

# **Chris Gilbert**

**Folk Songs from England and  
Ireland**

**[cj-gilbert.com](http://cj-gilbert.com)**

# Morris Dancing – quintessentially English



# **Hal An Tow (Trad - England)**

**“Halan” – old English - 1<sup>st</sup> of the month**

**“Tow” – old English - a garland**

**“Hal An Tow” – a celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> May  
to welcome in the summer**

# Hal An Tow (Trad - England)

Hal an tow, (*clap*), jolly rumble O (*clap*)

We were up, long before the day O

To welcome in the summer,

To welcome in (*hold*) the May O (*hold*)

The summer is a-coming in

And winter's gone away O (*hold*)

**Dirty Old Town**  
**(Ewan MacColl - England)**

*At the end of each verse*

**Dirty Old Town...**

**Dirty Old Town**

# Mick McGuire (Trad - Ireland)

*At the start of each chorus*

**Diddle-e dowlle-owdle-owdle**

**Diddle-e dowlle-owdle-ow**

**Diddle-e dowlle-owdle-owdle**

**Diddle-e dowlle-owdle-ow**

# **Maggie May (Trad - England)**

**Oh Maggie, Maggie May,**

**They have taken her away**

**And she'll never walk down Lime Street  
anymore**

**For she robbed so many sailors**

**And captains of the whalers**

**That dirty, no-good, robbin' Maggie May**

# **Tow Rope Girls** **(Cicely Fox Smith - England)**

*In response to Chris calling "To me" sing...*

**Haul away girls, steady and true**

**Polly an' Dolly an' Sally and Sue**

**Mothers an' sisters an' sweethearts and all**

*(hold)*

**It's haul away, haul away, haul away, haul *(hold)***

# **The Galway Shawl (Trad - Ireland)**

**She wore no jewels, nor costly  
diamonds**

**No paint or powder, no none at all**

**But she wore a bonnet with a ribbon on  
it**

**And round her shoulders**

# **Bound for Botany Bay (Trad - England)**

**Too-ra-li-oo-ra-li-addity**

**Too-ra-li-oo-ra-li-ay**

**Too-ra-li-oo-ra-li-addity**

**We're bound for the Botany Bay**

# **Back Home in Derry (Bobby Sands - Ireland)**

**Ooooh...Ooooh...**

**I wish I was back home in Derry**

**Ooooh...Ooooh...**

**I wish I was back home in Derry**

# **A North Country Maid (Trad - England)**

**Where the oak and the ash**

**And the bonny ivy tree**

**All flourish and bloom**

**In my North Country**

# **The Derby Ram (Trad - England)**

**And indeed, sir**

**It's true, sir**

**I never was known to lie**

**And if you'd been in Derby, sir**

**You'd see the same as I**

# **Fiddler's Green** **(John Conolly - England)**

**Wrap me up in me oilskins and jumpers**

**No more on the docks I'll be seen**

**Just tell me old shipmates**

**I'm taking a trip, mates**

**And I'll see you some day on Fiddler's Green**

# **Marie's Wedding (J.R. Bannerman - Gaelic)**

**Step we gaily, on we go  
Heel for heel and toe for toe  
Arm in arm and row on row  
All for Marie's wedding**

# **I'll Tell Me Ma (Trad - England & Ireland)**

**I'll tell me ma when I go home**

**The boys won't leave the girls alone**

**They pull my hair and stole my comb**

**And that's all right 'til I go home**

**She is handsome, she is pretty**

**She is the belle of Belfast City**

**She is courting one two three**

**Please won't you tell me who is she**

# Parting Glass (Trad - Ireland)

*At the end of each verse...*

**Verses 1 & 2** Come fill to me the parting glass,  
Good night and joy be with you all

**Verse 3** I'll gently rise and I'll softly call  
Good night and joy be with you all