

THE SONG SOCIETY PROJECT • AN ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY PROJECT

The Full English

A Trio of songs from the North East

By Carolyn Robson

THUMBERLAND PIPE AND BALLAD MUSIC.
 [This series of articles commenced in the Courant on Friday, December 6th, and has been continued since without intermission.]
 LEB 4/21/66
 ABOUT THE BUSH, WILLY.
 A - boot the bush, Willy, A - boot the beehive, A - boot the bush, Willy, I'll meet thee be-lyve. Then to my ten shillings Add you but a groat, I'll go to New-cas-tle and buy a new coat.
 About the bush, Willy, About the beehive, I'll meet thee be-lyve. 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.

Whatever may have been the merits of the traditional nonsense verses of "About the bush Willy" in olden times, it has completely passed from popular notice, and is only now found in books of nursery rhymes or in collections of old and scarce ballads.
 It is to be hoped that the children of the nineteenth century have not altogether deserted the rhymes chanted for so many ages by the mothers of the North. The nursery rhyme is the novel and light reading of the infant; and these rhymes, possibly intelligible only to very young minds, have exercised an influence on the fancy of children, and no modern compositions have yet been found to supply altogether the place of the ancient doggerel.
 The song has been included in nearly all the collections of local songs published up to about thirty years ago; the last was also very popular, although now very little known.

Lavenders blue (Tune from Joseph Brawhall Newcastle)

Lavenders blue diddle diddle, Rosemary's green,
 When you are King " " I shall be queen,
 Who told you so? " " who told you so?
 'Twas mine own heart " " that told me so.

Call up your men " " set them to work,
 Come to the plough " " come to the cart,
 Come to make hay " " come to cut corn,
 Whilst you & I " " keep ourselves warm,

If you should die " " as it may hap,
 You shall be buried " " under the lap,
 Who told you so? " " Pray tell me why?
 Because you can drink " " when you are dry.



*Unlocking hidden treasures of
England's cultural heritage*
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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.



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About the Bush, Willy

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

About the bush, Willy,
About the bee-hive,
About 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

About 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

Tune

Harmony

Pitched Instruments

5

A -boot the bush Will - y A -boot the bee-hive A -boot the bush Will - y I'll meet thee be-lyve. Then
Five and five shill- ings_ Five and a crown_ Five and five shill-ings Will buy a new gown._

A - boot the bush A - boot the bush

to my ten shill-ings add you but a groat, I'll go to New-cas -tle to buy a new coat.
Five and five shill- ings_ Five and a groat, Five and five shill-ings will buy a new coat.

A - boot the bush A - boot the bush.

The bottom staff can be played on pitched instruments e.g. recorders; chime bars etc.
The middle staff can be pitched instruments or or a vocal ostinato.

About the bush, Willy,
About the bee-hive,
About 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

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

Tune

Harmony

5

9

13

Lav - end - er's blue did - dle did - dle lav - end - er's green

Lav - end - er's blue Lav - end - er's green

When you are king did - dle did - dle I shall be queen.

Lav - end - er's blue Lav - end - er's green

Who told you so did - dle di - dle who told you so?

Lav - end - er's blue Lav - end - er's green

'Twas mine own heart did - dle did - dle that told me so.

Lav - end - er's blue Lav - end - er's green.

Lavender's blue diddle diddle
G G
Lavender's green
D D
When you are king diddle diddle
G G
I shall be queen.
D G
Who told you so diddle diddle
D D
Who told you so?
D D
'Twas mine own heart diddle diddle
G G
That told me so.
D G

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.

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

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "There was a lit - tie aad man And hemade a feast He killed a scab-bit ewe The like-ness of a". The second system also has two staves. The lyrics are: "beast And he laid the mo-ny faads down poor man And he laid the mo - ny faads down." The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, folk-like melody.

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
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And he laid the mony faads down, poor man
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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

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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www.vwml.org

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At the English Folk Dance and Song Society, we champion the folk arts at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

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