

# Billy Johnson's Ball

Now Bil-ly John-son had been mar-ried just a twelve month and a day,  
He sent out let - ters to his friends and in it went to say:  
Tis just a - bout a twelve months since the ba - by he was sent  
So will you come and ce - - le - brate the glo - ri - - ous e - - vent?  
Chorus  
With a Lor dor de dor, and a doo - dle doo - dle did - dle,  
They played up - on the fid - dle and went up and down the mid - dle.  
Jo - lly boys and pret - ty girls en - - ough to please you all,  
A re - gu - lar sort of a bril - liant spree, was Bil - ly John - son's ball.

2. Now in turns we nursed the baby  
And we kissed him twice all round  
Mrs John-son she was jealous and  
Fell fainting to the ground.  
We brought her to with water  
with a drop of something in  
And when she felt herself again  
The dancing did begin.  
Chorus

3. Now there were the Brownes'es and the Jones-es  
And the Scriggins-es a score,  
The Scriggins-es, the Scroggins-es,  
And half a dozen more;  
There wasn't room, In Billy's house  
To dance a decent jig,  
So they went and took a big room  
At 'The Tinder Box and Pig'  
Chorus

4 Now we went in and out and round about,  
Such a Ball was never seen,  
And every now and then,  
We'd have drop of drink between,  
To tell you how it ended,  
I'm sure I am not able,  
For I found myself next morning  
Lying underneath the table.

Spoken: And I said to the wife, I said, 'Wher 'ave I bin?. An' 'er says 'Where 'a you been?'  
An' I said 'Arr,' An' 'er said ' Well, you bin along-a Billy Johnson's, ...  
Chorus sung: A-doing the Lor dor de dor....

Source: Sung by Ray Hartland, Recorded by Gwilym Davies and Mike Yates, 1st January 1980

© Gloucestershire Traditions