



SONGSEEDS

A project funded by Youth Music and Arts Council England to develop songwriting in Hastings, with the aim of increasing inclusion and building friendships, skills and pride.



**YOUTH
MUSIC**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



SongSeeds

Songseeds is a project developing young people and songwriting in Hastings. It builds on Hastings Thrives existing work in this area with schools and in the community. We specialise in collaborative and inclusive work, as well as supporting individuals.

Collaborative songwriting develops skills and friendships and is inclusive of young people who are neurodiverse. Collaboration is so important in life: no person is an island.

There are 5 main elements to the project:

- Run an afterschool club
- Train primary school teachers
- Reach out to home educated young people
- Participate in community events
- Give WOW recording studio opportunities

We run our club and training as discrete themed projects, guided by the young people and/or community events we work with.

Like many projects across the country, this 2-year project was significantly affected by COVID-19.

CHRISTMAS SONGS

Create a Christmas song with Anna Page

For 11 - 16yrs
Living in Hastings

Starts Tuesday
3 November 2020
For 6 weeks
4.15 - 5.15pm
On Zoom

Suitable for all. Limited places.
Priority for young people
with additional needs.

For more information
Tel: Jenny 07597 563798
Email: achieve@hastingsthrives.org

Our participants value new skills, friendship and appreciation the most.

Free Course



Reg Charity 1170342



Christmas Love and Light

Do I really remember laying in the snow?
Do I really remember Santa's drinking cocoa?
Do I really remember snowball fights?
I'm not sure if I remember these things right.

But I do remember Christmas lights
But I do remember warm glow inside
I don't care if Christmas is white!
As long as there is Christmas love and light
As long as there is Christmas love and light

Do I really remember Santa peeking through the door?
Do I really remember elves sliding on my floor?
Do I really remember seeing Rudolf eating his mince pie?
I'm not sure if I remember these things right.

But I do remember Christmas lights
But I do remember warm glow inside
I don't care if Christmas is white!
As long as there is Christmas love and light
As long as there is Christmas love and light

Christmas

We ran teacher training in two primary academies: Guestling Bradshaw and Robsack Wood, producing songs for Christmas.

The after-school club moved online due to Covid and produced a collaborative Christmas song and some individual songs.

"My class absolutely loved the song writing sessions! We really enjoyed the training, both as a class and as teachers (myself and my TA). Ed was brilliant and made sure that everyone could get involved - encouraging scribes etc. to support and model for other children in the group. All children could access all activities and it really encouraged their creativity. Since the workshop, we have seen a real increase in interest towards song writing and poetry which has been lovely to see!"

soundcloud.com/hastings-thrives/sets/christmas-2020



NONSENSE GARDENS & SEA OF DREAMS SONGS



Playing at BADGER INC

Wed 7 April: all day • Thurs 8 & 15 April: 3-4pm



LIVE broadcast on ISOLATION STATION HASTINGS
Thu 8 April at 7pm - with exclusive performance by Eve Simmonds

Part of ATownExploresABook21 - exploring Edward Lear's 1871 anthology *Nonsense Songs, Stories, Botany and Alphabets...*
Songs created by local young people from Silverdale Primary Academy and Christ Church CofE Primary Academy
PLUS: Twinkle Ansar, Shannon Baverstock, Maia Doye, Clara Patroa Lomba, Ted McIntosh, Marina Rolfe, Eve Simmonds and Stan Thornton
with course leader Anna Page



aTown explores a book

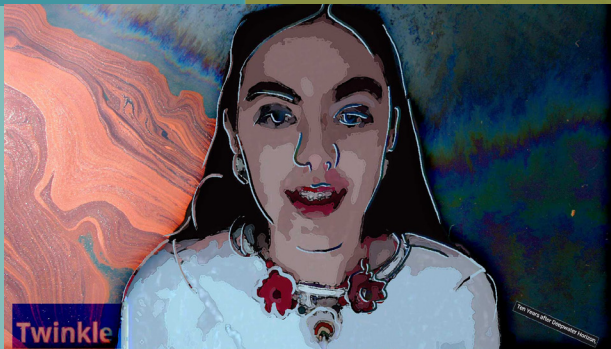


Hastings Thrives Reg Charity No 1170342

YOUTH MUSIC



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Creating Imaginary Nonsense Gardens

Hastings Thrives, an organisation that works with young people in Hastings to overcome barriers to learning and celebrate their achievements, has been inviting children to re-imagine their gardens with drawings and songs. You won't be able to buy these plants in the shops, but they might tickle your imagination and lodge in your head. That's because Silverdale Primary Academy and Christ Church Primary Academy have been exploring drawing and writing Nonsense Songs based on imagination and gardens as part of SongSeeds' afterschool songwriting club and half-term bootcamp in collaboration with A Town Explores A Book 2021 festival.

Perhaps you'll find the smilillium or hugolia tree - while you must know that the penatroska is a squaska - but we hope you haven't put the candyfloss dragon next to the hot dog crocodiles, as they don't get on.

Edward Lear wrote many songs which have been lost in time. "Hastings is the perfect place to re-imagine those songs," says, Jenny Lozano, Project Manager for Hastings Thrives. Creating songs with children is a major part of the work done by Hastings Thrives. "We particularly like to work with

collaborative songs, which are inclusive and build so many skills and friendships: they set children up for how to work together in imaginative and creative ways," says Jenny.

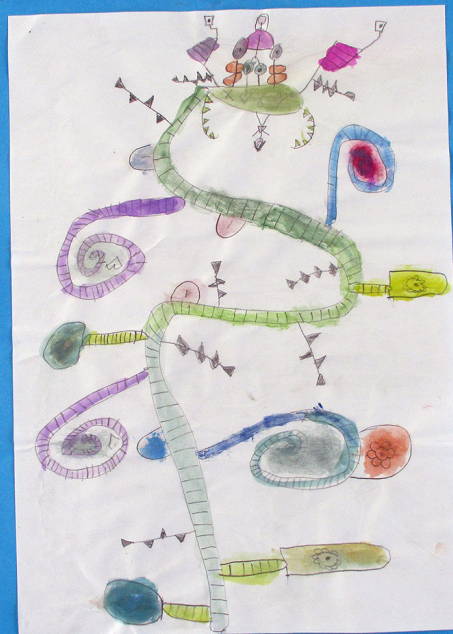
And you can now watch some of the results: if you missed the 8th April performance on Isolation Station, catch up on www.facebook.com/isolation.station. [hastings/videos/937270627020474](https://www.facebook.com/isolation.station/videos/937270627020474). The show is hosted by Lily Kim, featuring Andrew Mersh from Silverdale Primary Academy, Claire Burford from Christ Church CE Primary Academy, Course Leader Anna Page and songs from Twinkle Ansar, Sharon Baverstock, Maia Doye, Clara Patroa Lomba, Ted McIntosh, Marina Rolfe, Eve Simmonds and Stan Thornton.

Jenny would like to thank everyone for the support, including Badger Inc, and SongSeeds funders Youth Music Charity with Arts England, Hastings Borough Council, Hastings Lions, Hastings Opportunity area and the Co-op Community Fund.

■ For more information on the project visit hastingsthrives.org/songseeds/nonsense-gardens



RUBYXUCUM



Rubyxucum

A fabulous house plant! The Rubyxucum lives in your house and comes out when you are happy. If you are feeling nervous, it gives you a squeeze to make you feel better. It likes dark spaces and often hides under your bed during the day as it comes out at night. It protects you from bad guys and eats them, which actually makes it stronger and taller! They have very sharp thorns and can grow up to 100m!



NONSENSE GARDENS & SEA OF DREAMS

SHOW TIME

ISOLATION STATION HASTINGS

Live streaming from Facebook Thursday 8 April, 7pm - 8.20pm

HOST: Lily Kim

Mr Mersh - Silverdale Primary Academy
Ms Burford - Christ Church Primary Academy
Anna Page - Songwriter and Courses Lead
Twinkle Ansar - Deep Waters
Maia Doye - Sailor in a Paper Boat
Shannon Baverstock - Floating Through Time
Ted McIntosh - The Domino Effect
Clara Patroa Lomba (Live from Badger Inc) Robot Campaign
Marina Rolfe - Waterfall of Thought
Stan Thornton - Trip To Dreamworld
Eve Simmonds - (Live from Badger Inc) Robot Kid



Collaborators



Hastings Thrives Charity projects funded by

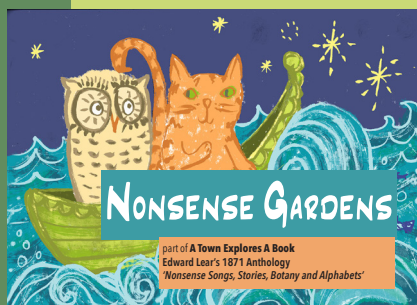


Nonsense Gardens

A Town Explores A Book
Edward Lear's 1871 Anthology:
'Nonsense Songs, Stories, Botany and Alphabets'

Edward Lear wrote many songs, most of which have unfortunately been lost over time. We joined with the amazing St Leonard's-on-Sea Explore The Arch project A Town Explores A Book to create songs for Lear. Silverdale and Christ Church Primary Academies explored drawing and writing Nonsense Songs based on imagination and gardens. While our Song-Seeds afterschool songwriting club and half-term bootcamp, used Lear as a springboard from Nonsense Gardens to a Sea of Dreams.

This was a fun project working with Silverdale and Christ Church Primary Academies, as well as individual young people, to create fun collaborative and individual songs.



WOW! WOW! WOW!

Well Done Christ Church Ruby Class

You wrote some brilliant songs which we are sure

Edward Lear would have loved and

been very proud of.

We adored the incredible video!

Thank you so much for making us smile with:

The Daddy Plong Legs

The Forkalla

The Key Bird

The Octopussy

The Penatroska



Reg Charity No 1179342



Tree Tunnel Film and Animation produced films of the school songs, while Hastings Thrives produced a film of the collaborative after-school club song.

The collaborative song was recorded in YiaYia's Recording Studio. It was the first time anyone had been in a recording studio. One young person signed up to write poems and found himself in a recording studio! While another claimed "It's the best day of my life". The group was an inclusive mix of young people.

We are very grateful to Isolation Station Hastings, Badger Inc and Lily Kim for a fantastic online event celebrating everyone's efforts, which was watched live online by over 1,000 people.

soundcloud.com/hastings-thrives/sets/nonsense-gardens
soundcloud.com/hastings-thrives/sets/christ-church-nonsense-gardens
youtu.be/yvuLI_kHCpM
youtu.be/bmFXpUjeZvw

A young man with curly brown hair, wearing glasses and large black headphones, is smiling slightly. He is wearing a blue and black horizontally striped sweater with a large yellow skull and crossbones design on the front. He is standing in front of a wall covered in brown, pyramid-shaped acoustic foam. A black microphone on a stand is visible to his left.

Sea of Dreams

Sea of Dreams was a week-long intensive course during half term. It followed on from discussions with the after-school club, which arose during the Nonsense Songs course. The young people had explored Freud/Jung, the subconscious, and dreams, as part of their wide-ranging exploration.

Interestingly 3 independent songs all included reference to robots.

soundcloud.com/hastings-thrives/sets/sea-of-dreams

Nature

This theme also grew out of the Nonsense Gardens course. It was defined by individual passions for the environment taking centre stage, as well as for local historian, singer, explorer and artist Marianne North.

With everyone's contribution the aim was to:

- improve visual awareness, observation and listening skills through nature
- engage fully in our environment and to draw on it for inspiration
- increase a sense of connectedness and wellbeing
- increase complex thinking through a multi-faceted theme
- to allow access to science through the arts.
- engage in local history through the life of Marianne North.

Things to consider were:
colours – texture – lines – movement
– weather – sounds – effects – light –
emotions – thoughts – responses

Here is a blog written by
Twinkle Ansar on Marianne North
hastingsthives.org/mariannes-world

Christ Church and Robsack Wood Primary Academies produced songs. A group of pupils from Christ Church

The Songwriting Competition was online again and used the Nature theme. The Christ Church Primary group winners experienced the thrill of a Recording Studio. The Judge couldn't decide between the older group. In the end the winner went to a quirky song: *"I decided to write a song that mentions animals because they are a big part of my life, I've travelled to exotic parts of the world, but I always love coming back to Hastings."* The public vote went to a group from The Hastings Academy.

Thanks very much to Andy Fyfe and Ed Boxall.



soundcloud.com/hastingsthives/sets/nature
hastingsthives.org/songseeds/nature
hastingsthives.org/enrichment/songwriting-competition-2021

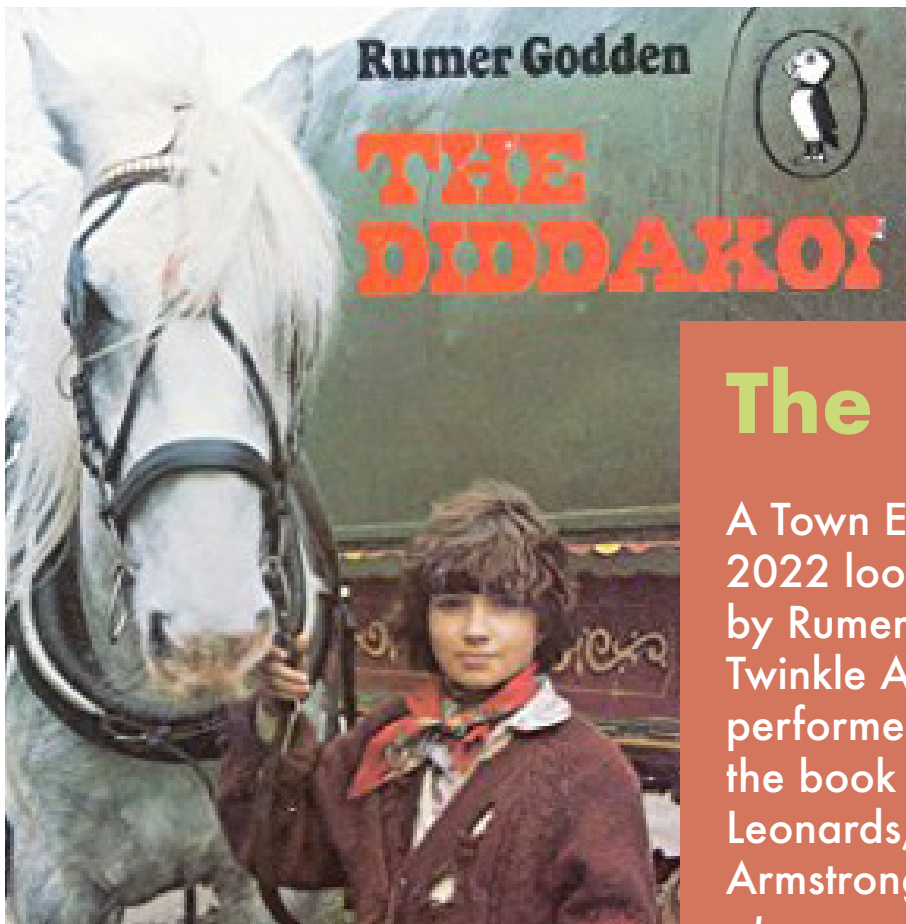


Beacon of Light

We ran a series of workshops exploring different aspects of songwriting, utilising the skills of different musical artists together with the lead musician, including storytellers and performance trainers. This enabled learning for everyone.

We created a safe and supportive performance space at the end, with family and friends invited to celebrate new beginnings and developing young people. It was a fantastic evening.





The Diddakoi

A Town Explores a Book for 2022 looked at: The Diddakoi by Rumer Godden.

Twinkle Ansar wrote and performed her response to the book on Kings Road, St Leonards, outside Montague Armstrong Print Shop.

atownexploresabook.com

St Leonards Festival

We were very kindly given a slot for Twinkle Ansar to perform her song for nature at the St Leonards Festival.

SuperHeroes

We worked with SenSoftPlay (www.sensoftplay.co.uk)

Saturday club to create a song about Superheroes. We used voice extracts to create a song, sharing information about digital songmaking. Thanks to Annie and Gaston for their excellent work. We hope to do more work with them in future.

<https://soundcloud.com/hastings-thrives/superheroes-song>
https://youtu.be/BmpZ_oD97Cg

Protest Planet

Climate anxiety is a strong presence with young people. The regular club collaborated to form a song and give voice their fears. Watch this space as the song is still in production.

Feedback

This project has affected over 200 local children, given them a song of their own creation. Songs sit in a different part of the memory which is less likely to succumb to aging process, so it is a gift for life. According to feedback we have:

- helped build friendships
- enabled children to feel included
- increased a sense of pride
- learnt and developed new skills
- increased co-operation and collaboration.

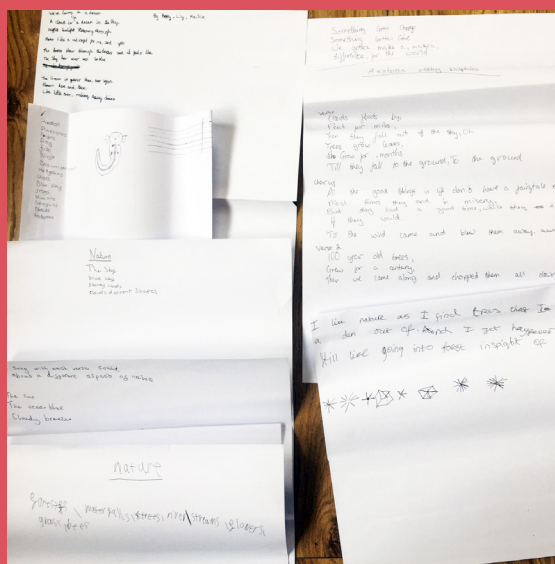
We have worked with Primary and Secondary schools and with home educated young people. We have joined in community events and enabled parents/carers, friends and relatives to share and celebrate in their children's achievements.

More Young people attending our after-school club wanted more 1:2:1 time and more opportunities to perform. They wanted the fun to continue.

More Our aim is always to be inclusive - to enable neurodiverse young people to feel part of society. We would like to reach more SEND young people to increase our inclusiveness.

Starting out

Here some young people start collaborating to write a song about nature.



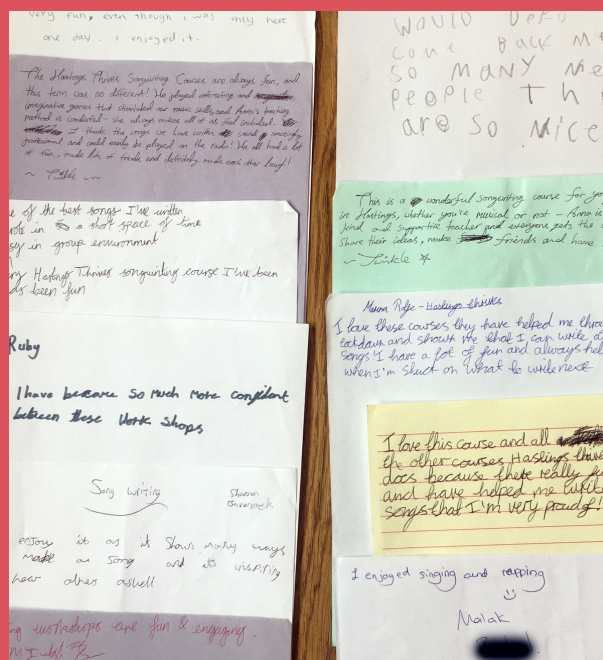
"I continued with the courses because I just really enjoyed them and had fun, and because I made a lot of friends there - it was great sharing and discussing ideas with each other. There were also so many wonderful opportunities that came from the courses, such as performances and competitions - I especially enjoyed my first-ever time in a recording studio, professionally recording my songs!!"

Feedback

Some feedback from our summer school.

"I'm generally not a social person, I don't have many friends, so it's just nice to maybe connect with people a bit through these courses. I think it's actually improved my social-ness, if that makes sense! I've always just been absolutely rubbish at socialising, and I think that now I'm able to read out my songs in front of people - if I didn't take these courses, I'd be terrified of that!"

"For English it made me improve the structure."





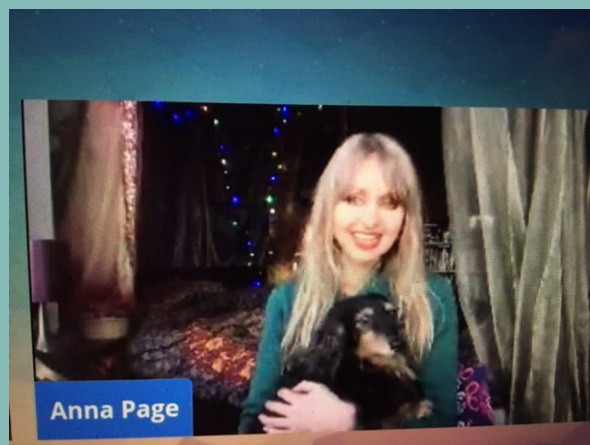
**ISOLATION
STATION
HASTINGS**



Badger Inc .



**HASTINGS
OPPORTUNITY
AREA**



THANK YOU

We are very grateful for funding from Youth Music and Arts Council England, Co-op Community Fund, Hastings Opportunity Area, Hastings Borough Council, The Magdalene and Lasher Trust, The Foreshore Trust and the continued support of Hastings Lions

We are also grateful to the many people, schools, organisations and companies who helped to make this happen. It takes a community.

Anna Page, Ed Boxall, Annie & Gaston Goliath, Kym East, Andrew Merish, Claire Burford, Dee Kelvin, Georgia Burgess, Mandy Curtis, Lily Kym, Sarah Corrie, Andy Fyfe, Gail Barrow, Erica Smith, Johnny O'Sullivan, Mike Willis.

Silverdale Primary Academy, Christ Church CE Primary Academy, Guestling Bradshaw CE Primary, Robsack Wood Primary Academy and The Hastings Academy

YiaYia's Recording Studio, A Town Explores A Book, Badger Inc, St Leonards Festival, Tree Tunnel Film and Animation