

## **IOW Songs mp3 snippets Notes**

### **Apple Tree Wassail**

The Apple Tree Wassail on the island was quite frightening as they sang the song but also banged the trees and fired guns in the air. A special cider was drunk in brown bowls. The song has two parts, the actual song and chorus and a call or shout out at the end. They sang it many times. Some now replace the guns with various drums and percussion.

### **Atherfield Ledge**

Tells the tale of a shipwreck on the Atherfield Ledge which is off an area known as The Back of Wight. One stormy night in the winter of 1314 one of a fleet of ships chartered by the merchants of Aquitaine to convey wine to England struck the treacherous Atherfield Ledge. The ship contained large amounts of wine, 174 casks and also cloth. De Godyton claimed the cargo saying possession was nine points of the law. The Merchants, however, claimed redress against De Godyton saying the cargo was no "wreck of the sea".

Later there was a Papal Bull threatening De Godyton with excommunication. He built an oratory / lighthouse on the downs above the Atherfield Ledge as penance for taking the wine. The tower was built so that no other ship would be lost for the need of a light on the deadly Atherfield Ledge.

### **Brading Haven**

The story of the well. The Romans wanted pure water to add to their wine. They found an ancient seer who used divining rods to seek out the clear water. Divining rods are still used by some on the island, - they even found my water pipes! Where is this well in Brading? It was found in 1781 in the middle of the Haven which must have been good land at one time. It was, however, blocked by weed and sand.

### **Cherbourg to Wight**

A tale of IOW smugglers. The chorus is found in Noyes book, as is the story. Old Hannah pretends to be ill when the excise men arrive at her cottage. Her chair is in fact hiding a trap door to the cave below where the brandy is hidden. Anwyl arranged this.

### **Clown's Courtship**

Also called Said Jan to Joan. It is found in D'Urfey's and Chappells books. Jan is trying to wed Joan. He has plenty to offer as a farmer but he keeps saying he can't come every day to woo her.

### **Crockery Ware**

This is a fun song about a man wandering in the dark trying to find the girl he is courting. She has put a load of crockery in his way which he knocks over. The noise wakes the whole house. He has to pay for the broken crockery. Another one with hidden meaning.

### **Damask Rose**

It is Nov 14 1647 and Charles 1 arrives on the island. He lands at Newport Quay and is taken through the town towards Carisbrooke. A lady hands him a Damask Rose, the last rose of summer. She wishes his cause will rise again!

### **Dark Eyed Sailor**

There are many versions of this popular song. I remember hearing Fred Jordan singing it. It is a typical shore song of lost love and returning from sea.

### **Golden Gorse**

There are many downs on the Isle of Wight. (Compton, Tennyson, St Boniface, Afton, Brook, Arreton, Wroxhall, Ventnor, St. Catherine's, Culver). A couple go up on the downs to see all the beauty including

the golden gorse. Golden gorse has many uses including use as a fuel, in dying, as tea and for numerous cures. We note the old saying: 'When Gorse is out of bloom, Kissing's out of season.'

### **Heart of Oak**

Famous naval song from 1760 to the present day.

### **Lumps of Pudden**

Pudding and fat give you energy. The song is about a boy remembering the food he was given as a boy. Black pudding was a blood sausage.

### **Mary Maid of Wight**

Mary has died and gone to the angels. A tearful one.

### **The Mermaid IOW version**

A basic version that has a slightly different feel to ones found in Community and School Song Books.

### **My Billy Boy IOW version**

There are many local versions of this song. Again not to be confused with the standard Community and School song book version. Local verses were popular. Chockdog cheese was made on the island. It was a very hard cheese. The original doughnut came from the island. There was still a maker in Newport until recently.

### **Nancy Lee**

Someone used to sing all these type of songs, very uplifting. By Michael Maybrick and Frederick Weatherly 1870.

### **Old Man clothed in Leather**

First he meets an old man who is a thresher and then he meets a milk maid. A successful courting song. Sometimes called "One misty moisty morning."

### **Old Miser**

A Portsmouth Song. A miser had one daughter who secretly courts a sailor. The miser hears of this and sells the sailor to a captain. The damsel tries to buy the sailor back but the captain says no. She mourns her loss.

### **Parson of Chale**

A forgetful parson reckons the days against how long it takes to make a lobster pot. One Sunday he misses the service - he has got his reckoning wrong. He rushes to the church. He runs into a post and kills himself. This is a true story.

### **Rat of Wight**

Tells the story of Captain Gilbert Lee who steered the Rat of Wight into Newport Quay to warn of the Spanish Armada approaching. They had spotted them off Penzance and had raced back up the channel.

### **Roger and Dolly**

An old song telling the story of love between a serving man and maid. It has a warning contained in it. They worked in the parson's house. The parson tries something on but it ends happily.

### **Sailors Return**

A Portsmouth song. Another story about a sailor in disguise. She thinks he has died. Variant of a dance tune.

**Shroven**

From the villages of Newchurch and Brighstone. Loads of food in this song as it was the feast before Lent. Shrovetide was a holiday. Newport had a Shrove bell (the Pan bell) that rang at Shrovetide. On Shrove Tuesday the children dressed up and went from house to house singing for their Shrove cakes and other food.

**Silver Bow**

Carisbrooke Castle was surrounded by the French. The French leader was seen to come near to the walls. Lord Stenbury with his famous silver bow said he could lay him low. This he did and saved the day.

**Song of Sixpence**

Somebody spends all their money on what we can only presume is drink. He buys nothing for his wife. It has an interesting chorus that is sometimes missed out.

**Whistle Daughter Whistle**

A girl longs to marry. Her mother tell her to whistle. She says she cannot whistle even for a cow, a sheep, a pound. When it is for a man suddenly she can whistle!!

Extra notes on some songs still to do such as the The Dunkey's Egg....

**Coal box Singing**

At one time on the island we went coal box singing. We went to different pubs each time. We did not bring a lump of coal for the fire but our hearty voices and money to buy beer. Coal boxing also meant having songs with great choruses in which everyone could join in.