

Island Legends as Songs

We were looking 45 years ago into some of the great Isle of Wight Legends. The hope was to produce some songs from these as had been done in other parts of the country.

I have a feeling that someone had already worked on the magnificent "Giant of Chale" (A Legend of Black Gang Chine) and sang it at the Sloop Inn Folk Club. It was very gruesome so that may be why it was not continued. Pity there is no recording. It was already in rhyming form so it was an easier one to start on. It also had some "Ho Ho Hos" as I remember and was in the Gryphon group style.

The Legends are very long and have to be reduced so that they can be made into a song. Some catchy sections make for a good chorus.

"I care not for book, I care not for bell
I care not for heaven, I care not for hell
I live upon man's flesh, there fat as well. Ho Ho Ho"

Many are to be found in the wonderful book "Tales and Legends of the Isle of Wight" Abraham Elder. 1839

These were the ones we had on our list.

Giant of Chale
The Locked Ghost (The Iron Chest)
The Pied Piper of Newtown
Old Anthony the Smuggler
The Ghost Ship (The Ghost Seer)
Godshill (How the church moved)
Bishop's Acre
George Moreland
Mr Samuel Rhino
The Hermit's Cave (A vast Tale)
Ragged Jack
The Stone Cased Well / Druids
The Mysterious Egg

Other bits and bobs

Before I forget I will try and include some other odd bits and pieces to do with Island folk songs.

I have some Island words for the children's "In My Sac" song.

In My Sac

In my sac I have some cheese

Chockdog cheese it makes me sneeze
Chorus
My sac is brown my sac is blue
I go to my sweetheart who I love so true

In my sac I have a Dumbledore
It does not sting it just sleeps and snores. Chorus

In my sac I have great big doughnut
Round and firm and full of fat. Chorus

In my sac I have some (smudged word)
It tastes so bad it makes me cry. Chorus

Island call songs. Traders used them to attract customers at markets and fairs.

A Doughnut, A Doughnut

Chorus: A Brighstone doughnut, a Brighstone Doughnut
Keep your mouth shut, Keep your mouth shut.

A doughnut pruneau, a doughnut pruneau
With soft sugar dough, with soft sugar dough. Chorus

A doughnut of apple, a doughnut of apple
Fine for your table, fine for you table. Chorus

Doughnut made of apple, doughnut made of apple
Fine for your table, fine for your table. Chorus

Doughnuts go pomme, doughnuts go pomme
Pomme pomme pomme, Pomme pomme pomme. Chorus

A doughnut, a doughnut, eat with your mouth shut
A doughnut, a doughnut, shut fermez shut. Chorus