Brother Tradesmen (Hard Times of Old England)

Arranged by Caroline Price
The Full English

The Full English was a unique nationwide project unlocking hidden treasures of England’s cultural heritage by making over 58,000 original source documents from 12 major folk collectors available to the world via a ground-breaking nationwide digital archive and learning project. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in partnership with other cultural partners across England.

The Full English digital archive (www.vwml.org) continues to provide access to thousands of records detailing traditional folk songs, music, dances, customs and traditions that were collected from across the country. Some of these are known widely, others have lain dormant in notebooks and files within archives for decades.

The Full English learning programme worked across the country in 19 different schools including primary, secondary and special educational needs settings. It also worked with a range of cultural partners across England, organising community, family and adult learning events.

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Folk Music Fund and The Folklore Society.

Supported by

Produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), June 2014
Arranged by: Caroline Price

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Introduction

This tune for this song was collected in 1949 from James Copper in Rottingdean, Sussex. The set of words used here by Caroline were collected in 1964 from members of the same family who still sing these songs today.

Caroline Price chose to arrange this song, and several others, as part of The Full English community event held at The Met, Bury in on 8 March 2014. Over 50 singers came together to learn material that originated from the North West, led by Caroline and the Stream of Sound youth chorus from Stourbridge.

Scores of the other songs Caroline arranged are available for free download at www.efdss.org/resourcebank

Caroline Price and Stream of Sound

Caroline Price is a dynamic choir leader and prolific arranger of folk material! She researched and arranged a variety of songs and warm ups for The Full English community event in Bury.

Stream of Sound is a youth chorus, led by Caroline, who sing a-cappella harmony, and founded on a variety of musical traditions from around the world. They are known for their energetic and inspiring performances, and aim to share their love of harmony with as many people as possible.

Together, Caroline and Stream of Sound run a variety of workshops and events to encourage people to sing.

Photo: Caroline teaching at The Met, Bury (taken by Frances Watt)
Brother Tradesmen (Hard Times of Old England)
collected from James Copper by Francis Collinson, Rottingdean, 1949
http://www.vwml.org/record/COL/6/25
Roud Number: 1206
Trad/Arr. Caroline Price

Come, all brother tradesmen that travel alone,
Oh pray come and

Ah Ah Ah a lone,
Oh pray

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Oh, the hard times of old England in old

Oh, hard times of old England, Old

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Hard Times of Old England

Collected by Peter Kennedy from the Copper Family of Rottingdean, Sussex in 1964

Come all brother tradesmen that travel alone,
Oh pray, come and tell me where the trade has all gone?
*Long time I have travelled and cannot find none.*
And it's oh, the hard times of old England,
In old Engerland very hard times.

Now provisions you buy at the shop it is true,
But if you've no money, there's none there for you.
*So what's a poor man and his family to do?*
And it's oh, the hard times of old England,
In old Engerland very hard times.

If you go to a shop and you ask for a job,
They just answer you there with a shake and a nod.
*Twill make every poor man to turn out and rob!*
And it's oh, the hard times of old England,
In old Engerland very hard times.

You see the poor tradesmen a-walking the street
From morning to night, some employment to seek.
*And scarcely they have any shoes to their feet.*
And it's oh, the hard times of old England,
In old Engerland very hard times.

Our soldiers and sailors have just come from war,
They've fought for their King and their country for sure.
*Come home to be starved, should have stayed where they were.*
And it's oh, the hard times of old England,
In old Engerland very hard times.

So now to conclude and to finish our song,
Let's hope that these hard times they will not last long.
Then we'll have occasion to alter our song,
And sing, Oh, the good times of old England,
In old Engerland very good times!
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