

# EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRUST

## Vaughan Williams' Folk

# John Barleycorn

*Collected From : Llewelyn Mallion, Fen Ditton 1906*

**There were three men came from the west their fortune for to try  
Then these three men made a solemn vow John Barleycorn should die  
They ploughed they sowed and harrowed him in;  
threw clods upon his head  
Then these three men made a solemn vow John Barleycorn was dead**

**They let him lie for a very long time till the rain from heaven did fall  
Then little Sir John spring up his head and so amazed them all  
They let him lie till midsummer and he grew so pale and wan  
Then little Sir John he grew a long beard and so became a man**

**They hired men with scythes so sharp to cut him off at the knee  
And then they tied him to a cart and used him barbarously  
They hired men with flails so strong to cut him skin from bone  
But the miller he used him worse than that for he ground him between  
two stones**

**Put brandy in a glass me boys and cider into a can  
Put little Sir John in a nut brown mug and he'll prove the merrier man  
The ploughboy he can't plough the field, nor the huntsman blow his horn  
The parson he can't say his prayers without a little John Barleycorn**



## Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire