

Notes for IOW Songs Part 1

Notes

1. Scrow Day
Island people feel the weather - it affects all they do. A Scrow Day is worrying, miserable, misty and grey and this song immediately puts you in that mood.
2. The Widow
A detailed lay about the life of a widow. Farmer Sibbick's missus has a rough tongue but is really 'hoped up and lonesome'.
3. Recruiting Sergeant
The Recruiting Sergeant used to visit Nippert (Newport) Town. This, however, is an anti-war song with the ploughboy wanting to stay at home to follow his master's plough.
4. Summer
Summer on the island is beautiful. This is a very gentle song for all who are in love.
5. Newtown Randy
Newtown held a country fair or revel that was often rather lewd. It was abolished for many years but has been recently revived. Maybe it will again be a place where maids and boys can meet.
6. Man O' War
Men O' War pass by the island today. Some rest on the sea bottom close to the island, like the Mary Rose until it was raised recently. Susan is sadly saying farewell to her jolly tar.
7. Winter
You can feel the cold nip of winter as this song unfolds.
8. My Maid
Island maids are said to be some of the most beautiful in Britain - and we agree! This song explains their assets.
9. Shickshack Day
The song commemorates the day when Charles 11 hid in an oak tree at Boscobel in 1651. It has been celebrated at Newchurch until fairly recently.
10. Shrove Song
Sounds like another chance for drinking and making merry. Local people can still remember shroving.
11. Polly Oliver
This is the sort of thing young girls were dreaming of in times gone by. It has a touch of the dangerous.
12. Little Cappender
A song about a carpenter and a pretty maid. She tries other men but settles for her heart's delight, the carpenter, who has a broad axe.

Notes for IOW Songs Part 2

Notes

1. Sayings Song
These are a collection of sayings found on the island. It is said that when St. Catherine's hill is covered by a mist (cap) then the whole of the Island is also covered by a mist (hat).
2. Crossing the Bar
A poem by Tennyson written just before his death while he was travelling on a ferry across to the Isle of Wight.
3. Spring
A cheery song that almost makes one smell that spring is in the air.
4. Wilderness Fox
A tale of a very crafty fox whose home is in the Wilderness part of the Island.
5. Carter's Mate
A gentle story of a carter's mate who would like to marry a maid but will have to wait until he earns more as a carter.
6. Christmas Party
This song always makes me hungry and reminds me of the wonderful parties that still take place on the Island.
7. Autumn
A lay that recalls this bountiful time of the year.
8. Forsaken
The plight of a maid who has been done wrong and who decides to end it all before her babe is born.
9. Three drunken maidens
Really four drunken maidens - not a sight seen on the Island very much!
10. Home Harvest Evening
A party was put on by the Master and Mistress for all those who had worked in the fields. Plenty of drinking took place.
11. Jolly Waggoner
This describes the bad and good times of a waggoner.
12. Old Grey Hen
A song dedicated to a hen that was the pride of its owner.
13. March of the Wight Men
A lay demonstrating the strength and determination of the Men of Wight when faced by an enemy.