

## *Ar Well it Cud 'Ave Been Wus*

Enoch was a-towing of his boat along the cut,  
 When under a low bridge he found his mules ears daint fit.  
 He tried to chisel out the bricks for the donkeys ears to pass  
 Up comes Eli an ses to him: Yo ar a silly ass.  
 Why do yo dig two trenches & let the blighters feert goo through,  
 The ground is softer than the bricks, its easier on you,  
 But Enoch pozzles over this an answers with a frown,  
 It tay his feet as wo goo throo, its is noggin years, yo clown. chorus

Enoch was a-sleeping bad, just trying for to nap  
 While next doors dogs were howling, gooing yap yap-yap yap.  
 All night long they bawled at him, then all the morning barked.  
 Yo know he say to Eli Jesus! I am bloody narked.  
 But I con sort it out nowr, a plan I have devized.  
 He had it coming, him next door, an he will be surprized,  
 Ive bought the dogs right off of him, and at him stuck out me tongue,  
 They am nowr my dogs & instead will keep HIM awake night long. chorus

Enoch had a lawyer mon to sort his legal doing,  
 Who earned his money well, in court when Enoch was a-gooin  
 But one week a case he solved and early home he trotted  
 And found his wife had guests alone in Ingle Nookie Cottage.  
 Solicitor then shot the mon, and wounded his wife sore  
 Then shot himself, three times all told, to circumvent the law.  
 The wife had witnessed this an then with slowly fading health.  
 Found-out in the will that his mistress had inherited the wealth. chorus

Enoch ses to Eli “Mon. What do yo mean owr kid?  
 What ever could be wus than what our old solicitor did?  
 A fine upstanding gentlemon, his pretty little wife  
 And then again a good milkmon, all removed from life.”  
 Eli ses “Yo darft aperth, but con yo see the logic  
 Listen I'll explain it nowr, yo'll see as if by magic”  
 “Ar ses Enoch” with a sigh, “its plain as plain con be  
 If it had been the night afore, the bullet would have got me. ( Or thee! )”

Chorus Ar well it cud have been wus, it cud have bin wus than that.  
Ar well it cud have been wus, yo know that is a fact.  
In Fibbersly and Willenhall, I'm told by old Eli  
They stick the pig upon the wall, to watch the band goo by.  
Nya nya nya nyar nyar nyar nyar nyar nyar nyar nyararuh  
 (chorus followed by band noises by all to suit, regulation smiles mandatory)

Enoch & Eli are, to Black country folk, the architypal simpletons. Long before political correctness was coined the Black country folk had chosen two of their own as the butt of their humour.

The practice of putting the pig on the wall to watch the band go by has many erudite explanations but Coleford townfolk said it about Cinderford, two villages in Hampshire accused each other and in Yorkshire it was not unknown for villages in close proximity to consider rivalry also as the best policy in achieving self-worth. Witness Canadian Newfie jokes, France and Belgium, Oz and Godzone and of course Irish v rest of world.