

# Brenda at Buryan

Brenda Wootton &  
John the Fish

16 Tracks, 7 Previously Unrecorded!  
Recorded LIVE at  
Pipers Folk Club  
St Buryan  
1968

1. I'm Counting Stars
2. Marta, Marta
3. Lady Mary
4. Port Mahon
5. The Old Grey Duck
6. Harp Song of the Dane Women
7. The First Time Ever
8. Old Maid's Song
9. Two Brothers
10. Going to the Zoo
11. Cockleshells/Wily Wily
12. I'm Troubled
13. Stay Not Late
14. A Good Man is Hard to Find
15. Mingulay Boat Song
16. Old Time Religion

All songs traditional except: 1. Mike Sagar-Fenton 4. Sydney Carter 6. Lyrics: Rudyard Kipling, Tune: Mike Sagar-Fenton 7. Ewan MacColl 9. Irving Gordon 10. Tom Paxton 13. Hester Williams 14. Eddie Green 15. Hugh S Robertson

Brenda Wootton



BWCD01  
[www.brendawootton.eu](http://www.brendawootton.eu)



Title	Record Company	Date	Musicians
<b>Brenda at Buryan 1968 CD</b>	Sue Ellery	2013	Brenda Wootton, John the Fish
Tracks: Side 1		Side 2	
1. I'm Counting Stars - Music & lyrics: Mike Sagar-Fenton 2. Marta, Marta - Possibly learned from Nadia Cattouse; has a Caribbean rhythm and likely to be a traditional song, probably from Belize, Nadia's birthplace 3. Lady Mary - Lyrics: Old traditional; Source: Mrs May Kennedy McCord of Springfield, Missouri / Vance Randolph Collection; performed by Joan Baez 4. Port Mahon - Learned from Nadia Cattouse. Composed by Sydney Carter in about 1960 for Nadia Cattouse, sung by her accompanied by Steve Benbow (both appeared at Pipers) 5. The Old Grey Duck - Trad. Cornish; Recorded at Pendeen in 1956 by Peter Kennedy for the BBC. The tune is that of a well-known carol "The Seven Good Joys" included in Dunstan's Cornish Song Book 6. Harp Song of the Dane Women - Words: Rudyard Kipling; Music: Mike Sagar-Fenton; a poem from Rudyard Kipling's book Puck of Pook's Hill. Peter Bellamy also sang his own version on his second album of songs set to Kipling's poems, Merlin's Isle of Gramarye 7. The First Time Ever - Lyrics and music: Ewan MacColl 1962 - MacColl wrote "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face", one of the most beautiful romantic songs ever written, for his wife Peggy Seeger		1. Old Maid's Song - Trad. American Folk ballad; derived from the broadside ballad "The Wooing Maid," a song which dates to the seventeenth century 2. Two Brothers - An American Civil War song by Irving Gordon 3. Going to the Zoo - Words and music by Tom Paxton – written probably early 1960s 4. Cockleshells/ Waley Waley - Trad. – many variants. The lyrics seems to be a combination of 'The Water is Wide' and Marianne Faithful's 'Cockleshells' 5. I'm Troubled - Trad. Negro Spiritual, taken from the The Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, and learned from singer Tod Lloyd, as Brenda explains 6. Stay Not Late - Hester Williams - cannot discover anything else about this song 7. A Good Man is Hard to Find - Eddie Green, first recorded in 1918 8. Mingulay Boat Song- Hugh S Robertson, written in the 1930 9. Old Time Religion - A traditional Gospel song dating from 1873, when it was included in a list of Jubilee songs, or earlier	

### Acknowledgements:

This CD would not exist were it not for the efforts of Mike Gluyas, of Morchard Bishop in Devon, in making these recordings at St Buryan 46 years ago and keeping them safe ever since, and his kindness in giving them to me. We met for the first time over 4 years ago outside the pub at Four Lanes, while listening to the Four Lanes Choir singing carols on Christmas morning – and I was thrilled to receive a CD from him shortly after, with all 16 of these tracks – 7 of which are not recorded elsewhere. He has most kindly given me permission to produce them as a CD.

Many thanks to both Mike Gluyas and Mic McCready for their sterling work on the final edit. Mic, a stalwart of Pipers and the local folk scene for more years than I'm sure he'd care to remember, has been an invaluable adviser and editor. And, of course, full credit to John the Fish – Brenda's first accompanist, well known and loved by everyone on the folk scene in Cornwall and much further afield, who enabled Brenda to try out her newfound vocation on Piper's stage. John has acted as a valuable consultant on this CD.

Thanks are also due to the committee and staff of Lowender Perran, the Cornish Celtic Festival at Perranporth, which Brenda attended and supported whenever she could, for allowing us to launch and supply this CD at their Brenda Wootton Anniversary Concert at the festival on October 20th 2013. Thanks also to Joe Cockle for his patience and professionalism in sorting out the artwork for this CD.

**Full lyrics follow.**

### **I'm Counting Stars** (Mike Sagar-Fenton)

I'm counting stars all alone  
I'm counting stars all alone  
I lie and wonder why, the moon still moves round the sky...

I've got my eyes open wide  
I've got my eyes open wide  
The window and the wall, but I don't see them at all...

What is there calling me out?  
What is there calling me out?  
I've not a thing to prove, but somehow I can't seem to move...

The candles burning down low  
The candles burning down low  
And as it burns away, I'm counting stars till the day...

---

### **Marta, Marta**

Chorus:  
Marta, Marta - Marta, sweet Marta,  
Tell me where you get that money from...  
Marta, Marta - Marta, sweet Marta,  
Tell me where you get that money from...

*Chorus*  
When you go park-side  
When you go a water-road  
Tell me where you get that money from?

*Chorus*  
See you got a new dress,  
Hear that you working less,  
Tell me where you get that money from?

*Chorus*  
See you the other night,  
Talking to a coolie man  
Tell me where you get that money from...

*Chorus*  
He'll give you diamonds, he'll give you gold,  
Pass your door when you are old,  
Tell me where you get that money from...

*Chorus - Repeat last line*

---

### **Lady Mary** (Trad.)

He came from his palace grand  
He came to my cottage door  
His words were few but his looks  
Will linger for evermore  
The look in his sad dark eyes  
More tender than words could be  
But I was nothing to him  
And he was the world to me.

There in her garden she stands  
All dressed in fine satin and lace  
Lady Mary so cold and so strange  
Could find in his heart no place.  
He knew I would be his bride  
With a kiss for a lifetime fee  
But I was nothing to him  
And he was the world to me.

Now in his palace grand  
On a cold stone bed he lies  
His beautiful lids are closed  
O'er his sad dark beautiful eyes  
And among the mourners who mourn  
Why should I a mourner be  
For I was nothing to him  
And he was the world to me.

---

### **Port Mahon** (Sydney Carter, 1960)

In Port Mahon, I went down to the harbour  
A tall ship from England, came up to the quay  
I fell in love with a young English sailor  
But he only laughed and he whispered to me:

*Chorus*  
From Port Mahon I'll soon be gone  
Laughing or weeping, the world will go on.

To Port Mahon came the orders one morning  
To haul up the anchor, and not to delay  
So the tall ship sailed away from the harbour  
But still in my heart I could hear my love say:

*Chorus*  
To Port Mahon came the news of a battle  
But never oh never, a letter for me  
And many a tall ship came back to the harbour,  
But never the one that I waited to see.

The years passed by, and I married another  
And many a woman would like to be me  
But sometimes I lie on my bed and I listen  
To the sound of the wind, and the sound of the sea  
And remember the sailor who whispered to me:

*Chorus*

---



### **The Old Grey Duck** (Trad. English)

The old grey duck she stole her nest  
And laid down in the fields  
And when the young ones they came forth  
They had no tails nor beels  
They had no tails nor beels,  
They had no tails nor beels  
And when the young ones they came forth  
They had no tails nor beels.

Two eggs were addled and one was broke  
And they were throw'd away  
The young ones could'n clunk nor swim  
They all died that same day  
They all died that same day  
They all died that same day  
The young ones could'n clunk nor swim  
They all died that same day

Now them that wadden addled nor broke  
They didn't know what to do  
They did'n even have the sense  
To chaw their shells right through  
To chaw their shells right through  
To chaw their shells right through  
They did'n even have the sense  
To chaw their shells right through

Next time we'll put 'er in the barn  
And tie 'er by the heels  
The young ones then may have the chance  
To grow their tails and beels To grow their tails and  
beels  
To grow their tails and beels  
The young ones then may have the chance  
To grow their tails and beels

---

### **Harp Song of the Dane Women**

(Rudyard Kipling/Mike Sagar-Fenton)

What is a woman that you forsake her,  
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre,  
To go with the old grey Widow-maker?

She has no house to lay a guest in—  
But one chill bed for all to rest in,  
That the pale suns and the stray bergs nest in.

She has no strong white arms to fold you,  
But the ten-times-fingering weed to hold you  
Out on the rocks where the tide has rolled you.

Yet, when the signs of summer thicken,  
And the ice breaks, and the birch-buds quicken,  
Yearly you turn from our side, and sicken—

Sicken again for the shouts and the slaughters—  
You steal away to the lapping waters,  
To look at your ship in her winter quarters.

You forget our mirth, and our talk at the tables,  
The kine in the shed and the horse in the stables—  
To pitch her sides and go over her cables.

Then you drive out where the storm-clouds swallow:  
And the sound of your oar-blades falling hollow  
Is all we have left in the months to follow.

Ah, what is a woman that you forsake her,  
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre,  
To go with the old grey Widow-maker?

---

### **The First Time Ever** (MacColl)

The first time ever I saw your face  
I thought the sun rose in your eyes  
And the moon and stars were the gifts you gave  
To the dark and the endless sky, my love,  
To the dark and the endless sky.

The first time ever I kissed your mouth,  
I felt the earth move in my hand,  
Like the trembling heart of a captive bird  
That was there at my command, my love,  
That was there at my command.

The first time ever I lay with you  
I felt your heart so close to mine  
And I thought our joy would fill the earth  
And last till the end of time, my love,  
And last till the end of time.

---

### **Old Maid's Song** (Trad.)

I had a sister Sally, younger than I am  
She had so many sweethearts, she had to deny 'em  
As for my own part, I never had many  
If you only knew my heart, I'd be thankful for any...

#### *Chorus:*

Come a landsman, a pinsman, a tinker or a tailor  
Fiddler or a dancer, ploughboy or a sailor  
Rich man, a poor man, fool, or a witty  
Don't let me die an old maid, but take me out of pity

I had a sister Sarah, ugly and ill-shapen  
Before she was sixteen, she was taken  
Now she is eighteen, a son and a daughter  
I'm six and forty, and nary an offer -

#### *Chorus*

I never would be scolding, I never would be jealous  
My husband shall have money to go to the alehouse  
While he's there a-spending, I'll be home a-saving  
And I'll leave it to the world if I'm worth the having...

#### *Chorus*

---

## **Two Brothers** (Irving Gordon)

Two brothers on their way  
Two brothers on their way  
Two brothers on their way  
One wore blue, and one wore grey

One wore blue and one wore grey  
As they marched along the way  
A fife and drum began to play  
All on a beautiful morning

One was gentle, one was kind  
One was gentle, one was kind  
One came home, one stayed behind  
A cannonball don't pay no mind

A cannonball don't pay no mind  
If you're gentle or you're kind  
It don't think of the folks behind  
All on a beautiful morning

Two girls waiting by the railroad track  
Two girls waiting by the railroad track  
Two girls waiting by the railroad track  
One wore blue, and one wore black

One wore blue, and one wore black  
Waiting by the railroad track  
For their darlings to come back  
All on a beautiful morning  
All on a beautiful morning

---

## **Going to the Zoo** (Tom Paxton)

Mummy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow,  
Zoo tomorrow, zoo tomorrow;  
Mummy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow,  
We can stay all day.

*Chorus:*  
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo;  
How about you, you, you?  
You can come too, too, too.  
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo.

See the elephant with the long trunk swingin',  
Great big ears and long trunk swingin',  
Sniffin' up peanuts with the long trunk swingin';  
We can stay all day.

*Chorus*  
See all the monkeys scritch scritch scratchin',  
Jumpin' all around and scritch scritch scratchin',  
Hangin' by their long tails scritch scritch scratchin';  
We can stay all day.

## *Chorus*

Big black bear, all a huff huff a-puffin';  
Coat's too heavy, he's huff huff a-puffin',  
Don't get too near the huff huff a-puffin',  
Or you won't stay all day.

## *Chorus*

Seals in the pool all honk honk honkin',  
Catchin' fish and honk honk honkin',  
Little seals honk honk honkin'; (high pitched voice)  
We can stay all day.

## *Chorus (slower tempo)*

We stayed all day and we're gettin' sleepy,  
Sittin' in the car gettin' sleep sleep sleepy,  
Home already and we're sleep sleep sleepy,  
We have stayed all day.

## *Chorus*

We've been to the zoo, zoo, zoo;  
So have you, you, you.  
You came too, too, too,  
We're been to the zoo, zoo, zoo.

## *Chorus (faster)*

Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow,  
Zoo tomorrow, zoo tomorrow;  
Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow,  
We can stay all day.

## *Chorus*

---

## **Waley Waley/Cockleshells** (Trad.)

When cockle shells turn to silver bells,  
then will my love return to me.

When roses grow in the wintery snow,  
then will my love return to me.

Oh waly, waly, love be bonnie  
and gay as a jewel when first tis new...

But love grows old, and waxes cold,  
and fades away like morning dew.

There is a ship, and it's sailing the sea,  
It's loaded down as deep can be.

But not so deep as the love I am in  
I know not e'er I sink or swim.

Oh waly, waly, love be bonnie  
And gay as a jewel when first tis new...

But love grows old and waxes cold,  
and fades away.....like morning dew.

---

**I'm Troubled** (Trad. Spiritual)

*Chorus*

I'm troubled, I'm troubled  
Yes I'm troubled in my mind  
If Jesus don't help me  
Then I surely will die

*Chorus*

Oh Jesus my saviour  
On Thee I depend,  
When troubles are near me,  
You'll be my true friend...

*Chorus*

When laden with trouble  
And burdened with grief  
To Jesus in secret  
I'll go for relief

*Chorus*

In darkness and bondage  
To Jesus I prayed  
To help me to bear it  
And he gave me his aid

*Chorus*

---

**Stay Not Late** (Hester Williams)

Stay not late for love on you is waiting, within the  
home of your heart,  
Stay not late, the name you have been naming, is  
keeping vigil by the door.  
Stay not late, life's a moment fleeting, the shadows  
creep across the floor,  
Stay not late, if this be our last meeting, you gain  
much more than you have lost.  
Stay not late for there are children calling - to be  
sheltered, to be born,  
Stay not late, our places aren't e'en over, time soon is  
o'er for you and me.  
Stay not late for love on you is waiting, within the  
home of your heart,  
Stay not late, the name you have been naming, is  
keeping vigil by the door.

---

**A Good Man is Hard To Find** (Eddie Green)

My heart's sad and I'm all forlorn  
My man's treating me mean  
I regret the day that I was born  
And that man of mine I never seen  
My happiness it never lasts a day  
My heart is almost breaking while I say

A good man is hard to find  
You always get the other kind  
Just when you think that he is your pal  
You look around and find him foolin' 'round some  
other gal  
And then you rave, you even crave  
To see him laying in his grave  
So if your man is nice, take my advice;  
And hug him every morning, kiss him every night  
Give him plenty lovin', treat him right  
For a good man nowadays is hard to find...

A good man is hard to find  
You always get the other kind  
Just when you think that he is your pal  
You look around and find him foolin' round some  
other gal  
Then you rave, you even crave  
To see him layin' in his grave  
So if your man is nice, take my advice  
And hug him every morning, kiss him every night  
Give him plenty lovin', treat him right  
For a good man nowadays is hard to find...

---

**Mingulay Boat Song** (Hugh S Robertson)

*Chorus:*

Heel y'ho boys, let her go, boys  
Bring her head round and all together  
Heel y'ho boys, let her go boys  
Sailing homeward to Mingulay!

What care we tho' white the Minch is  
What care we for wind and weather?  
Let her go boys, every inch is  
Wearing homeward to Mingulay!

*Chorus*

Wives are waiting by the harbour...  
They've been waiting since break of day,  
Bring her 'round boys, and we'll anchor  
'Ere the sun sets on Mingulay!

*Chorus*

---

## Old Time Religion (Trad.)

Gimme that old time religion  
Gimme that old time religion  
Gimme that old time religion  
And it's good enough for me.

It was good for my mother  
And it was good for my brother  
And it was good for my father  
And it's good enough for me

### *Chorus:*

Now won't you give me that – old time religion  
Won't you give me that – old time religion  
Won't you give me that – old time religion  
It's good enough for me

Now it'll save you from the fiery furnace  
Yes it'll save you from the fiery furnace  
Yes it'll save you from the fiery furnace  
And it's good enough for me

### *Chorus*

Well it'll keep you from the devil  
Yes it'll keep you from the devil  
It'll keep you from the devil,  
And it's good enough for me

### *Chorus*

Well it'll take you up to heaven  
Yes it'll take you up to heaven  
Oh it'll take you up to heaven  
And it's good enough for me

### *Chorus*

It was good for the Hebrew children  
It was good for the Hebrew children  
It was good for the Hebrew children  
And it's good enough for me.

### *Chorus*

*(Brenda is occasionally singing in the background the  
black gospel song: 'It's me, it's me, it's me, oh Lord,  
Standing in the need of prayer, It's not the deacon or  
the preacher but it's me oh Lord Standing in the need  
of prayer'...)*

---