

Irish Ways and Irish Laws

By John Gibbs (Tim Hollins version)

Sung by John Close at youtu.be/h_S5I3UTKLk

EM D EM BM EM BM EM D
Once up - on a time there was I - rish ways and I - rish laws

EM D EM BM EM D EM BM
Vil - la - ges of I - rish blood Wa - king to the mor - ning,

EM D EM
wa - king to the mor - ning

Once upon a time there was
Irish ways and Irish laws
Villages of Irish blood
Waking to the morning, waking to the morning

Then the Vikings came around
Turned them up and turned them down
Started building boats and towns
And tried to change their living, and tried to change their living.

Cromwell and his soldiers came
Started centuries of shame
But he could not make them turn
They are a river flowing, they are a river flowing

Again, again the soldiers came
Burnt their houses, stole their grain
Shot the farmers in the fields **
Working for a living, working for a living

One hundred years ago they rose
Volunteers against the foe
Tried to set their country free
River keeps on flowing, the river keeps on flowing

Today the struggles carry on
I wonder will we live so long
To see the gates being opened up
To a people and their freedom
To our peoples and our freedom

** In Castlederg, Co. Derry, this line is "Shot the dancer on the road"

Telling Tales theatre group (an offshoot of Banner Theatre and Sing Political) was honoured to be asked to put together a documentary theatre piece by the friends and family of Patrick Shanaghan, an Irish Ceilidh dance master from Castledearg, near Derry.

Patrick was continually harassed by police and security forces during the 1980s, mainly for his love of Irish dance, and was eventually shot through the windscreen of his van as he drove to work, one morning in 1991 - by a masked gunman. The local campaign group finally won a case at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. No-one has ever been charged with his murder.

Patrick is fondly remembered as “an Irish Gentleman” - and above all as a dance master - by all in the Ceilidh dancing world.



Telling Tales performing in Castledearg