



## **An album based on the Manchester Broadside Ballads; released on 19 February 2016**

On Friday 19 February 2016, English roots musical collective **Edward II** release '**Manchester's Improving Daily**', a collection of rare and historic songs, known as the **Manchester Broadside Ballads**, dating back over 200 years to the Industrial Revolution.

The culmination of a 15-month project, '**Manchester's Improving Daily**' will be accompanied by a book, written by social archaeologist **David Jennings**, explaining the history of the songs and providing an informative commentary to these rare glimpses into the lives of working class Mancunians in the Victorian times.

The Broadside Ballads are believed to be the main way news was circulated to the working classes, printed on cheap paper often with music suggested, they would be performed in the pubs, markets and streets across Manchester and Salford.

Edward II has selected a range of the Broadside Ballads for Manchester's Improving Daily. 'Peterloo' and 'Kersall Moor' reflecting the troubled, and tragic struggles workers endured in the fight for improved conditions and the right to vote.

'Victoria Bridge on a Saturday Night' celebrates the hustle and bustle of the busy market on the bridge over the Irwell which links the modern cities of Manchester and Salford.

'Mr Sadler's Balloon' celebrates the first balloon flight in the country by James Sadler in 1785 (just two years after the Montgolfier Brothers invented flying air balloons). Recently the NOMA development in Manchester named its new public square Sadler's Yard after the aviation pioneer and **Edward II** performed the song at the opening event.

Mixed in with **Edward II's** modern arrangements for the songs is Bury-born balladress Jennifer Reid's performances of several of the ballads as they would have been originally sung.

Gavin Sharp, **Edward II** said: "**'Manchester's Improving Daily'** has been a fascinating project to work on. The songs were produced in Manchester throughout the industrial revolution, they tell of hardship, politics, social justice and good times as experienced in the nineteenth century. Often a way of spreading news, promoting events, places or businesses or spreading a political or social message, the songs were designed to have a short shelf life and as such were printed on cheap paper and distributed at the markets around what is now the northern quarter of the city.

"By adding our own musical soundtrack to the songs we hope, not only to bring snippets of Manchester's social history back to life, but keep them alive for many years to come."

**Edward II** will be holding a special launch party on from 6pm – 8pm on Thursday 18 February 2016 at Manchester Central Library, where the original Broadside manuscripts are kept. The band and Jennifer Reid will be performing songs from the album and David Jennings will present the historical context of the songs.

'Manchester's Improving Daily' has received funding from Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

[www.edwardthesecond.co.uk](http://www.edwardthesecond.co.uk)

watch: [Victoria Bridge on a Saturday Night](#)

Blog posts: <http://edwardthesecond.co.uk/category/blog/manchesters-improving-daily/>

## About Edward II

One of Manchester's lesser known musical exports, the band were signed to Cooking Vinyl (UK) and Rhythm Safari (US) in the nineties. Cited by the Guinness Book of Records as 'one of the bands who would be in the running for the title busiest band on the planet' they have worked across the world at many international roots festivals and venues.

For more information or to request an interview please contact Chris Hewlett PR on [chris@chrishewlett.com](mailto:chris@chrishewlett.com) or 0845 601 2833

See also:

<http://edwardthesecond.co.uk/category/blog/manchesters-improving-daily/>

<http://edwardthesecond.co.uk/manchester-map/>





**AIR.—“UNCLE NED.”**

The landlord too long hath sat at his ease,  
 Sung counting the lone widow's pence;  
 With belly as round as a great Cheshire cheese,  
 But that is the road to his sense.

CHORUS.

So shut up the tavern and the vault,  
 And furnish the landlords with bags,  
 Too long they have fed on other people's bread,  
 And now let them gather their rags.

The landlord fattens on things that are choice,  
 And doth chatter, and flatter, and lie;  
 Whilst his customers starve,—both his wife and  
 the mice,  
 When seen have a tear in their eye!

So shut up the tavern, &c.

The 'avdlady rustles fine satin and silk,  
 But if each drunkard's wife had her share,  
 Her great blooming face would be turned white as  
 milk,

Her back clothed in cotton—or bare.

So shut up the tavern, &c.

The landlord's children are sent to the school,  
 Donn'd in clothing so choice, rich, and new,  
 Whilst the poor drunken sot, though he thinks he's  
 no fool,

Lets his own wear an old clog and shoe!

CHORUS.

So shut up the tavern and the vault,  
 And furnish the landlords with bags,  
 Too long they have fed on other people's bread,  
 And now let them gather their rags.

W. BREMNER, MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER.



Edward II Presents 'Manchester's Improving Daily'