

The Nailsbourne Beasts' Song

Hill country of Southwestern England

D

1. Oh, the beast - ies all heard the ang - - el call
 2. Oh, the oxen did low and the ponies they did bow When they
 3. Let us kneel in the hay for 'tis Christ-i - mas Day

[D] A G D

all sang "Christ is born!" And they all kneeled to pray down up -
 And the don - key _____ roared "Praise ____
 And there's bloom on the twig and the

G D

- on the hay
 our sweet Lord," When they all sang "Christ is born!"
 little lambs do jig

CHORUS [D] G D G D

And the rud - dick sang, O the lit - tle rud - dick sang So

[D] A G D

sweet - ly sang - ed he On Christ - i - mas morn on the

G D A D

bless - ed thorn On a twig of the ho - - ly tree.

This song was only to be sung by a dairyman to his cattle in the barn on Christmas Eve and only to be taught to his successor when he became ill or had to give up his work.

"Blessed thorn" - there was a Glastonbury Thorn tree at Nailsbourne. Legend had it that the original Glastonbury Thorn tree grew from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea which he had planted in the ground there. It was said to bloom on Christmas Eve and all the animals would gain the gift of speech and kneel at the thorn tree.

Tune transcribed from mp3 at: www.concertina.info/carols/files/learn/Nailsbourne_Beasts_Song/
 See also: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT2zX3QWaec www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1hxaaDQDs
asundaysong.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/the-nailsbourne-beast-song.html