

Dumfries Hiring Fair

Lively

I went tae Dum-fries hir - ing fair fur tae get a fee A -

5 mang the hash - y fairm - ers ma hert's as licht can be Wi' a

9 mush ma too - ra la - ddie o an a mush ma too - ra lay

I went tae Dumfries hiring fair fur tae get a fee
 Among the hashy fairmers ma herts' as licht can be
 Wi' a mush ma toora laddie o' an a mush ma toora lay.

Auld Jock o' the Dean comes o'er tae me, says he ye've had nae fare
 Its will ye no come hame wi me an drive ma second pair....

Gin ye can haud the ploo a bit an bigg a fair guid stack
 At rising in the morning I hope ye'll no be slack....

The horses that we got tae work, they wernae very braw
 Auld Jeannie she had yin lame leg and Maggie she had twa.....

The milk that we got tae oor brose, it wusnae very new
 For it set the dugs a howling an' it gae near kilt the soo.....

The scone it was blue moulded, the kale it had a smell
 Aye an even in the winter time the beef could rin' itsel'.....

The auld guid wife at dinnertime sat up at the table heid
 Begrudging ilka bite we ate an wishin we were deid.....

Aye but term time's comin roon again, I dinnae gie a hang
 For I'll pack up a' ma duddies an I'll gang the road I cam.....

This is one of the few Bothy Ballads (songs of farm labourers' lives) to have come out of Dumfries and Galloway and gives a real idea of working life on farms at the time with its maggoty meat and sour milk. It was collected from an old shepherd from the Sanquhar area and appeared in the education pack 'Sangs Reels and High Jinks' produced by Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association.

Activity: This is a great one to act out with one group of children, whilst others sing a verse each and everyone joins together on the refrain maybe with a percussion backing.

Play Music