

## The Pitman's Courtship

Written by William Mitford from North Shields, 1788-1851. Anni was not keen on the original more chirpy tune and so she set it to this tune of her own.

## Working At The Coalface

Dave wrote this after reading an article in a heavy horse magazine telling of the life of Billy Boyde, an old farm Horseman from the North East of England who after thirty years working on the land was forced to work in the coal mines of the North East as it was the only work available.

## The Snow It Melts The Soonest

The tune was collected in Newcastle by Thomas Doubleday and published in 1821. The words may have been written by him.

## Charley Fox

This is another song from Dave's own pen in 1983. Whatever your point of view on the subject of Fox Hunting you cannot fail to accept that the greatest Huntsman in the field is the Fox and whatever tale is told by the men in red the intelligence and cunning of this magnificent beast outwits them far more often than not. Two words in the song may not be familiar to you in the context in which they are used.

*Couple* is the traditional way of counting foxhounds, hence 12 couple would be 24 hounds.

*Speaking* is the huntsman's term for a hound in full cry.

*Viva le Reynard*

## Frankie's Trade

Sir Francis Drake has long been one of the jewels in the crown of English seafaring history, which seldom sees fit to mention his early life as a Privateer and indulgence in near piracy. This song portrays a discussion between three of the world's oceans trying to decide which one of them taught him his trade. The words are by Rudyard Kipling and the tune and setting are by the late and great Peter Bellamy.

## The Flower Of Magherally

This song was learned from Kevin Mitchell], a wonderful singer originally from Derry now living in Glasgow.

## The Golden Dustman

This song is from the British Music Halls and found its success in being sung by Mr. Gus Elan (1862 - 1940). The song is typical of many of its kind in that the sudden acquirement of wealth must have been the dream of many cockneys and is a recurring theme in music hall songs.

## Bonny At Morn

Most Children from the North East learned this song in school.

## Geordie Gill

Written by the Cumberland poet, Robert Anderson and published in 1828. The tune is a Scottish air called "Aandro wi his Cutty Gun". The song was of course written to be sung with a Cumberland accent but apologies Anni can only provide a Geordie version.

## Loving Hannah

Anni first heard this song sung by Janice Clark from Aberdeen and later a great friend and collector (the late John Knight) provided the words. We understand that this song has comparatively recent American Origins.

## Widdecombe Fair

There are two main versions of this Devonshire song. This one is favoured by traditional Devonshire singers and fierce discussion about which is the real version is ongoing. However, this particular version does mention eight names in the chorus where the other version mentions only seven. The stone cairn in the middle of the village of Widdecombe in the moor in Devon displays a portrait of this epic ride with EIGHT people displayed with the horse. It is left to you to decide for yourselves what you think.

## The Flower Of Fine

Words by the Irish poet Thomas Davis concerning the war of the Spanish Succession, Battle of Ramlilles 1706. Anni was given the song by Nula Harris of Dublin.

## The Bulgine Shanty

The shanty ranks among Dave's favourites and is well documented in Stan Hugill's Shanties of the Seven Seas. The word Bulgine is said to originate from the Negro word for engine or hull engine.

## John Ball

This character from English History was a radical Priest and was imprisoned for his incitement of the people leading up to the Peasants Revolt in 1381.

## The Parting Song

Dave was having a very long and honest conversation with a very close friend in the small hours of the morning when the realization dawned that time was running out.

It was the last conversation of its kind that they were to have, and Dave wrote this song in memory of a true friend and to serve as a parting song for any circumstance.

*Dedicated to the memory of  
Mr. John Purdy of Tonquay (1927-1993)*