

1841 General Election

Voting in the 1841 General Election started on 29 June and continued until 22 July. Songs written for the election campaign feature among the primary sources for this project.

The election would see the Conservatives, led by Robert Peel, take power from the Whigs, led by William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne. This was the last time the Whigs were in government in the UK.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine's issue for July 1841 published a satirical song, 'Free trade for ever, and everything cheap!' – 'An Excellent Election Song', as it stated – following an extended article in favour of retaining the Corn Laws. The song was to be sung to the tune 'Hunting the Hare'.

.Secondary sources:

Isobel White and Mary Durkin, General Election Dates 1832-2005 – UK Parliament House of Commons Library, Standard Note SN/PC/04512

