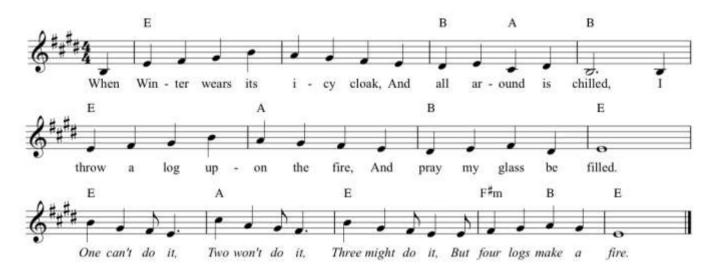
One Can't Do It

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron



When Winter wears its icy cloak
And all around is chilled,
I throw a log upon the fire
And pray my glass be filled.

Ch: One can't do it, Two won't do it. Three might do it, But four logs make a fire.

Upon the settle next the fire
I ponder on my fate,
And watch the ever changing flames
Make pictures in the grate.

Now some folk say that oak is best, But years it takes to dry, Whilst ash will give out lots of warmth And burn with flames so high.

Grey willow keeps the fire in But won't spread warmth around, Just throw on hawthorn, holly, or elm And soon heat will abound.

Beech is better left some time, And larch can cause a fright, But apple burns with fragrance sweet And yew lasts through the night.

Rowan and birch are quick to dry
And just as quick to light,
Lime will also scent the room
And sycamore burns bright.

When midnight chimes throw on some ash
Before you go to bed,
Put on some kindling in the morn
And soon the flames will spread.



Here's one we made earlier...

This is a habitat pile made from coppiced grey willow on Smardale National Nature Reserve. The pile has compartments within to accommodate a wide variety of wildlife. When coppicing, we tend to leave willow on site to rot down in variously shaped log-piles, but a lot of the birch and ash finds its way into people's stoves. Rowan (mountain ash) is also often left, as it has long been associated with the supernatural, and is supposed to bring bad luck if burned!

Most people who burn wood tend to have their favourites, and there is not always universal agreement on which woods are best (except in the case of ash!). From personal experience, we would suggest that the burning quality of wood is very closely related to its dryness, and some of it takes longer that you might think to become thoroughly dry.