

# Folk Songs

The record of folk songs of Hertfordshire is quite sketchy and Reginald Hine lamented that “very few of this county’s songs have been recorded”. He wrote of songs that have been lost, such as one sung by farm labourers at harvest feasts – a ballad commending the charms of Hertfordshire girls. Some of the songs that we do have evidence for seem to have been sung throughout the year, at different festivals, usually for money.



They include “Daff a Down Dilly”, a song sung by children offering daffodils for sale and “Good Morrow to You Valentine”, sung by children when visiting houses on St Valentine’s day morning to collect money. Elizabeth Mary Francis, who was born in 1895 remembered that ...“on Valentine’s Day, children went to Highdown House singing,

Today today is Valentine  
There ain’t no grapes upon the vine  
There will be some in summertime  
So please ma’am  
Will you give me a Valentine?



In return the children would be given 2 apples and a farthing.

