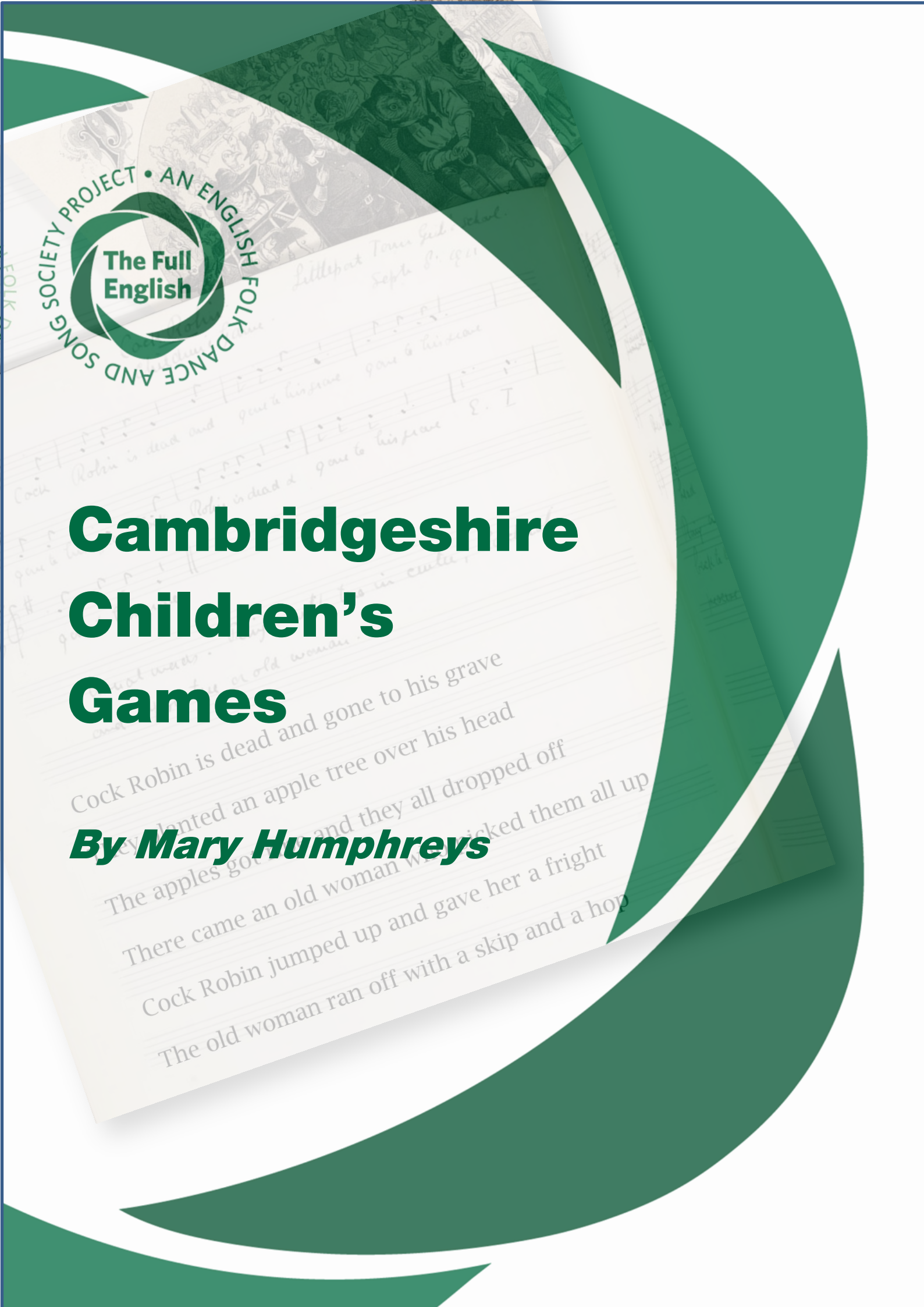

Cambridgeshire Children's Games

By Mary Humphreys

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.

Produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), June 2014
Written by: Mary Humphreys

Edited by: Frances Watt

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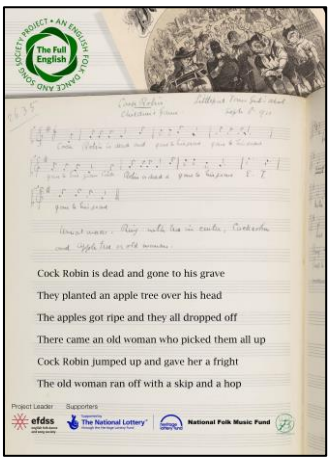
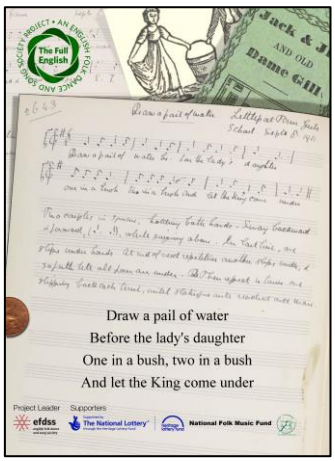
Additional Resources

- Audio recordings of each song are available online at www.efdss.org/resourcebank
- Artwork for colourful posters with Cock Robin and Draw Me A Pail of Water are also available online

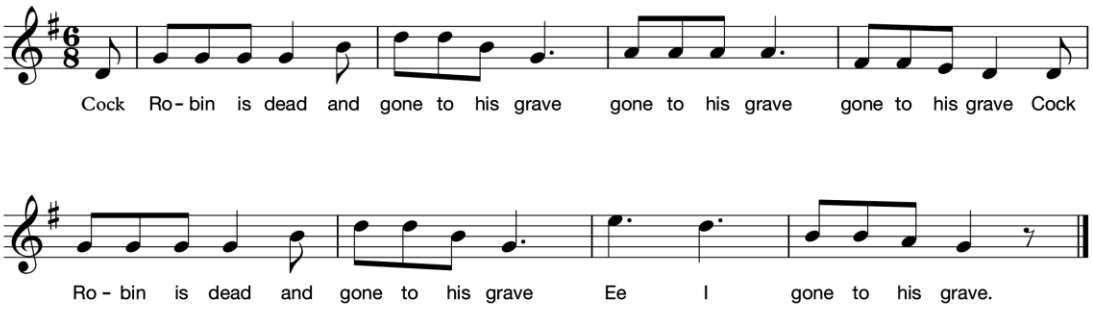




Cock Robin

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
Sept 8 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2635

Roud number: 797
Trad. Arr. Mary Humphreys



Cock Robin is dead and gone to his grave
Gone to his grave, gone to his grave,
Cock Robin is dead and gone to his grave
Ee I gone to his grave.

They planted an apple tree over his head

The apples got ripe and they all fell off

There came an old woman and picked them all up

Cock Robin got up and gave her a fright

Which made the old woman go off with a jump

From Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland by Alice B Gomme.
Thames and Hudson 1984 Vol 2 pp16-24

Children form a ring and dance around Cock Robin (C) who lies down, and plays dead.

Verse 2: A tree (T) is selected and stands over C's head

Verse 3: T pretends to drop apples.

Verse 4: T changes to become the old woman (W), who picks up the apples.

Verse 5: C jumps up and makes scary faces at W

Verse 6: C and W duck under the ring. C chases W and catches her/him. W becomes the new Cock Robin.

The Full English: www.vwml.org
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Cock Robin – lyric sheet

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2635

Roud number: 797

Cock Robin is dead and gone to his grave
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- Children form a ring and dance around Cock Robin (C) who lies down, and plays dead.
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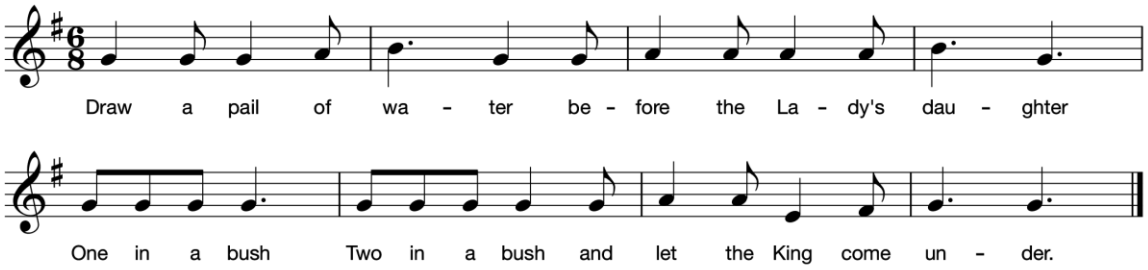
- *Verse 5:* C jumps up and makes scary faces at W
- *Verse 6*: C and W duck under the ring. C chases W and catches her/him. W becomes the new Cock Robin.

Draw a pail of water

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
Sept 8 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2643

Roud number: 11635
Traditional



Draw a pail of water
before the Lady's daughter
One in a bush, two in a bush
and let the King come under

How to dance the song:
Two couples in square holding both hands.
Sway backwards and fowards while singing the song.
In the last line on child slips under the hands.
At the end of the next repetition another slips under.
Continue until all four are under.
Repeat four times, one child slipping back each time until status quo reached.

From Tradtitional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland by Alice B Gomme.
Thames and Hudson 1984, Vol 1 pp100-108

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Draw A Pail Of Water - lyric sheet

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2643

Roud number: 2643

Draw a pail of water

Before the Lady's daughter

One in a bush

Two in a bush

And let the King come under

How to dance the song:

- Two couples in square holding both hands.
- Sway backwards and fowards while singing the song.
- In the last line on child slips under the hands.
- At the end of the next repetition another slips under.
- Continue until all four are under.
- Repeat four times, one child slipping back each time until status quo reached.

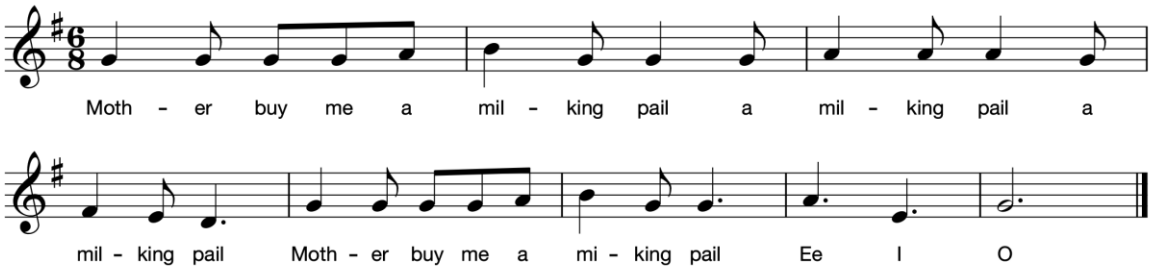
From Tradtitional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland by Alice B Gomme.

Thames and Hudson 1984, Vol 1 pp100-108

Mother Buy Me A Milking Pail

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2642

Roud Number: 3515
Traditional



Ring dances around Mother (A)
Ring (R) sings above song.

A (spoken) Where's the money to come from?
R: Sings: Sell father's feather bed
A: What's father got to lay on?
R: Lay on the boy's bed
A: What's boy got to lay on?
R: Lay on the girl's bed
A: What's the girl got to lay on?
R: Lay in the pig sty
A: What's the pig got to lay on?
R: Lay in the wash-tub
A: What's mother got to wash in?
R: Wash in a thimble
A: What's mother got to sew with?
R: Sew with the poker
A: What's mother got to poke the fire with?
R: Poke it with her finger
A: Supposing I burn my finger?
R: (spoken) Serve you right!

Children in the ring run away and A - the mother - chases them.
First to be caught becomes the mother and the game starts again.

From *Traditional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland by Alice B Gomme.*
Thames & Hudson 1984 Vol 1 pp376-388

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Mother Buy Me A Milking Pail – lyric sheet

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2642

Roud number: 3515

- The ring of dancers dances around Mother (A)
- The ring (R) sings the song:

A (spoken) Where's the money to come from?

R: Sings: Sell father's feather bed

A: What's father got to lay on?

R: Lay on the boy's bed

A: What's boy got to lay on?

R: Lay on the Girls' bed

A: What's the girl got to lay on?

R: Lay in the pig sty

A: What's the pig got to lay on?

R: Lay in the wash-tub

A: What's mother got to wash in?

R: Wash in a thimble

A: What's mother got to sew with?

R: Sew with the poker

A: What's mother got to poke the fire with?

R: Poke it with her finger

A: Supposing I burn my finger?

R: (spoken) Serve you right!

- Children in the ring run away and A - the mother - chases them.
- First to be caught becomes the mother and the game starts again.

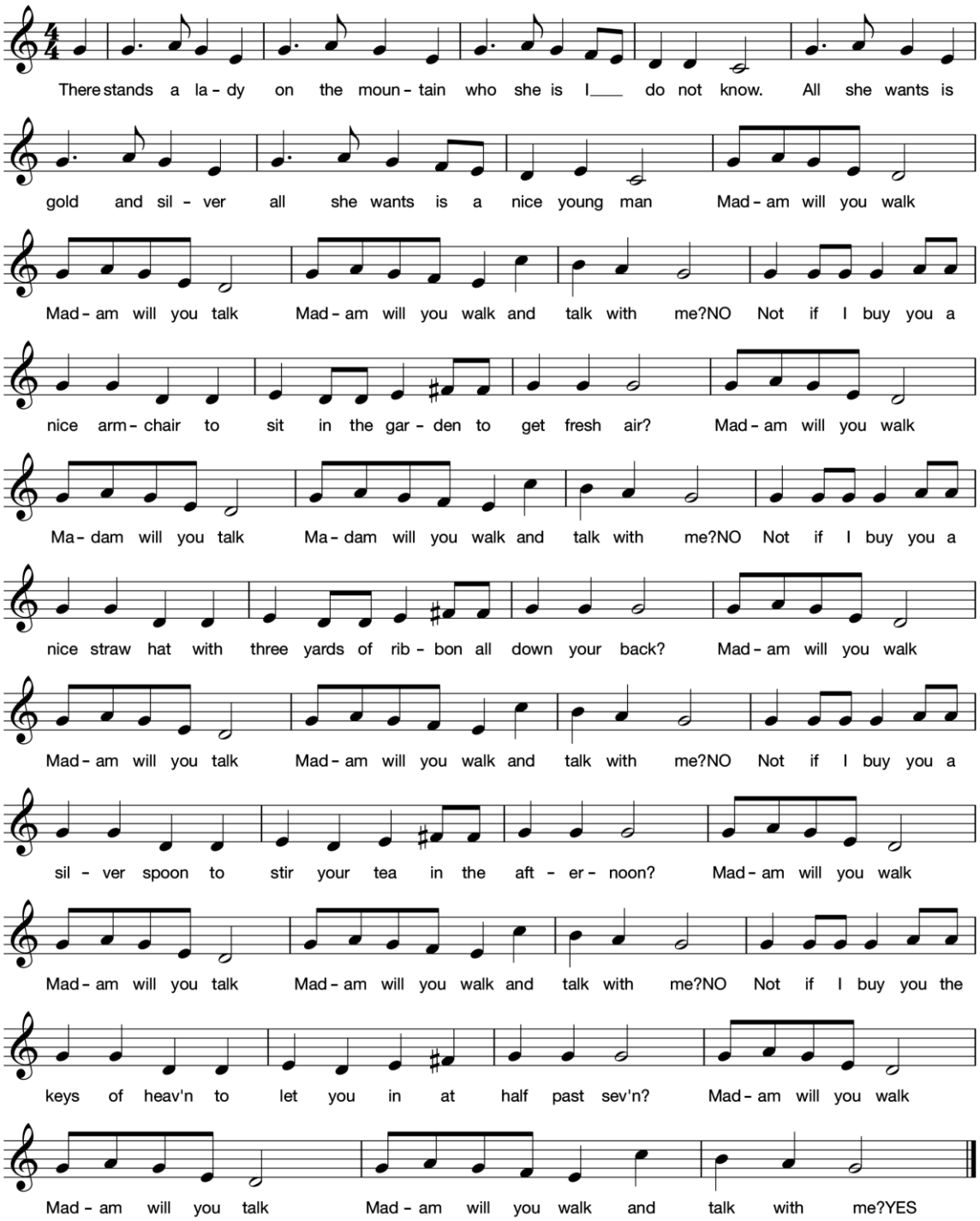
From *Traditional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland by Alice B Gomme.*
Thames & Hudson 1984 Vol 1 pp376-388

The Lady on the Mountain

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2639

Roud number: 2603
Trad. arr. Mary Humphreys

Note: 'NO' should be spoken or shouted - not sung



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The Lady on the Mountain (excerpt) – lyric sheet

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2639

Roud Number: 2603

There stands a lady on the mountain, who she is I do not know
All she wants is gold and silver all she wants is a nice young man

Madam will you walk, Madam will you talk
Madam will you walk and talk with me?
NO *[Note: to be spoken or shouted]*

Not if I buy you a nice armchair to sit in the garden to get fresh air?

Madam will you walk, Madam will you talk
Madam will you walk and talk with me? NO

Not if I buy you a nice straw hat with three yards of ribbon all down your back?

Madam will you walk, Madam will you talk
Madam will you walk and talk with me? NO

Not if I buy you a silver spoon to stir your tea in the afternoon?

Madam will you walk, Madam will you talk
Madam will you walk and talk with me? NO

Not if I buy you the keys of heav'n to let you in at half past sev'n?

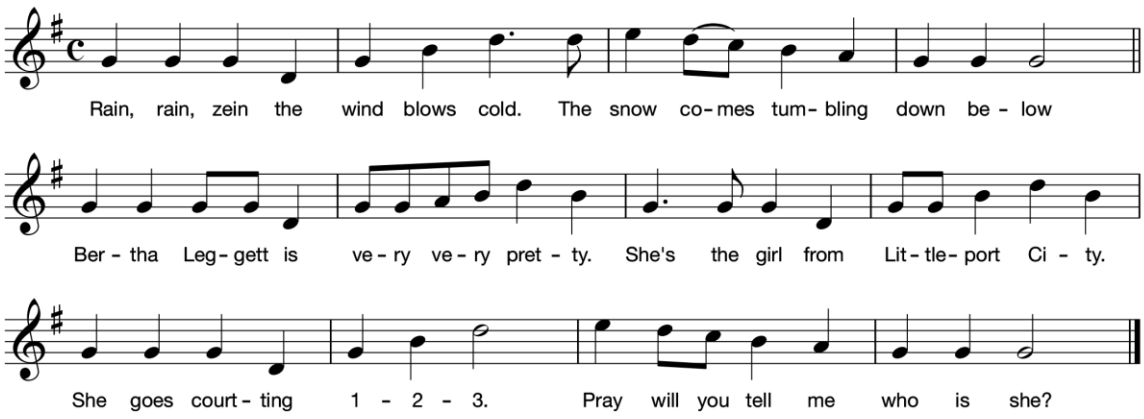
Madam will you walk, Madam will you talk
Madam will you walk and talk with me? YES!

Rain Rain Zein

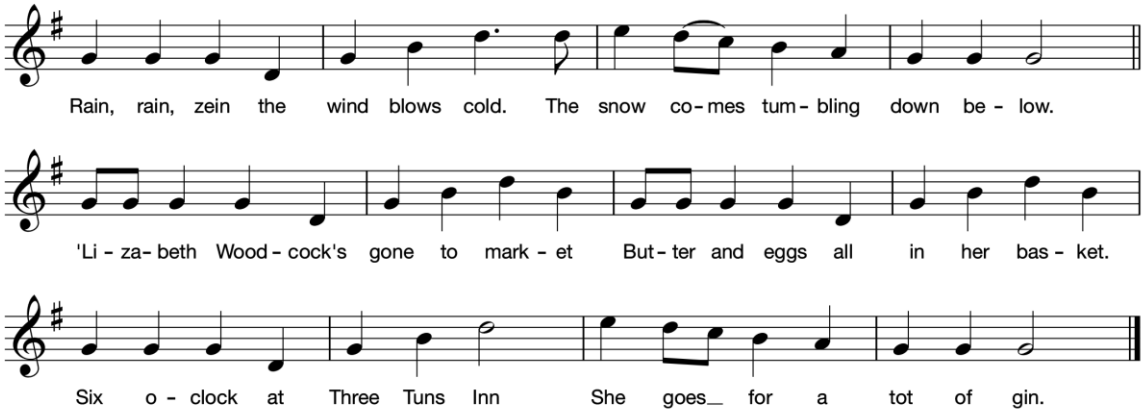
Collected at from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp, 8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2641

Roud Number: 2649

Original version from The Full English **Trad. arr. Mary Humphreys**



Simplified version, with words adapted for Elizabeth Woodcock story



Original words

Rain, rain, zein the wind blows cold
The snow comes tumbling down below
Bertha Leggett is very very pretty
She's the girl from Littleport City
She goes courting 1, 2, 3
Pray will you tell me who is she?

Elizabeth Woodcock words (from Mary Humphreys)

Rain, rain, zein the wind blows cold.
The snow comes tumbling down below
'Lizabeth Woodcock's gone to market
Butter and eggs all in her basket
Six o'clock at Three Tuns Inn
She goes for a tot of gin.

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Rain Rain Zein – lyric sheet

Collected at from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp, 8 Sept 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2641

Roud Number: 2649

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Six o'clock at Three Tuns Inn

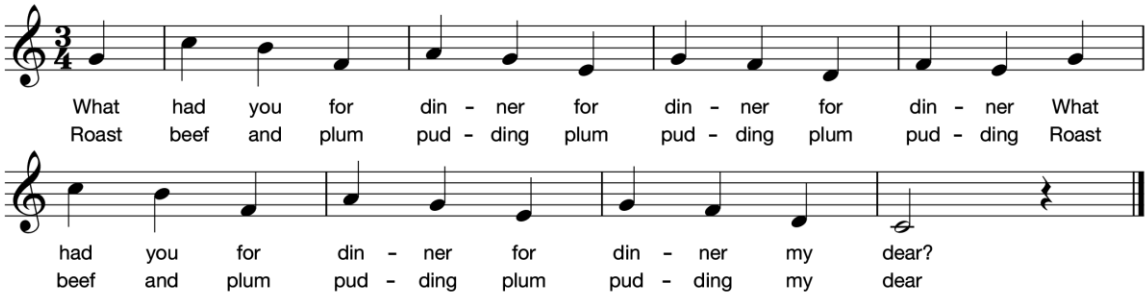
She goes for a tot of gin.

What Had You For Dinner?

This is an excerpt from a longer song *There stands a Lady on the Mountain* adapted for the Enid Porter Project by Mary Humphreys.

Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 September 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2639

Roud number: 2603
Trad. arr. Mary Humphreys



What had you for dinner, for dinner, for dinner?
What had you for dinner, for dinner my dear?
Roast beef and plum pudding, plum pudding, plum pudding*
Roast beef and plum pudding, plum pudding my dear.

Original verses written by pupils at Robert Arkenstall School, Haddenham and Swaffham Prior Primary Schools.

What had you for breakfast, for breakfast, for breakfast?
What had you for breakfast, for breakfast my dear?
A big bowl of cornflakes, of cornflakes, of cornflakes
A big bowl of cornflakes, of cornflakes my dear

What had you for break-time...
An orange and water, and water, and water...

What had you for lunch-time...
Roast chicken and gravy, and gravy, and gravy...

What had you for tea-time...
Chips and fish fingers, fish fingers, fish fingers...

What had you for bed-time...
A mug of hot chocolate, hot chocolate, hot chocolate...

* *Note: Cecil Sharp collected an alternative set of words "Roast beef and fried hedgehog, fried hedgehog, fried hedgehog" which has been known to reduce some children to tears thinking of Mrs Tiggywinkle. You may want to use it depending on the sensitivities of the children you are working with!*

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What had you for dinner? – lyric sheet

This is an excerpt from a longer song *There stands a Lady on the Mountain*
adapted for the Enid Porter Project by Mary Humphreys.
Collected from girls at Littleport Town Girls' School by Cecil Sharp
8 September 1911, Littleport, Cambridgeshire www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2639

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Mary Humphreys

Singer, musician, and song researcher

Mary, a graduate of the University of Manchester, taught in schools in Greater Manchester and Yorkshire for many years. She now works as a freelance workshop leader and has recently been working in several Cambridge primary schools as part of the Full English Project and with the Enid Porter Project.

Mary's main focus for research is songs and tunes from East Anglia, specialising in Cambridgeshire and its near neighbours. She has written an award-winning book on Cambridgeshire folksongs collected in the last century.

Mary has worked on several schools' projects initiated by EFDSS, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Anglian Traditional Music Trust and Suffolk Folk. She also leads children's workshops at festivals.

Many children's games were collected in Cambridgeshire which can be used in schools' projects, particularly amongst younger pupils (KS1) and those whose mother tongue is not English. The games Mary teaches can be modified or brought up-to-date as extended project work if desired. Many of the songs she sings are accessible to pupils from KS1 upwards and can be used as a basis for projects in other areas of the curriculum, such as literacy, history or even science. For examples of songs that are suitable for KS1 pupils you are welcome to contact Mary direct.

Email: mary@maryhumphreys.co.uk.
Website: www.maryhumphreys.co.uk

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