

When I was a Young Man (The Drunkard)

Oh when I was a young man I was in all my de - light, I was
drink - ing and a - - smok - ing boys, From morn - ing un - - to night, For
when I spend my store boys how can I spend an - y more, For
when I spend my store boys, Then I'll bold - ly work for more.

[Now as I as a-walking the streets up and down,
There I say my landlady dressed in her silk gown
With me coat tore at the elbows, my britches at my knee
Good Lord, how that landlady she gazed upon me.]

[No longer could I bear it, stranger up to her I went
"Do I owe you any money or what is your intent?
Do I owe you any money for your 'bacco or your beer?
For if I did you must have been in your old ragged gear".]

So I walked into the public house and I called for a pint of the best
And the landlady she looked at me, and she brought me in the slops
[When you call for the best of ale and I bring you in the dregs
That's why I'm in my silk gown and you're in your rags."]

Source: Sung by Wiggy Smith at Wiggy's caravan, Elmstone Hardwicke, 11th August, 1994.
Recorded by Gwilym Davies and Paul Burgess.

Notes: Extra words in brackets added from another Gloucestershire version