# Songs from Deal & Beyond



Deal Beach from Pier (Looking North) - Public Domain Image

A Community Songbook for Schools, Choirs and Community Groups

By Natasha Rose Douglas 2022 www.natasharosedouglas.com

# Introduction

'Songs from Deal and Beyond' is a collection of original and traditional folk songs pertaining to life in Deal and beyond, weaving a story through the changing periods of time. The



mining, hop picking, smuggling, fishing, merchant navy, Royal Navy and Marines and migration history.

songs in this book relate to Deal's coal

Historical postcard of Deal - Courtesy of Chris Mansfield

My aim in compiling this songbook is to share local stories and experiences through song and I hope that people from near and afar will connect with them and find them cathartic and meaningful.

The songs are fun, poignant, beautiful and easy to learn and are suitable for beginner or advanced singers and can easily be taught by ear (using the backing tracks and YouTube videos) or by using the musical scores.

Please find the YouTube learning videos using this link to <u>My YouTube Channel</u> or the QR code.

If you would like downloadable MP3 files of the songs, please contact me via my website: <u>www.natasharosedouglas.com</u>



The creation of this book was kindly funded by Arts Council England and is a free resource for all to use and share! Each song is accompanied by background information which helps to set the song into context and it is my hope that these songs will help to creatively enhance projects or themes that are being worked on by community groups or choirs. Please note, the text accompanying the songs may not be historically reliable and some information is anecdotal and its purpose is to help set the scene for the songs.

As this is an online community resource it can be added to and amended as time goes by, so if you would like to contribute a song to the collection then please get in touch. Also, the images and historical context surrounding the songs can be amended. Please contact me to suggest a change.

# Acknowledgements and Thanks

My project has also been kindly funded and supported by Arts Council England, The Deal Music and Arts Festival, Music for Change and Bright Shadow. Many thanks to Jo Field for writing the words for many of the songs and for proof reading. Thanks also to Volker Schottdorf for his help with design and layout. Very special thanks to all who came to my *'Singing for Pleasure'* sessions over the years.

Many thanks to all who contributed pictures and photos for the songbook and to Kay Sutcliffe for giving me permission to use her poem '*Coal not Dole*'. Many thanks also to my parents who inspired the love of folk songs from a young age and who helped curate the yearly concerts with the Deal Music Festival and for all the musical guidance from my mum in creating the songs. Special thanks to Emily Watts (Music for Change) who helped put this project application together!



Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND







# **Tips for Song Leaders**

- Learn the songs and their parts well yourself before teaching to others using YouTube learning videos and by downloading the scores and MP3 backing tracks from my website <u>www.natasharosedouglas.com</u>
- Divide the singers into highs, middles and lows (most of the songs are in 2 parts, high and low).
- Set the songs in some historical context before teaching them so that the singers can relate to the lyrics and the context of the song.
- Encourage singers to share their own stories that relate to the different themes.
- The MP3 files may be used as backing tracks when teaching the songs and the links can be given out to singers so they can continue learning the songs in their own time.

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# Songs from Deal and Beyond

# Chapter 1 - For Those in Peril

### 1 Jarvist Arnold

Anonymous words. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.



Jarvist Arnold – Courtesy of Deal Museum

The lifeboat gave Kingsdown its greatest hero, Jarvist Arnold, who with his crew put to sea in a southeasterly storm towards a sinking ship, the Sorrento, and saved the lives of the 31 crew and of 14 lifeboat men from Walmer who had become stranded on the ship. With remarkable bravery and seamanship, he manoeuvred the Kingsdown lifeboat. the Sabrina. alongside the Sorento and gradually took every man

off, and then passed some from his fearfully overloaded boat onto the Walmer lifeboat.

The lyrics for the song are written on a plaque in the Kingsdown Village Hall and apparently were sung by children in the village.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://thewillistree.info/jarvist-arnold-1815-1896-the-kingsdown-lifeboatman/</u>

Today the RNLI plays an important role in helping to rescue migrants who cross the channel and arrive along the Kent coast in perilous conditions. In December 2021 it was announced that RNLI lifeboat volunteers will be given the green light by Priti Patel to rescue asylum seekers in the Channel if their lives are in danger.<sup>2</sup>

Kent has long had a history of helping migrants and according to Kent Online: 'During a single day in mid-August 1914, around 16,000 Belgian refugees landed in Folkestone harbour, instantly doubling the number of people in the coastal town.' Local people are said to have provided the new arrivals with up to 6,000 meals a day. Up the coast, the town of Sandwich in 1939 gave refuge to 4,000 Jewish men.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/rnli-lifeboats-green-light-priti-patel-migrants-channel-1330184</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/24/the-</u> welcome-party-how-a-secret-group-of-kent-residents-is-helpingsmall-boat-refugees

#### **Jarvist Arnold**

God bless the lifeboat and its crew Its coxswain stout and bold Jarvist Arnold is his name Sprung from the Vikings old

He made the wind and waves his slaves As likewise we do so Whilst still Britannia rules the waves And the stormy winds do blow

The old cork float that safety brought We'll hold in honour leal And it shall grace the chiefest place In Kingsdown hard by Deal

He made the wind and waves his slaves As likewise we do so Whilst still Britannia rules the waves And the stormy winds do blow

#### Jarvist Arnold

Anonymous words

Natasha Rose Douglas, 2022



Natasha Rose Douglas

## 2 Pure Gold

Words by Jo Field, 2017. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

'In the city of London people make their living by outwitting their neighbours. If you are a seaman, you survive by depending on the guy working next to you, during atrocious conditions, rough seas, stormy weather, you've got to

stand by the fellow next to you, and you've got to stick by people. Seamen breed a special type of loyalty. I think very few people understand this, that it builds a type of character that's pure gold when the going gets tough' (Tony Benn MP, 1988).



Deal Rowers - Courtesy of Deal Museum

These words were spoken at the time of the Merchant Navy Seamen strikes.

The Deal and Dover area, as a tight community of seafarers, felt the impact of these just as they did with the miners' strikes. The seafarers' strike was also supported by many miners and were significantly triggered by the announcement of further cuts by P &O Ferries following the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster (the car ferry capsized outside the port of Zeebrugge on the night of 6th March 1987 with the loss of 193 passengers and crew) the impact of which is still deeply felt locally. The 2,300 seafarers refused to accept these ultimatums, voted to strike and stopped work on 6 February 1988; many felt betrayed by a company to which some family members and friends had literally given their lives.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://libcom.org/article/1988-1989-po-seafarers-strike</u>



Royal Daffodil – Courtesy of Deal Museum

Until the 1960's the Waverley and the Daffodil could be seen coming to the end of Deal pier to pick up passengers, to enjoy a passport-free trip where normal alcohol licensing rules didn't apply!

#### **Pure Gold**

In many walks of life It's dog eat dog But young or old, a seadog trusts his shipmates 'Cos he knows they're pure gold

When tempests howl and timbers growl When landlubbers cry 'Enough!' A seaman bold will break the mould He's made of sterling stuff!

He'll slither on a storm-lashed deck To batten down the hold And for his mates he'll risk his neck He's made of pure gold.

Seamen have pulled together Wherever seas have rolled To conquer evil weather 'Cos they're made from pure gold.

But bosses may not treasure him And often he's been sold Down the river by the comp'ny For the sake of other gold. Pure Gold



#### 3 The Wreck of the Preussen

Words by Jo Field 2012, tune based on traditional song 'Blow the Man Down'. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

The Preussen carried six square sails on each of her five masts, a magnificent sight. On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1910 she was rammed by the small British crosschannel steamer Brighton which had



The Wreck of the Preussen – Courtesy of Deal Museum

underestimated her speed (16 knots). A gale eventually drove her on to the rocks of Crab Bay, near Dover.

Crew and cargo were saved, including several pianos. Legend has it that those pianos found new homes in Dover...



Shipwreck Divers - Courtesy of Deal Museum

#### The Wreck of the Preussen

Pianos for cargo all lashed tightly down Play, play, play piano She sailed out from Hamburg, the pride of the town Give it some welly and play piano!

With steam winch and capstan, it's anchors aweigh Course, topsail and royal, topgallant and stay

Five masts fully rigged, she was built for top speed They called her the Queen of the Queens of the Seas

She flew like a bevy of gulls on white wings Her steel rigging thrumming like piano strings

As she hit the worst storm in the Channel for years Our valiant Preussen had nothing to fear

She'd seen off Force 9s with no trouble before Though she heeled and she juddered she'd surely take more

Yes that beautiful Preussen would be afloat now If a whippersnap steamer had not crossed her bow

The squall smacked and cracked like the cat-o'-nine-tails Shrieking like Lorelei practising scales

Rollers rose up and then crumbled like chalk No bowsprit or foremast, she tossed like a cork

The deck buckled slick as a wriggling eel While eight of us wrestled the great steering wheel We were set for the Ocean, for Chile were bound In Crab Bay, by Dover, our ship ran aground

And many hours later we had to agree To abandon our Queen of all Queens to the sea

Now a hundred years on if you pass at low tide You may see her old bones in the place where she died

The scar is dug deep in the cliff to this day Where men and pianos were hoisted away

But when the wind's savage out there in the bay You will hear the lament those pianos still play



### The Wreck of the Preussen

### 4 A Violin

Words by Jo Field, 2017. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

On the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1989 an IRA bomb exploded in the Royal Marine barracks in Deal, killing eleven bandsmen. This song was inspired by the story of a musician who was seriously injured by the bomb and was found lying on top of his shattered violin. As Sergeant Jay O'Neill was slowly nursed back to health, a craftsman in the instrument repair workshop painstakingly rebuilt his violin which was presented to him, weakened but certainly playable – a symbol of the indomitable spirit of The Royal Marines.



Marines Marching after the Bombing – Courtesy of Deal Museum

#### A Violin

There's music in a stream Where the quick water flows Music in the trees When the wind comes and goes There's music from the birds Living in the trees Music in the thunder Music in the sea

And where there are people Anywhere at all Whether they stand Or whether they fall There'll always be music, music Always be music, music

Here was a violin, sound as a bell Before the bomb went up Everything shattered And the bandsmen fell

They picked it up, glued it together Soundboard, belly, neck and waist Every piece exactly placed Chin-rest, pegs and four new strings Again it sings, again it sings And it will sing forever And forevermore

And where there are people Anywhere at all Whether they stand Or whether they fall There'll always be music, music Always be music, music

#### A Violin

Jo Field, 2017

Natasha Rose Douglas, 2022







# Chapter 2 - Just Reproaches

### 5 A Smugglers Song

Poem by Rudyard Kipling, 1906. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

In the final years of the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon allowed English smugglers entry into the French ports of Dunkirk and Gravelines, encouraging them to run contraband back and forth across the Channel.



Smuggling in Deal - Courtesy of Deal Museum

Gravelines catered for up to 300 English smugglers, housed in a specially constructed compound known as the '*City of Smugglers*'. Napoleon used the smugglers in the war against Britain. The smugglers arrived on the French coast with escaped French prisoners of war, gold guineas and English newspapers and returned to England laden with French textiles, brandy and gin.<sup>5</sup>

The author of the poem Rudyard Kipling lived for half his life at '*Bateman's*' on the Kent/Sussex border.

<sup>5</sup> Gavin Daly. (2007). Napoleon and the *'City of Smugglers'*, 1810-1814. The Historical Journal, 50(2), 333-352. <u>http://www.jstor.org/stable/4140133</u>

#### **A Smugglers Song**

If you wake at midnight and hear a horse's feet Don't go drawing back the blind, or looking in the street Them that ask no questions isn't told a lie Watch the wall my darling while the gentlemen go by

Five and twenty ponies trotting through the dark Brandy for the Parson, 'baccy for the clerk Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by

If you see the stable-door setting open wide If you see a tired horse lying down inside If your mother mends a coat cut about and tore If the lining's wet and warm – don't you ask no more

Five and twenty ponies, trotting through the dark Brandy for the Parson, 'baccy for the Clerk Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by

If you meet King George's men dressed in blue and red You be careful what you say and mindful what is said If they call you 'pretty maid' and chuck you 'neath the chin Don't you tell where no one is nor yet where no one's been

Five and twenty ponies, trotting through the dark Brandy for the Parson, 'baccy for the clerk Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by A Smugglers Song



### 6 Deal Deal Deal

Based on Daniel Defoe's poem 1704. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.



A Rough Day At Sandown Castle 1978 – Courtesy of David Skardon, https://davidskardon.wixsite.com/skardons-world

Daniel Defoe controversially wrote these words in his 1704 book, '*The Storm*', on learning how the people of Deal salvaged goods before rescuing the drowning sailors. The town accused him of libel and refuted his allegations.<sup>6</sup>

William Cobbett passing through in September 1823 noted in his book Rural Rides:

'Deal is a most villainous place. It is full of filthy-looking people. Great desolation of abomination has been going on here; tremendous barracks, partly pulled down and partly tumbling down, and partly occupied by soldiers. Everything seems upon the perish. I was glad to hurry along through it, and to leave its inns and public-houses to be occupied by the tarred, and trowsered, and blue and buff crew whose very vicinage I always detest.'<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://www.dealpier.uk/history3.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deal,\_Kent</u>

#### **Deal Deal Deal**

If I had any satire left to write I Could I with suited spleen indite! S My verse should blast that fatal town Drowned sailors' widows pull it down Deal Deal I

No footsteps of it should appear! And ships no more cast anchor there The barbarous hated town of Deal Should die or be a term of infamy Pitiful Deal! Left to write! Spleen indite!

Should appear! Cast anchor there

Until that's done, the town of Deal should stand A just reproach to all the land My verse should blast that fatal town Drowned sailors' widows pull it down Deal Deal!

Deal should stand! To all the land!

#### Deal Deal Deal!





### 7 The Breaking of Dover Gaol



Deal smugglers - Courtesy of Richard Platt, http www.smuggling.co.uk

Anonymous poem written circa 1820. Based on the melody of a traditional sea song '*Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy*'. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

A revenue officer called Billy '*Hellfire*' Lilburn had caught eleven Folkestone and Sandgate smugglers on a run, and had them locked up in Dover gaol. Word soon got around, and the prisoners' fellows raised a huge mob which quickly broke down the door of the gaol. When it was discovered that the captured smugglers had been moved to the most secure cells, the mob started to literally pull the prison apart, pelting the troops that had by now been called in with a hail of stones and tiles. Eventually the smugglers were released, stopping at the Red Cow to have the conspicuous and unwieldy chains removed from their hands; meanwhile, outside, the mob continued to rampage through the town, smashing windows. The smugglers were never recaptured!<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://www.smuggling.co.uk/gazetteer\_se\_14.html

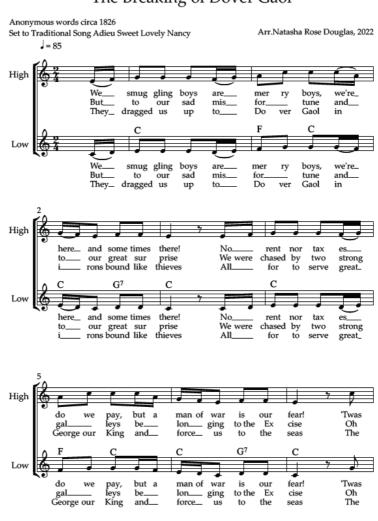
#### The Breaking of Dover Gaol

We smuggling boys are merry boys We're here and sometimes there No rent nor taxes do we pay But a man-of-war is our fear 'Twas on the 21st of May' As you will understand We sailed out from Boulogne Bay Bound for the English land

But to our sad misfortune And to our great surprise We were chased by two strong galleys Belonging to the excise Oh, then my boys For Liberty Was the cry of one and all But soon they overpowered us With powder and with ball

They dragged us up to Dover Gaol In irons bound like thieves All for to serve great George our King And force us to the seas The wives cried for their husbands They were in such great distress For children all around the gaol Were crying fatherless And sure, the sight was shocking For everyone to see But then the cry came from the mob For death or liberty Oh, then a hole all in the wall Was everybody's cry And Lilburn and McCullock's men Were soon obliged to fly

For bricks and tiles they flew so fast From every point you see And these fine men from Dover gaol They gained their liberty And now they've gained their liberty They've the long wide world to range Long life to the women of Dover town Likewise, to the Folkestone men



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# The Breaking of Dover Gaol



#### 8 Boney was a Warrior

Traditional folk song. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.



Lord Nelson – Courtesy of Deal Museum

In the summer of 1801, the British government decided to make an effort to destroy the flotilla Napoleon was creating off Boulogne. The Admiralty appointed Lord Nelson to be second-in-command of the Channel Fleet under Admiral Sir Hyde Parker. Nelson arrived in Deal on the evening of July 29,

1801 and after several attempts at landing on Deal beach, famously wrote, '*This is the coldest place in England most assuredly*.'9

*'Boney was a Warrior'* is a sea shanty which details the early rise and eventual demise of Napoleon Bonaparte (Boney). Napoleon came aboard the Billy Ruffian (sailors slang for HMS Bellerophon which was built near Rochester in Kent) so he could surrender to the ship's captain. The Bellerophon was also used to carry Nelsons body home (pickled in a barrel of brandy to survive the journey!) after the Battle of Trafalgar.

Shanties were banned by the Navy, perhaps because of the rebellious nature of them but also because absolute silence was needed on board so that commands could be followed. When Napoleon was captured, he said how much he was impressed by this silence.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> <u>http://www.northdowns.plus.com/dealweb/horatio-nelson-in-deal.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://ageofrevolution.org/200-object/boney-was-a-warrior-popular-ballad/</u>

#### **Boney was a Warrior**

Boney was a warrior	Way, hey ya!
A warrior and a terrier	Jean Francois

Boney fought the Russians Way, hey ya! The Russians and the Prussians Jean Francois!

Moscow was a-blazing And Boney was a-raging

Way, hey ya! Jean Francois!

Way, hey ya!

Jean Francois!

Way, hey ya!

Jean Francois!

Francois!

Boney went to Elba Boney he came back again

Boney went to Waterloo There he got his overthrow

Then they took him off again Aboard the Billy Ruffian

He went to Saint Helena There he was a prisoner

Boney broke his heart and died Away in Saint Helena

Way, hey ya!

Jean Francois!

Way, hey ya! Jean Francois!

Way, hey ya! Jean Francois!



Boney Was a Warrior

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# Chapter 3 - All Manner of Fish

### 9 Steep Shingle

Words by Jo Field, 2022. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

A song that celebrates a time when many working fishing boats were hauled up on the beach at Deal. There are still boats though, and some of them will take paying customers on fishing trips. Until the late 1970s, fishing boats could be seen operating from the steep shingle beach in front of the promenade at Deal. It was far from easy launching heavy wooden boats into choppy seas, and retrieving them later laden with the day's catch. Today, only one fisherman, Dave Lawrence, fishes from Deal, targeting herring, which he sells on the beach from time to time, keeping the past alive.<sup>11</sup>



Deal Boatmen - Courtesy of Deal Museum

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> <u>https://fishingnews.co.uk/features/deal-tradition-and-change/</u>

#### **Steep Shingle**

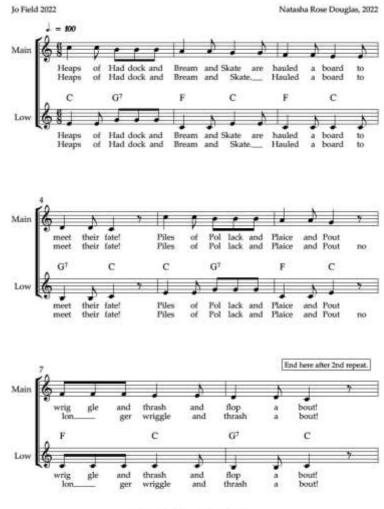
Heaps of Haddock and Bream and Skate Are hauled aboard to meet their fate Piles of Pollack and Plaice and Pout Wriggle and thrash and flop about

Out in the Channel those laden hulls Are followed home by greedy gulls When fishing boats can hold no more They turn with the tide to run ashore

Heaps of Haddock and Bream and Skate Hauled aboard to meet their fate Piles of Pollack and Plaice and Pout No longer wriggle and thrash about

Smell of the winches' oily heat Dragging boats up the pebble beach Noise of the winches' grinding whirr Growl, chug, judder and purr

Heaps of Haddock and Bream and Skate Are hauled aboard to meet their fate Piles of Pollack and Plaice and Pout Wriggle and thrash and flop about! Steep Shingle



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# 10 The Herring's Head

Traditional song. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

This is a cumulative song, popular as a drinking song in many coastal areas of Britain, where one's sobriety is tested in the chorus! This song is found in a manuscript in 1831 and these types of cumulative songs were generally agreed to derive from sacred rituals concerning divine animals. The animal is sacrificed and its dismembered parts put to use in all sorts of unlikely ways for the benefit of the whole community. This pagan idea survives in the divine sacrament of the Christian church. '*How are ye the day*' would have been accompanied with shaking hands with your neighbour, reaffirming the benefits of the herring in bringing the community together.<sup>12</sup>



Deal Fishing Boats - Courtesy of Deal Museum

<sup>12</sup> https://mainlynorfolk.info/cyril.tawney/songs/theherringsong.html

#### The Herring's Head

What'll I do with the herring's head? What'll you do with the herring's head? I'll turn it into a loaf of bread Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things!

Of all the fish that are in the sea The herring is the one for me How are you the day How are you the day How are you the day Mi hinny-o?

What'll I do with the herring's eyes? What'll you do with the herring's eyes? I'll turn 'em into puddings and pies Herring's eyes, puddings and pies Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things!

What'll I do with the herring's fins? What'll you do with the herring's fins? I'll turn 'em into needles and pins Herring's fins, needles and pins Herring's eyes, puddings and pies Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things! What'll I do with the herring's belly? What'll you do with the herring's belly? I'll turn it into a lass called Nelly Herring's belly, a lass called Nelly Herring's fins, needles and pins Herring's eyes, puddings and pies Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things!

What'll I do with the herring's back? What'll you do with the herring's back? I'll turn it into a lad called Jack Herring's back, a lad called Jack Herring's belly, a lass called Nelly Herring's fins, needles and pins Herring's eyes, puddings and pies Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things!

What'll I do with the herring's tail? What'll you do with the herring's tail? I'll turn it into a boat that sails Herring's tail, a boat that sails Herring's back, a lad called Jack Herring's belly, a lass called Nelly Herring's fins, needles and pins Herring's eyes, puddings and pies Herring's head, loaf of bread And all manner of things!



# 11 Dance to Thy Daddy

Traditional song. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.



Deal Fishing Boat – Courtesy of Deal Museum

This is a 'dandling' song from the North East that would have traditionally been sung by a grandparent whilst looking after a child. This song can be dated back to about 1886 and to a time when people from the North East were exploited by their masters. This song shows they were hoping for their fortunes to change and to have something other than Herrings on their plate! This is reflected in the developing choruses which start with a small herring but end with the glorious Salmon!<sup>13</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup><u>https://mainlynorfolk.info/shirley.collins/songs/dancetoyourdaddy.</u> <u>html</u>

#### Dance to Thy Daddy

Come here me little Jackie Now I've smoked me baccy Let's have a little cracky Till the boat comes in

Dance to thy daddy, sing to thy mammy Dance to thy daddy, to thy mammy sing Thou shall have a fishy on a little dishy Thou shall have a fishy when the boat comes in

Here's thy mother humming Like a canny woman Yonder comes thy father Drunk---he cannot stand

Dance to thy daddy, sing to thy mammy Dance to thy daddy, to thy mammy sing Thou shall have a fishy on a little dishy Thou shall have a haddock when the boat comes in

Our Tommy's always fuddling He's so fond of ale But he is kind to me I hope he'll never fail

Dance to thy daddy, sing to thy mammy Dance to thy daddy, to thy mammy sing Thou shall have a fishy on a little dishy Thou shall have a bloater when the boat comes in I like a drop myself When I can get it sly And thou, my bonny bairn Will like as well as I

Dance to thy daddy, sing to thy mammy Dance to thy daddy, to thy mammy sing Thou shall have a fishy on a little dishy Thou shall have a mackerel when the boat comes in

May we get a drop oft As we stand in need And well may the keel row That brings the bairns their bread

Dance to thy daddy, sing to thy mammy Dance to thy daddy, to thy mammy sing Thou shall have a fishy on a little dishy Thou shall have a salmon when the boat comes in



### Dance to Thy Daddy

# Chapter 4 - Hopping

### 12 Hopping Down in Kent

Traditional song. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

Until fairly recently this annual excursion to pick hops in Kent was the only holiday of the year for many Cockney families. It wasn't much of a rest for them, as this song indicates. Gypsies, too, were regular hop-pickers, going where the seasonal work took them. This anonymous song was collected from a gypsy singer, Mary Ann Haynes, born in 1905 in a Faversham Wagon.



Hop picking family - Courtesy of George King

Terry Yarnell sang Hopping Down in Kent in 2001 on his Tradition Bearers CD A Bonny Bunch. He noted: 'This song came from my grandmother (who called it 'The Hopping Song'), who, in her younger days frequently spent some weeks each year in the 'Holiday Resort' of a hop field in Kent. With a husband who had died in the First World War, and little money coming in, this was the only chance of a break for her and the children, and to earn a few 'bob' at the same time. Every September, hundreds of Londoners (East Enders) would pack up and go to the railway station for the trip to the Kent hop fields in the 'Hop pickers special'.



Hop picking family – Courtesy of George King

In earlier generations of pickers, the conditions were appalling, with no facilities whatsoever, but by the time my own grandmother went, special sheds had been erected for their accommodation. The locals were very wary about the whole influx, and a common sign outside pubs was 'No dogs, gypsies or hoppers'.

The following song refers to 'the measurer', a man who measured the number of bushels transferred from a collecting bin to the poke (a large sack) and could control how much a hop picker could earn. Now taken over by machines, hopping was in its day not just a crop harvesting, but a 'social phenomenon'.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> <u>https://mainlynorfolk.info/guvnor/songs/hoppingdowninkent.html</u>

### **Hopping Down in Kent**

Now, hopping's just beginning We've got our time to spend We've only come down hopping To earn a quid if we can

With a tee-i-eh, Tee-i-eh, Tee-i-ee-i -eh.

Now, early Monday morning The measurer he'll come round 'Pick your hops all ready And you'll pick them off' the ground'

With a tee-i-eh, Tee-i-eh, Tee-i-ee-i -eh.

Now, early Tuesday morning The bookie he'll come round With a bag of money He'll flop it on the ground

With a tee-i-eh, Tee-i-eh, Tee-i-ee-i -eh.

Says do you want some money? 'Yes, sir, if you please To buy a hock of bacon And a lump of mouldy cheese'

With a tee-i-eh, Tee-i-eh, Tee-i-ee-i-eh.

Hopping is all over All the money spent I wish to God I'd never done No hopping down in Kent

With a tee-i-eh, Tee-i-eh, Tee-i-ee-i -eh.

Hopping Down in Kent



## 13 Hopping Mad

Words by Jo Field, 2018. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

A song based on the diaries of George Orwell from the time he spent with the Kent hop pickers. He wrote that they were mainly women and gypsies and 'too stupid' to grasp the advantages of his proposed Union...

Nowadays there is a new way of hop growing and picking in the form of Deal Hop Farm which bears little resemblance to a conventional hop farm. You won't find fields with row after row of towering hop



Hop picking in Deal today - Courtesy of Deal Hop Farm

poles with a network of strings to support the growing bines. No sophisticated farm machinery either.

Instead, there is a community of more than 250 individual, amateur growers dotted in and around the town of Deal, each cultivating hops in their own gardens, allotments and community spaces. There are even hops growing in the gardens of English Heritage properties, Deal Castle and Walmer Castle. The project, launched in February 2017 by the environmental group '*Deal With It*', has proved phenomenally successful. Each grower pays a small joining fee which is used to buy their Prima Donna hop rhizomes. The variety is a dwarf hop, although the plants grow to well over 2m tall. Steve Wakeford, the driving force behind the scheme, provides growing advice throughout the season and organises regular pub get-togethers for members.

The hops are picked on a number of harvesting days in September, with members bringing their produce to the Captain's Garden at Deal Castle for weighing. Some manage only a few grams, while others stagger in carrying several kilos of hops.

In 2021 the farm produced a massive haul of 230kg, with the harvest involving nearly 400 people.

Local brewery Time & Tide Brewing, the farm's partner since 2019, uses some of the hops fresh to make its Green Hop Pale Ale. The bulk of the harvest, though, is dried by a local commercial grower and is then used to make more beers throughout the year. To date, Time & Tide has brewed 18 different beers using Deal Hop Farm hops. They are all sold at local shops, pubs and cafés. Community members give their hops free of charge but are rewarded with some free beer and a reduced price for any more they buy.

The farm's growing season is normally rounded off with an Oktoberfest where members and their families and friends get together for an evening of food, fun, music and, of course, beer!

To find out more visit www.dealhopfarm.org.uk

[Words written by Cathy Tyce, 2022]

#### **Hopping Mad**

George Orwell he went hopping In 1931 He came to Kent with the hop-pickers To see how it was done

Oh Mr Orwell, be careful what you say! The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money This is our holiday!

When he came down for hopping What do you think he saw? He barely noticed the towering hops Because all the pickers were poor

Oh Mr Orwell, what is your problem pray? The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money This is our holiday!

There were hops that reached to heaven All fresh and ripe and green And cheerful pickers were hard at work Along the aisles between

Oh Mr Orwell, our London lives are grey The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money This is our holiday!

Now Orwell he was horrified To find such degradation He couldn't see the joyful side But only exploitation

Oh Mr Orwell, we're happy with our pay The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money This is our holiday! George Orwell didn't understand He failed to comprehend The freedom in weeks of hopping Far from the bleak East End

Oh Mr Orwell, why did you come to stay? The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money This is our holiday!

He suggested a Hop-pickers' Union The pickers were mystified And carried on as they'd done before 'You're all too stupid!' he cried

Oh Mr Orwell, this is our holiday The weather is sunny, we'll not think of money Please will you go away!



# 14 Lousy Hops

Words recorded by George Orwell in 1931. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.



Hop pickers at work. Colour line block by Leighton Brothers after A. Hunt, 185-. Public Domain image

Orwell wrote in his dairy, whilst he was working alongside the cockneys, gypsies and tramps in the Kent hop fields in 1931: 'Hops are soft things like sponges, and it is quite easy for the measurer to crush a bushel of them into a quart if he chooses. Some days he merely scoops the hops out, but on other days he has orders from the farmer to 'take them heavy', and then he crams them right into the basket, so that instead of getting 20 bushels for a full bin one gets only 12 or 14 - i.e. a shilling or so less. There was a song about this, which the old East End woman and her grandchildren were always singing.'<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> <u>https://hoppicking.wordpress.com/</u>

### **Lousy Hops**

Our lousy hops, lousy hops! Pick 'em off the ground When the measurer he comes round Pick 'em off the ground!

When he comes to measure up He never knows when to stop! Ay ay, get in the bin And take the blooming (original word: f'ing) lot!



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## 15 The Hartlake Bridge Tragedy

Anonymous words circa 1853. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

The Hartlake Bridge is a bridge over the River Medway in Golden Green in the parish of Hadlow, Kent. On the evening of 20 October 1853, a wagon was taking around 40 hop-pickers and their families back to their camp site. One of the horses pulling the wagon shied on the bridge, causing one of its wheels to crash through the side of the bridge. This upended the cart, tipping its passengers into the river, which at the time was swollen in flood.

The victims were casual workers and either Irish or Romani people. The Romani's were all from one extended family. The 30 who died were aged between 2 and 59 years. In October 2013, on the 160th anniversary of the disaster, a new plaque carrying the names of the dead was added to the by-now weathered memorial.

The name of the youngest victim, a two-year-old girl, remains unknown as her parents died with her in the accident. This song is thought to have been composed around 1853, however folk songs such as these were passed down through oral tradition and it was only actually written down in the 1970's by local Romany Gypsy, Jasper Smith (listen to his version of the song on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUVqN4bGZYk). This song would have been heard around the open fires at night after a day's work and its survival shows the importance and relevance it had in the community. This song is still sung by members of Jasper's family today.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartlake\_disaster</u>

#### The Hartlake Bridge Tragedy

Now seven and thirty strangers A hopping they had been Employed by Mr Cox's farm Down by old Golden Green It was in the parish of Hadlow Close by old Tonbridge Town That's where they laid Those poor souls After they were drowned

Now some were men and women The others girls and boys They were crossing o'er the bridge When the horses they took shy They were crossing o'er the bridge When everyone was drowned Just to hear the screams Of those poor souls As they were going down

Now people came from everywhere Just to see what could be done But no one was saved on that sad day They were drowned everyone No one was saved on that sad day Yes and everyone was drowned Just to hear the screams of those poor souls As they were going down



# Chapter 5 - Under Ground

### 16 Think of Us

Words by Jo Field 2022. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

The Kent Mining Museum, in the Visitor Centre at Betteshanger Country Park, has many interesting stories to tell. The words of this song were suggested by some of them.



Durham, 1979 – Courtesy of Pamela Price

The heat at the coalface was often so intense that miners would work partially or even fully naked. A shift was eight hours long. Shifts ran without a break, day and night. The check or tally system was a crucial safety measure whereby each miner could be identified by his number in case of accident. It was obviously a hard life, but full of jokes and camaraderie.

#### Think of Us

When the sun's shining hard and the world is quite cheerful the green's full of daisies and Spring has unwound when the bright air is clean and birds give you an earful don't look for us here we'll be deep underground

We'll have ridden the cage down the shaft in the blackness and stripped off our clothes for the Earth's roaring heat We'll be crawling the roadway like tubs on the track, just the lamps on our helmets the boots on our feet

When they've had our eight hours we will rise to the surface and give up our tallies. The sun will be gone. All weary and aching and smothered in coaldust we'll head for the showers another shift done Think of Us



### 17 Serbian Beans

Words by Jo Field 2022. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

Striking miners and their families faced very real hardship and even starvation. Food parcels were sent from collieries in other countries to show their support. Tins of beans from Serbia were among these parcels, and any surplus might be exchanged for other food and necessities.

### **Serbian Beans**

Another strike, and times are hard How will we feed our families? Fellow miners across the sea Send us parcels. Mainly beans

We rely on Beans. Serbian beans. In tins We rely on Beans. Serbian beans. In tins to feed us all, to feed us all, to feed us all

It's barter here and barter there Beans for fuel and beans for beer Beans for breakfast. Beans for tea Too many beans for you and me

We've rabbits from the game keeper Farmers give us milk and eggs What have we got to trade for them? Here's the answer, mainly beans Serbian Beans



### 18 The Silence of the Band

Words by Jo Field, 2022. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

These words were prompted by a piece on the Betteshanger Colliery Welfare Band website:

'...Betteshanger Colliery went on strike in the 1960s, and the local press wanted to have a picture of the band. They asked if they could come on the following morning to take the band's photograph; however, the band were leaving very early the next morning. It was decided that the newspaper would arrive at 5.30am and the band would march up and down the street pretending to play...'



Royal Marines Marching - Courtesy of Chris Mansfield

### The Silence of the Band

(Accompanied by a soft drone) Trombone, horn, eupho-ni-um Cornet, trumpet, all struck dumb

The band's tapping with their fingers And puffing out their cheeks But there's been no music round here For many days and weeks

The winding gear's not winding There's no one at the trap And no wife will be minding To make sure he's got his snap

The band's marching very smartly They look as if they're playing But the instruments are silent No watchers are hooraying

A scab will be identified Wherever he may run He won't find anywhere to hide Under the Kentish sun



The Silence of the Band

Natasha Rose Douglas

# 19 Coal Not Dole

Poem by Kay Sutcliffe, 1984. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

Kay's husband lost his mining job in 1984. The title of Kay's poem was taken from a political slogan of the time: Coal Not Dole.



Coal Miners – Courtesy of Kay Sutcliffe

Chumbawamba sang Coal Not Dole in 2003 on their CD English Rebel Songs 1381-1984. They noted: Coal Not Dole, written by Kay Sutcliffe, is one of the most moving testaments of the Miners' Strike of 1984-5. Under attack from a government determined to end the power of the unions, the mining communities fought with a spirit in keeping with a proud tradition—a tradition of strikes, pickets and marches, for better pay and improved working conditions. In 1984 the miners were fighting for their jobs, and the strike became a landmark in English political history.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://mainlynorfolk.info/watersons/songs/coalnotdole.html

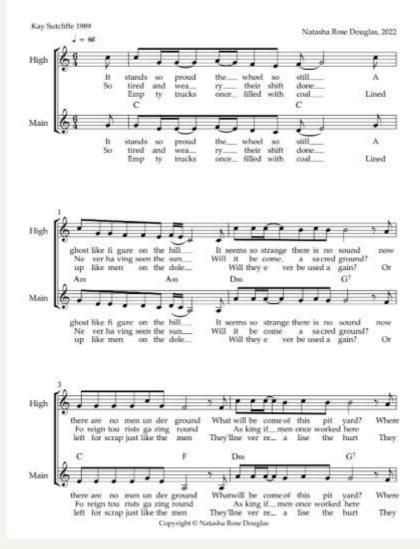
#### **Coal Not Dole**

It stands so proud, the wheels so still A ghost-like figure on the hill It seems so strange there is no sound Now there are no men underground What will become of this pit yard Where men once trampled faces hard

So tired and weary their shift done Never having seen the sun Will it become a sacred ground? Foreign tourists gazing round Asking if men once worked here Way beneath this pit head gear

Empty trucks once filled with coal Lined up like men on the dole Will they ever be used again Or left for scrap just like the men? They'll never realise the hurt They cause to men they treat like dirt

## Coal not Dole





# **Chapter 6 - Migrations**

## 20 The Migrating Miner

Words by Jo Field, 2020. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.



Snowdown Colliery – Courtesy of Kay Sutcliffe

In the late 1920s, miners, many of them blacklisted for troublemaking by other pits, made their way to Kent in search of work. Some cycled from Wales to Betteshanger.

#### **The Migrating Miner**

Away from the blacklist, from home and from hearth I cycled through Cardiff and Bristol and Bath Over hills of all sizes, I rode to Devizes By orchard and meadow and garth

I pedalled up lanes and I pedalled down tracks With ditches and potholes and cart-ruts and cracks When I reached Basingstoke I was weary and broke My legs were as shaky as wax

I pushed on to Farnham, round Guildford I went Through Dorking and Reigate and on into Kent I once lost my balance outside Sutton Valence As into a corner I leant

By green and by forstal I pedalled and pumped Past hedges and lynches all over the bumps Through forest and weald until by Hothfield My arms were as sore as my rump

The steep push from Folkestone it near did for me But now my heart sang with the scent of the sea I whistled through Dover, the ride almost over And feeling as fit as a flea

What sort of a welcome awaited in Deal? How did the good folk there make us Welshmen feel? The answer: no welcome for miners. They seldom would sell us a pint or a meal



# 21 Botany Bay

Traditional song. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

The song 'Botany Bay' describes the period in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when British convicts were deported to the various Australian penal colonies by the British government for seven-year terms as an alternative to incarceration in Britain. The second verse is about life on the convict ships, and the last verse is directed to English girls and boys as warning not to steal. The song 'Botany Bay' is catalogued by the British Library as being from the 1780s.<sup>18</sup>



Botany Bay – Courtesy of Margherita Watt

Australia has been a destination for people who migrated there out of free choice but also for people who were forced into migration. Many of the migrants who came to Australia from Scotland were victims of the Highland Clearances – a series of forced

evictions from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s. To allow for the introduction of sheep farming, landowners forced thousands of families from their homes in the Highlands and western islands of Scotland.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany Bay (song)</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/immigration-to-Australia/629933

#### **Botany Bay**

Farewell to old England for ever Farewell to my rum skulls as well Farewell to the well-known Old Bailey Where I used for to cut such a swell

Singing too-ral-li, Oo-ral-li, addity Singing too-ral-li, Oo-ral-li, ay Singing too-ral-li, Oo-ral-li, addity And we're bound for Botany Bay

There's the captain as is our commander There's the bo'sun and all the ship's crew There's the first- and the second-class passengers Knows what we poor convicts go through

'Taint leaving old England we cares about 'Taint cos we mis-spells what we knows But because all we light-fingered gentry Hops around with a log on our toes

These seven long years I've been serving now And seven long more have to stay All for bashing a bloke down our alley And taking his ticker away

Oh, had I the wings of a turtle-dove I'd soar on my pinions so high Straight back to the arms of my Polly love And in her sweet presence I'd die



**Botany Bay** 

## 22 Another Time

Words by Jo Field 2021. Music by Natasha Rose Douglas.

A song based on Antony Gormley's cast iron sculpture installed in 2017 on Fulsam Rock in the sea outside Turner Contemporary in Margate. The Another Time sculpture is part of a series of 100 solid cast-iron figures by artist Antony Gormley, who is known for his sculptures and installations that explore the experience of being human, of inhabiting a human body. Antony Gormley describes these isolated forms, cast from his own body as 'an attempt to bear witness to what it is like to be alive and alone in space and time'.



Installation view of 'Another Time' by Antony Gormley at Turner Contemporary Margate. Photo by Thierry Bal – Courtesy of Turner Contemporary

In 2017 the sculpture had a near miss when a 75-metre cargo ship ran aground at Fulsam Rock – just metres from the artwork.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> <u>https://turnercontemporary.org/whats-on/another-time/</u>

#### **Another Time**

There's a man who drowns on Fulsam Rock with each incoming tide Stands silent underneath the waves you'd think he's surely died

But as the sea recedes he's gradually seen On the Rock that's covered with slippery weed Standing naked there with his head exposed Then shoulders, knees down to his toes And all the bits between

He gazes out beyond and waits to be drowned twice a day Alive, alone in space and time he never walks away

And as the tide comes in he slowly disappears His feet go first, his knees again His thighs and stomach, waist and chest His shoulders, chin, and all the rest His mouth, his eyes, his ears





## 23 Time to Go

Words by Jo Field, 2019 from the book '*Time to Go: A Journey from Old Deal to New Zealand*' by Jerry Vyse. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas, based on a traditional Irish folksong '*Fillimiooriay*'.

This song is based on the story of the Deal Boatmen who

left for New Zealand in 1858 in search of a better life for themselves and their families after the collapse of the Deal fishing industry, having faced poverty and extreme hard times in Deal.



Timaru – Courtesy of Karan O'Connor

## Time to Go

In eighteen hundred and fifty-eight The Boatmen of Deal were desperate To hang around corners was their fate A-smoking and a-swearing

What'll we do to give us hope? What'll we do to give us hope? What'll we do to give us hope? Sail to a different country Women who tried to make ends meet That winter were sadly near defeat No work, no money, no peace, no heat Families are starving

When you've done all you think you can The promise of a kinder land With a decent livelihood to hand Is certainly appealing

They packed up their lives: Robert and John Braved the voyage, were quickly gone With Henry and Morris, William and John And all their wives and children

They left behind everything they held dear And sailed for a quarter of a year Through sickness and squalor hope and fear A-daring and a-praying

Across the globe, and up on deck Into a different world they stepped. Then for a hundred miles they trekked To begin a whole new living

Never think that journey was wrong Some died young but most lived long Their children's children know this song **Will** always be worth the singing

## Time to Go, From Deal to Timaru



## 24 Pokarekare Ana

Traditional unofficial anthem of New Zealand. Arranged by Natasha Rose Douglas.

Pokarekare Ana is a traditional love song, written in Māori and composed around the time World War One broke out. It enjoys widespread popularity in New Zealand and has been translated into many languages including Korean and Hebrew!<sup>21</sup>



Timaru Landing – Courtesy of Deal Museum

This song was taught to members of 'Singing for Pleasure' by a choir member who learnt it at school whilst growing up in Timaru (the town where the Deal Boatmen settled in the 1800's). This song was taught to another choir member by her mother who had been evacuated to New Zealand as a small child during WW2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%C5%8Dkarekare\_Ana</u>

#### **Pokarekare Ana**

Pokarekare ana Nga wai o Rotorua Whiti atu koe hine Marino ana e

E hine e Hoki maira Kamate ahau Ite aroha e

Tuhituhi taku reta Tuku atu taku ringi Kia kite toe iwi Raru raru ana e

## **Translation:**

They are agitated the waters of <u>Waiapu</u> But when you cross over girl they will be calm.

Oh girl, return to me I could die of love for you.

I have written my letter I have sent my ring so that your people can see that I am troubled. Pokarekare Ana



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# About the Author

Natasha is a musician from Deal and has always enjoyed composing songs, whether they be folk songs or her own songs as a singer songwriter. Natasha set up and ran 'Singing for Pleasure' song groups in Deal and surrounding areas for over



Natasha Rose Douglas - Courtesy of Mike Owen

10 years and during that time discovered that the singing groups were not only a time to meet and sing but also a time to reflect on times gone by and the changing times of today.

The sessions were a time to make friendships, enjoy the natural release from singing and take a pause from the business of the day. It was during these sessions that

Natasha discovered a strong desire to combine local events and history with song and so the process of creating this songbook began. During this process it became clear that these songs also related to areas beyond Deal and in fact many of the songs contained common experiences for people up and down the country and so these songs began to take on a bigger meaning and relevance as well as staying very pertinent and personal to the town of Deal. Over the 10 years of running these groups, Natasha (and *'Singing for Pleasure'*) curated concerts in collaboration with the Deal Music and Arts Festival and her parents around poignant local themes such as Coal Mining, Hop Picking, Smuggling, Fishing, Migration. Many of the themes overlapped and Natasha was keen to formerly notate and record these new and old folksongs so as to preserve them and share them with other song leaders (and also as a means of looking back on all the wonderful times *'Singing for Pleasure'* had learning and singing them!).

Natasha now lives in Germany and still enjoys composing her own songs as a singer songwriter and looks forward to finding out more about her new local area and perhaps learning a few local songs and joining / starting up a new singing group.



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