 2.** Research into local singers, both those visited by Vaughan Williams, and other singers
- 3.** Research into the circumstances of the collecting trip
- 4.** Publication / dissemination of songs and research in various forms
- 5.** Singing workshops for adults
- 6.** Schools workshops
- 7.** Final concert involving schools, adults from the project workshop and other local singers and musicians



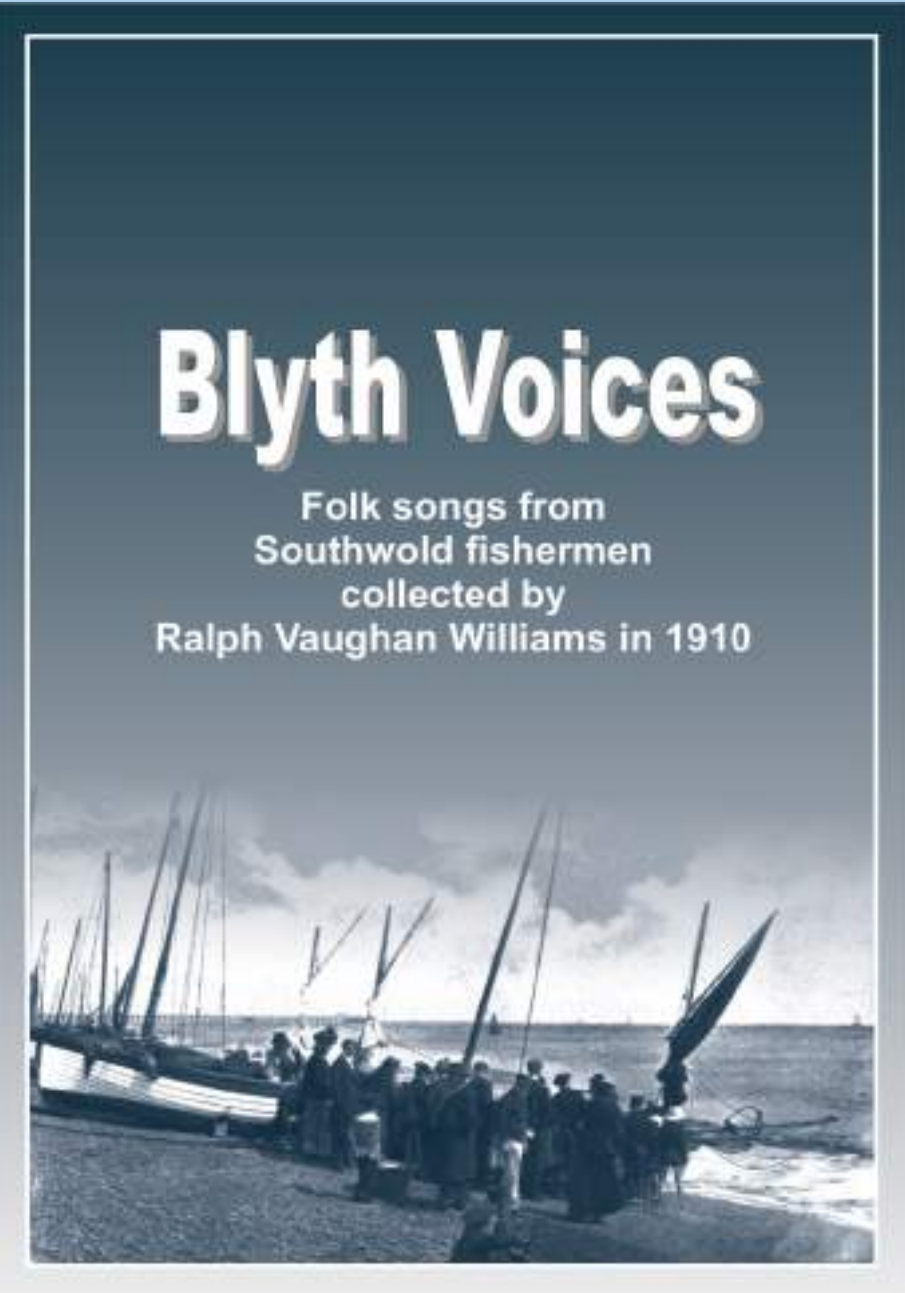
## Blyth Valley Voices



Children from the local primary school rehearsing a song with Chris Coe in St Edmund's Hall, which overlooks the churchyard where many of the singers from 1910 are buried.

“Blyth Voices” book, first published 2003,  
2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2008.

Details of the 30-minute radio programme  
about the project.



## Blyth Valley Voices



**First broadcast:** Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2004, 13:30 on BBC Radio 4 FM

A century ago, the folk songs of the **Blyth** Valley inspired Vaughan Williams to write some of his best-loved pieces. Paul Heiney goes in search of these ancient songs and finds that they have been rediscovered. They are now part of a folk revival that thrives in the schools, pubs and Village halls Of the Suffolk coast. Producer Peter Everett

### Contributors

Unknown: Paul Heiney

Producer: Peter Everett





Chris Coe with workshop members of the 2005 **Waveney Voices** project, looking at songs collected around the Diss area, on the Norfolk/Suffolk border.



## Waveney Voices

Left: Depwade Union workhouse, Pulham Market on the A140, now converted to residential use.

The song *Cold Irons* noted in the workhouse on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1911, and below it, Vaughan Williams' assessment of the songs collected by himself and GSKB (Butterworth) "near Diss Norfolk Dec 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 1911."

workhouse Dec 19 = 1911  
"Cold Irons"  
Songs collected near Diss Norfolk Dec 18-22 1911  
L. RVW & GSKB  
5:15:20 2:50:00 1:20:00 0:15:00



## North End Voices

Inside St Nicholas Chapel in King's Lynn, as the concert is about to start.

Early North End Voices exhibition on display in St Nicholas Chapel.



Alan Helsdon worked with large numbers of schoolchildren, teaching the songs of the North End. This was a BBC Radio Norfolk project called **Northenders**, which was recorded on the banks of the Great River Ouse in King's Lynn.



# Vaughan Williams in the East

Sunday 8th  
February  
2009  
Walberswick

## Celebrating East Anglian folksong

A day of illustrated talks and an afternoon concert telling the story of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' trips to the eastern counties a hundred years ago to collect folk-songs from fishermen and farmworkers.



'A folk song is like a tree,  
whose stem should take  
from immemorial times,  
but which contemporary poets  
cut now and then.'  
From Vaughan Williams, 1917



Talks include: 'That Precious Legacy: Vaughan Williams and Essex Folksong' (Sue Cubbin, Essex Record Office); 'Vaughan Williams in Cambridgeshire: Deciphering the Manuscripts' (Mary Humphreys, singer & researcher) and 'Vaughan Williams - Then and Now: Collecting and Communities in Norfolk & Suffolk' (Katie Howson, East Anglian Traditional Music Trust). There will also be a unique chance to see several exhibitions linked to the talks. Tickets are available for the whole day or for the concert only. The concert features a selection of the folk songs collected by Vaughan Williams in the eastern counties, brought back to life by singers Chris Coe, Mary Humphreys and Anghata, Adrian May, Sue Cubbin and Elaine Barker.

The event takes place in Walberswick Village Hall, Walberswick is off the A12 near Blythburgh in Suffolk, and across the River Blyth from Southwicks. Doors open to view the exhibitions at 10.30 am and talks start at 11am. There will be a break for lunch and an interval for tea before the concert, which runs from 4pm to 5.15. Light refreshments will be available, or lunch may be booked at local public houses. Further details will be sent out by email post on receipt of payment.

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

2009 EATMT conference:  
**Vaughan Williams in the East**

# Further independent research since 2017

- **Southwold** updates 2017-2021, culminating in “Up from the Sea” online presentation for the Traditional Song Forum, updated article on [katiehowson.co.uk](http://katiehowson.co.uk), and seven further articles on the Unsung Histories website.
- **South Norfolk** updates 2017-2019 culminating in “All My Life’s Buried Here” – film about Vaughan Williams’ colleague George Butterworth and updated article on [katiehowson.co.uk](http://katiehowson.co.uk) website.
- **King’s Lynn** updates 2017-2021, culminating in “100 Years of Singing in King’s Lynn” presentation for the Folk Voice conference, updated article on [katiehowson.co.uk](http://katiehowson.co.uk), and five further articles published on the Unsung Histories website.
- **South Suffolk** research – work in progress (unpublished).

**Full details on where to find my updated work is on the handout:** basically, Vaughan Williams stuff is on [katiehowson.co.uk](http://katiehowson.co.uk) and other articles are on [unsunghistories.info](http://unsunghistories.info)

## Southwold



*Up from the Sea*  
by Joseph Southall  
(1920)

## Southwold



The Harbour Inn, 1911.

J.W. Georges drew this from memory in 1930, and he is the man on the right, with the pipe.

Singer Billy Rogers in the centre, with the black tie.

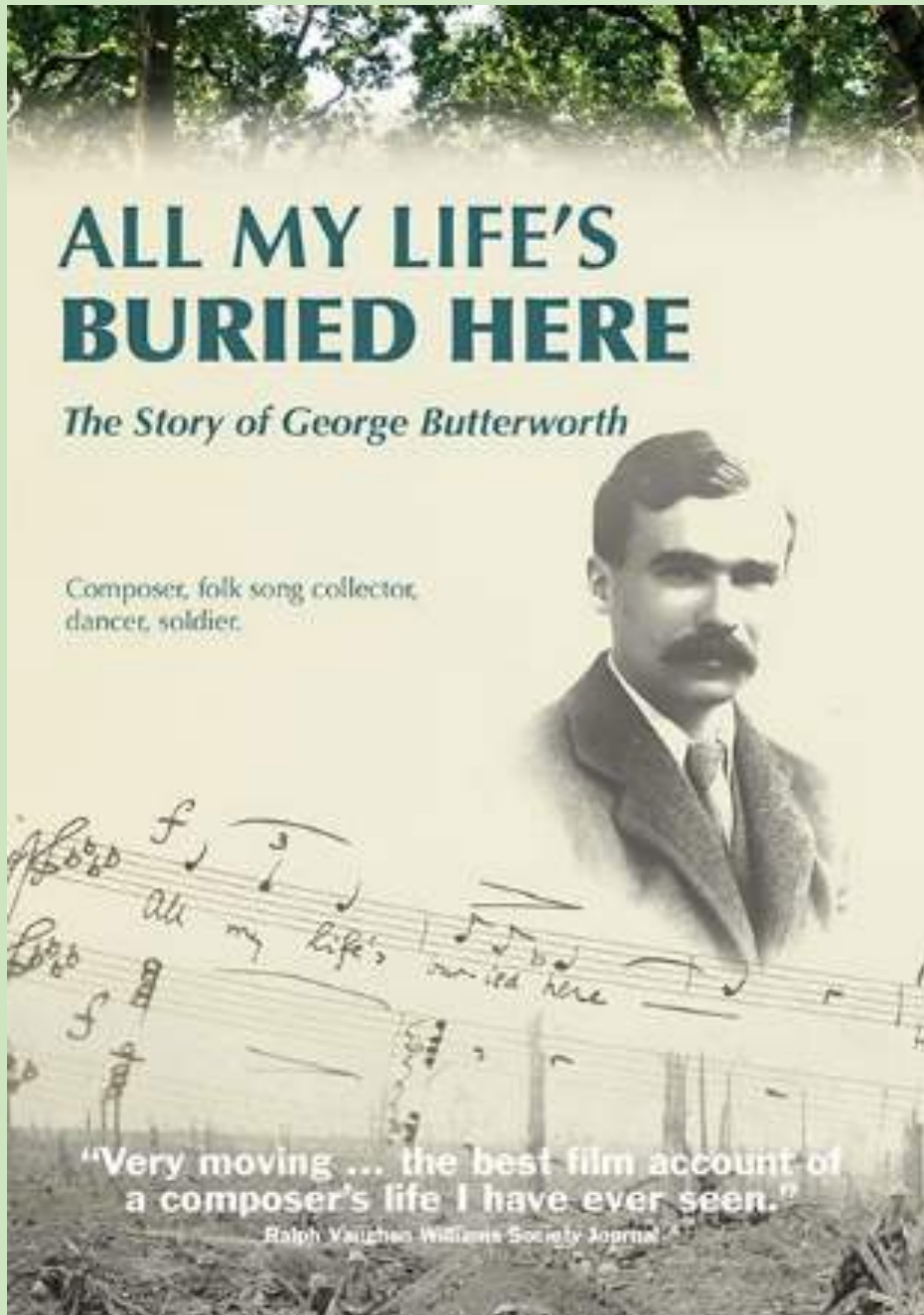


## Southwold



Martin Shaw (left), friend and colleague of Ralph Vaughan Williams (right). The two corresponded about folksong collecting and Shaw knew the Hurr family in Southwold.

## South Norfolk



The 2019 film made about the life and music of George Butterworth – the DVD is still available.

<https://katiehowson.co.uk/south-norfolk-singers-1911>

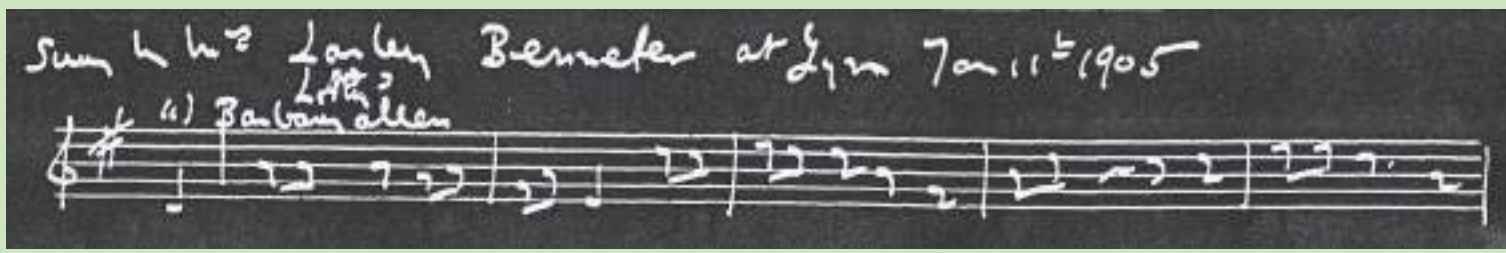
County of *Norfolk*

Records of all Persons Committed, or Bailed to appear for Trial, or Indicted at the *General Sessions for the County of Norfolk* and at *the Court of Sessions* in the *5<sup>th</sup>* day of *August* 1882, during the sittings of their Offices, and the result of the Proceedings.

327

No.	NAME	Offence of which they have been convicted or acquitted, and of which they have been discharged or acquitted. (To be filled up by the Magistrate or Clerk)	Convicted and Sentenced				Acquitted and Discharged
			Month	Year	Imprisonment (Only if the Magistrate or Clerk)	Term of Public Probation	
1	<i>Ben. M. Co.</i>	<i>Murder</i>					
2	<i>Richard Bate</i>	<i>Burglary</i>			<i>15 years</i>		
3	<i>Leah Bossert</i>	<i>Burglary</i>					
4	<i>William Bailey</i>	<i>Manslaughter</i>					
5	<i>William Harold</i>	<i>Fugitive</i>					
6	<i>William Bailey</i>	<i>Manslaughter</i>					
7	<i>Harriet Ann Bailey</i>	<i>Manslaughter</i>					
8	<i>Harriet Ann Bailey</i>	<i>Manslaughter</i>					

wards James Stannard came into the yard, and Mrs. Newman's children complained to him that Bailey would not let them play, and Stannard said he would not have his brothers and sisters struck while his mother was out. Mrs. Bailey thereupon said, "Who cares for you?" and used bad language. He (deceased) said if Bailey's people wanted anything they were to come out. The Baileys then got round him, and Bailey's daughter (Elizabeth Maul), who had a baby in her arms, struck him on the head with a baby's shoe, and then five of them—William Bailey and his wife, Mrs. Maul, Lol Bailey, and Naomi Bailey, all set about him, striking him about the head and face with their fists. They beat him until his nose and his teeth were bleeding. Then Mary Ann Panton came into the yard, and pulled him away from them into his house, the door of which she locked.



Some of the jigsaw pieces which have enabled us to identify "Larley" Benefer as Lol Benefer (nee Bailey): 1882 criminal register (Harriet Ann Bailey) and Lynn News ("Lol" Bailey); RVW's manuscript – "Larley" Benefer

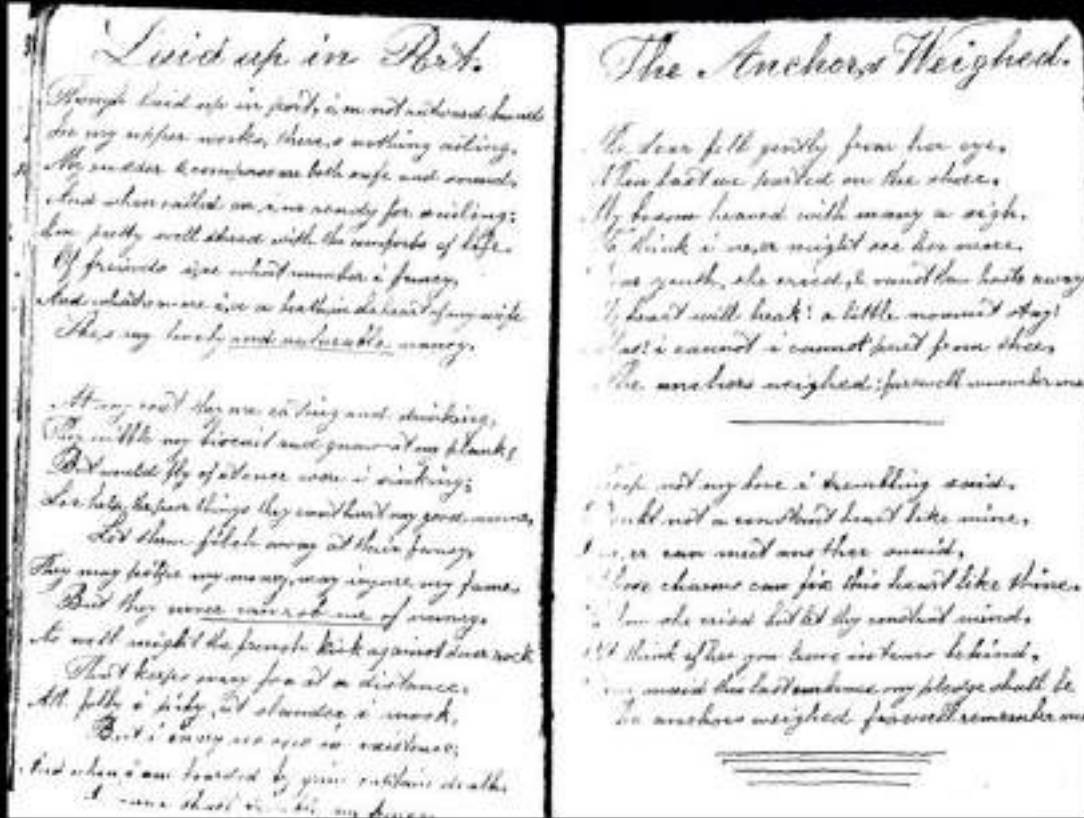


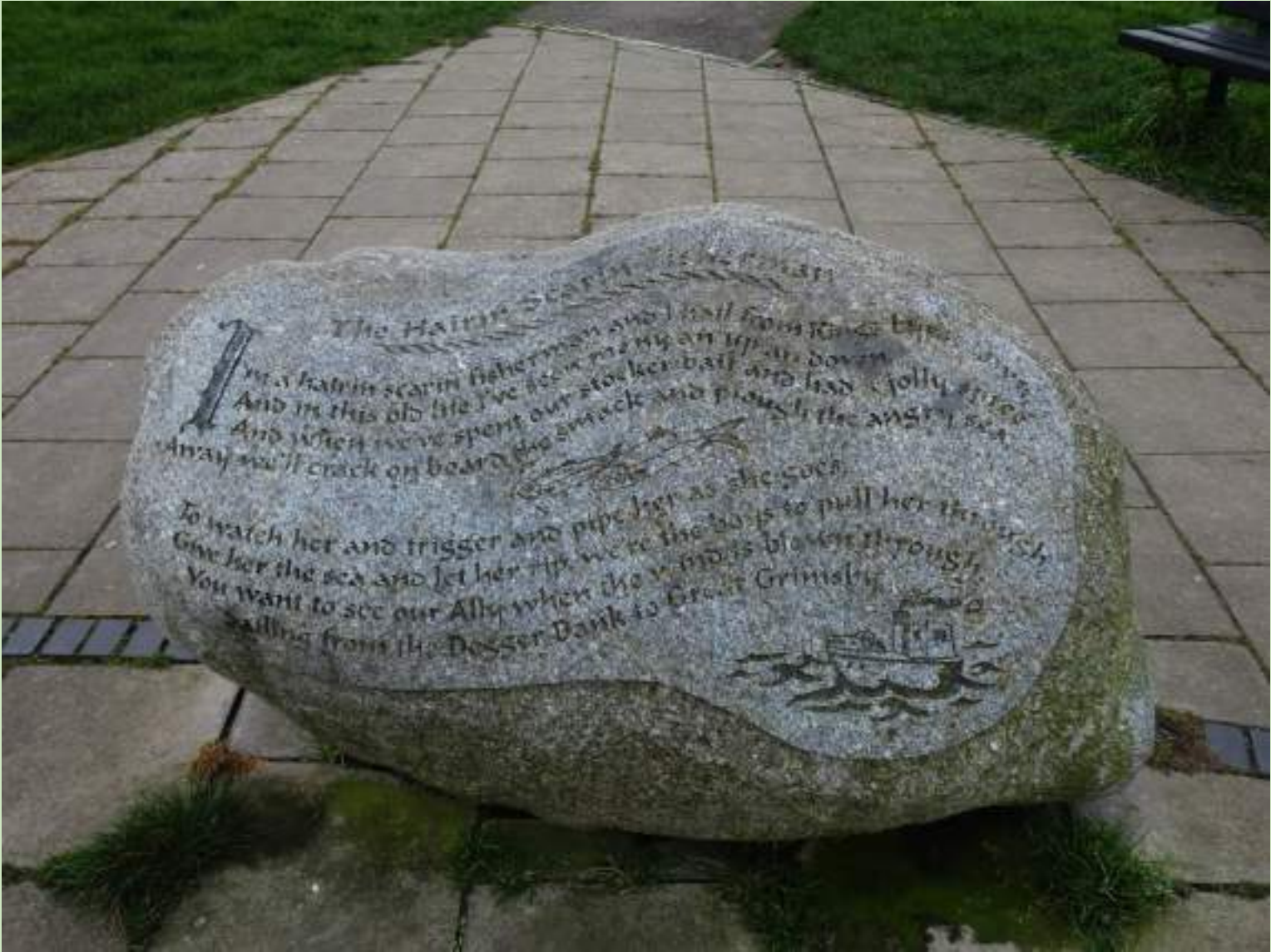
# Henry Flanders' song book

King's Lynn

Henry Flanders (1842-1890) was a fisherman and fish dealer from the North End of King's Lynn.

His book of song lyrics has been passed down through his family.





The words to *The Hairin Scarin Fisherman* carved on a stone.  
(Loke Road recreation ground, North Lynn)

# King's Lynn

**LYNN NEWS & ADVERTISER**  
FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1955. (Page 1)

Night of songs and laughter



**FUN AT THE TILDEN SMITH WHEN B.B.C. RECORD SONGS BY 'OLD SALTS' OF LYNN**

THEY were taken at the Tilden Smith public house on Monday night by BBC recording men. The group of five men, known as 'Old Salts', were seen in the pub on Monday night. The group of five men, known as 'Old Salts', were seen in the pub on Monday night. The group of five men, known as 'Old Salts', were seen in the pub on Monday night.

*Their duet*

RADIO TIMES  
RADIO TIMES – broadcast on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1955

## The Home Service

330 m. (908 kc/s) 93.5 Mc/s VHF

**9.35 JANOS STARKER (cello)**  
with Leon Pommer (piano)  
on gramophone records  
Ronde (Sonata in G) (Brahms, ed. Alfred Walford)  
Sonata in E (Fraschetti, arr. Arnold Trowell)  
Après un rêve (Faure), arr. Pablo Casals  
Papillon (Faure)  
Sérénade (Poulenc, arr. Maurice Gendron)

**12.30 MIDDAY MUSIC-HALL**  
Augmented  
BBC Variety Orchestra  
(Leader, George Deason)  
Conductor, Paul Fenoulhet  
Records: Pauline Shepherd  
Variety: Bill Pertwee  
Radio: Cyril Fletcher  
In Town Today: Lester Ferguson  
Presented by Bill Worsley

**9.55 FOR THE SCHOOLS**  
MUSIC AND MOVEMENT II, by Marjorie Ede  
(Recording of Wednesday's broadcast)

**12.55 The Weather**  
Shipping and general weather forecasts, followed by a detailed forecast for South-East England

**10.15 THE DAILY SERVICE**  
Wake, O wake! for night is flying (BBC H.B. 60)  
New Every Morning, page 67  
Psalm 147, vv. 1-12 (Broadcast Psalter)  
Revelation 12, vv. 1-12  
Ye servants of the Lord (BBC H.B. 372)

**1.0 Greenwich Time Signal NEWS**

**10.30 MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK**  
Ken Beaumont and his Sextet

**1.10 VOYAGES OF 'JENNY THE THIRD'**  
Six programmes describing voyages made by John Seymour and his wife, Sally, on the rivers and canals of Eastern and Northern England; with recordings made by some of the friends they met  
1—The beginning of the journey: round the coast of East Anglia into the Great Ouse  
Produced by Francis Dillon  
(BBC recording)  
See page 6

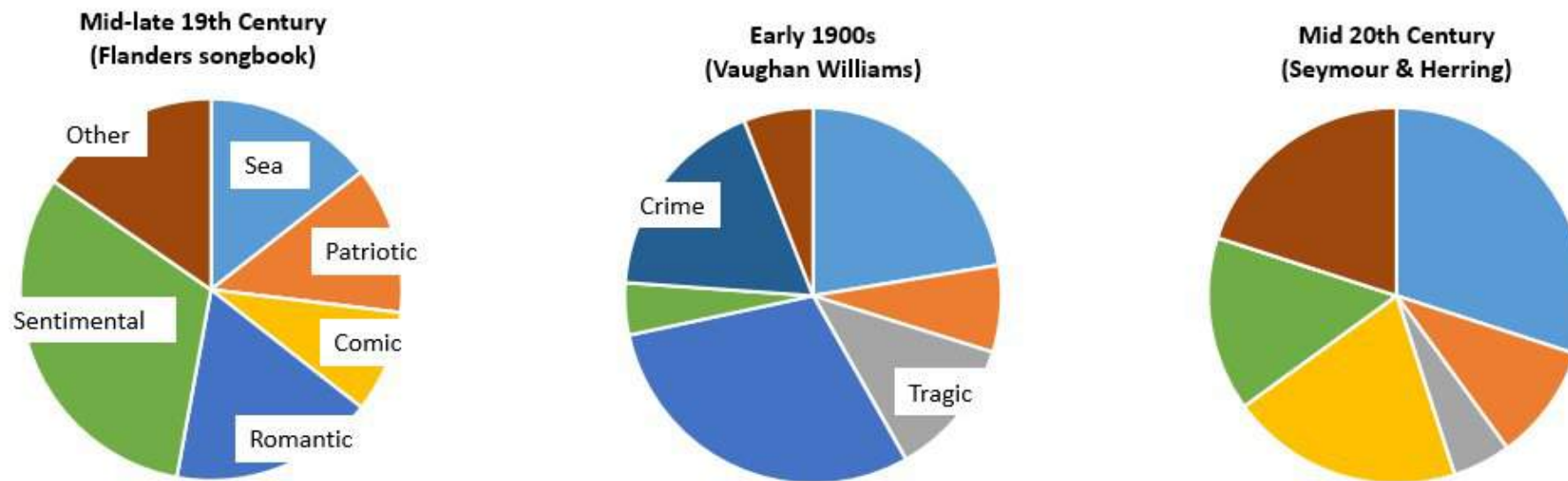
**11.0 Greenwich Time Signal FOR THE SCHOOLS**  
TUNE AND TUNE, by Kay Foster

**1.40 THE SOUTH SEA SERENADERS**  
Directed by Ernest Penfold

**12.0 ANY ANSWERS?**  
A radio correspondence column

In 1955 a BBC radio programme “Voyages of Jenny the Third” was recorded in the Tilden Smith pub, featuring local singers such as Charlie Fysh.

## Repertoires compared by theme



The significant differences are:

- the huge amount of sentimental songs in the Flanders songbook
- the complete lack of comic songs in Vaughan Williams' collection
- the complete lack of romantic songs recorded mid 20<sup>th</sup> century

The themes of the sea and heroicism are found in all periods.

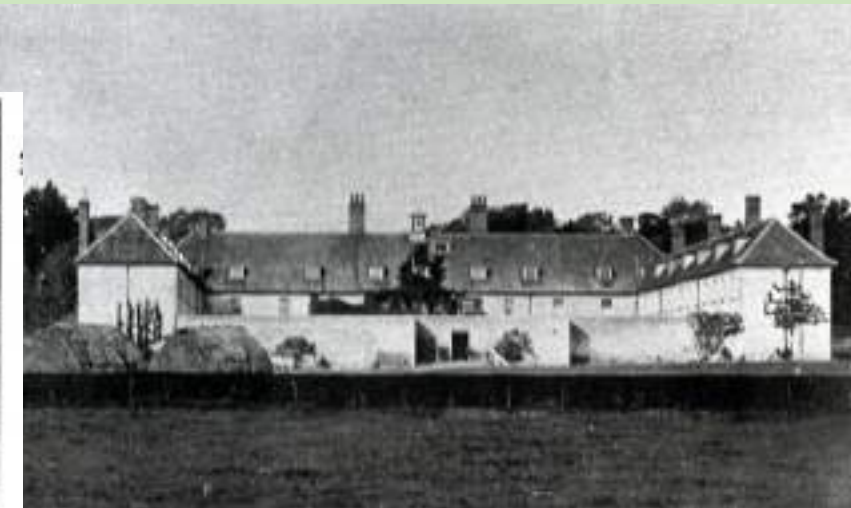
# South Suffolk

In 1907 Vaughan Williams made a brief visit to Hadleigh, collecting songs in the Shoulder of Mutton (green), Kersey Bell (half-timbered), and Cosford Union workhouse (below).



Singer Jacob (Jake) Willis in the 1901 census (bottom 2 lines).

Administrative County		The underlined Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 19	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough		Municipal Borough		Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough		Urban Sanitary District	
Hadleigh		Hadleigh St Mary		Municipal Borough of Hadleigh		Municipal Borough of Hadleigh		Sanitary District of Hadleigh		Parliamentary Borough of South Suffolk			
No.	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	Particulars	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employed, Worked, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Buried (2) Blind (3) Lunatics (4) Idiots, Deaf-mutes	
147	George Street	1	4	James L. Smith	Head	M	46	Change farmer	Worked		Hadleigh		
				Elizabeth	Wife	F	38				Hadleigh		
				Charles King	Head	M	26	Change farmer	Worked		Hadleigh		
				Frederick	Wife	F	26				Hadleigh		
				Charles	Son	M	2				Hadleigh		
148	"	1	4	Jacob Willis	Head	M	71	General labourer	Worked		Hadleigh		
				Emily	Wife	F	50	Chapman	Worked		Hadleigh		





## **Credits & thanks for information and images:**

Front page: “Up from the Sea” by Joseph Southall (1920)

Harbour Inn 1911 by J.W. Georges - Ian Collins (author of “Making Waves”)

Community project photos – EATMT & John Halliday

Martin Shaw & RVW photo – Martin Shaw Archive

Manuscripts - Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, English Folk Dance & Song Society

Stewart Morgan Hajdukiewicz (“All My Life’s Buried Here” film)

Bob Jellicoe (author of “Shorelines”)

True’s Yard Museum, Southwold Museum

## **Find out more (all on your handout):**

<https://katiehowson.co.uk/>

<https://unsunghistories.info/>

“Up from the Sea” (TSF Online 23, March 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEccGdRD8Fk>

“100 years of singing in a fishing community: Kings Lynn 1870-1970” (TSF Folk Voice Conference, April 2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzpPwss81Al>