A Trio of songs from the North East

By Carolyn Robson
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.

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Aboot the Bush, Willy

Collected from Newcastle Courant newspaper clipping
in Lucy Broadwood collection
www.vwml.org/record/LEB/4/216/2
Roud number: 3149

Aboot the bush, Willy,
Aboot the bee-hive,
Aboot the bush, Willy,
I'll meet thee belyve.

Then to my ten shilings
Add you but a groat;
I'll go to Newcastle
And buy a new coat.

Five and five shillings,
Five and a crown;
Five and five shillings
Will buy a new gown.

Five and five shillings,
Five and a groat;
Five and five shillings
Will buy a new coat.
Aboot the Bush, Willy
Collected from Newcastle Courant newspaper clipping
in Lucy Broadwood collection
www.vwml.org/record/LEB/4/216/2

Roud Number: 3149
Trad. arr. Carolyn Robson

A - boot the bush Will-y A - boot the bee-hive A - boot the bush Will-y
I'll meet thee belyve. Then
Five and five shillings Five and a crown Five and five shillings Will
buy a new gown.

A - boot the bush A - boot the bush

Five and five shillings
Five and a crown
Five and five shillings will
buy a new coat.

A - boot the bush A - boot the bush

Aboot the bush, Willy,
Aboot the bee-hive,
Aboot the bush, Willy,
I'll meet thee belyve.

Then to my ten shillings
Add you but a groat;
I'll go to Newcastle
And buy a new coat.

Five and five shillings,
Five and a crown;
Five and five shillings
Will buy a new gown.

Five and five shillings,
Five and a groat;
Five and five shillings
Will buy a new coat.

The Full English: www.vwml.org
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www.efdss.org
Lavender's Blue

Collected from Joseph Crowhall by Francis Collinson, Newcastle
www.vwml.org/record/COL/5/30A
Roud number: 3483

Lavender’s blue diddle diddle
Lavender’s green
When you are king diddle diddle
I shall be queen
Who told you so diddle diddle
Who told you so?
‘Twas mine own heart diddle diddle
That told me so

Call up your men, send them to work
Some to the plough, some to the cart
Some to make hay, some to cut corn
While you and I keep ourselves warm.

If you should die as it may hap
You shall be buried under the lap
Who told you so, who told you so?
‘Twas mine own heart that told me so.
Lavender's Blue
Collected from Joseph Crowhall by Francis Collinson, Newcastle
www.vwml.org/record/COL/5/30A

Roud Number: 3483
Trad. arr Carolyn Robson

Lavender's blue did-dle did-dle lav-end-er's green
Lavender's blue did-dle did-dle lav-end-er's green
When you are king did-dle did-dle I shall be queen.
Who told you so did-dle did-dle who told you so?
'Twas mine own heart did-dle did-dle that told me so.

Lavender's blue diddlediddle
g g
Lavender's green
d d
When you are king diddlediddle
g g
I shall be queen.
d g
Who told you so diddlediddle
d d
d D
Who told you so?
d
t’was mine own heart diddlediddle
g g
That told me so.
d g

Call up your men, send them to work
Some to the plough, some to the cart
While you and I keep ourselves warm.

If you should die as it may hap
You shall be buried under the lap
Who told you so, who told you so?
'twas mine own heart that told me so.

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The Mony Faads

Collected from B.M.Craster by Lucy Broadwood, Chathill, Northumberland, 27 Mar 1983
www.vwml.org/record/LEB/4/50/1
Roud Number: 22813

He washed them, he dressed them
And laid them on a stone
And down there cam a wiley gleed (hawk)
And the mony faads was gone

And he laid the mony faads down, poor man
And he laid the mony faads down

The wife cam fra the market
Baith hungry and caad
And the very first thing she asked for
It was the mony faads

And he laid the mony faads down, poor man
And he laid the mony faads down

She bought a penny helter
And tied him too a steak
And tell’d him tis a fardin
What the mony faads wad meak

And he laid the mony faads down, poor man
And he laid the mony faads down
The Mony Faads

Collected from B.M. Craster by Lucy Broadwood, Chathill, Northumberland, 27 Mar 1893
www.vwml.org/record/LEB/4/50/1

Roud Number: 22813
Trad. arr Carolyn Robson

There was a little old man
And he made a feast
He killed a scab-bit owd
The like-ness of a beast
And he laid the monyfaads down
poor man
And he laid the monyfaads down.

He washed them, he dressed them
And laid them on a stone
And down there cam a wiley gleed (hawk)
And the monyfaads was gone
And he laid the monyfaads down, poor man
And he laid the monyfaads down

The wife cam fra the market
Bath hungry and caad
And the very first thing she asked for
It was the monyfaads
And he laid the monyfaads down, poor man
And he laid the monyfaads down

She bought a penny helter
And tied him too a steak
And tell’d him tie a fardin
What the monyfaads wad meak
And he laid the monyfaads down, poor man
And he laid the monyfaads down

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Carolyn Robson

Carolyn is a professional singer and musician specialising in traditional folk song and dance. Her extensive repertoire consists mainly of songs from her native Northumberland and Scotland as well as from other parts of the British Isles. Carolyn is also a qualified teacher and has taught at schools in England, Scotland and Wales. She has been a consultant for a BBC TV Folk Dance series for schools, and until 1996 she was the Education Officer for the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Carolyn directs several community choirs and runs workshops at festival and events across the country.
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