

## **Aiken-Drum - Scottish Folktale** **Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett 2008**

Once a long time ago the men and women in a small town had too much work to do. They were always tired. They were always grumpy. They never seemed to have time to play with their children.

A farmer said, "I will never be able to get all my grain cut and threshed before the bad weather comes. I wish I had help on my farm!"

The dairy man said, "I have so many cows to milk that by the time I put out fresh hay for them to eat and do my other work, it's time to milk again. I wish I had help taking care of my animals.

The baker said, "I get up early every day to make bread, cakes, pies and cookies for everyone in the village. But I still can't bake enough for everyone. I wish that I had help in my bakery!"

A mother said, "I work all day trying to do my housework. I never have time to play with my children any more. I wish I had someone to help me get my work done!"

It seemed that they all were a little tired and unhappy and that they didn't like their jobs

As everyone was talking, they heard singing in the distance.

"Have you any work for Aiken-Drum, Aiken-Drum, for Aiken Drum? (*See tune at end of story.*) Have you any work for Aiken-Drum? Any work for Aiken-Drum?"

They looked down the lane, but they did not see anyone. They heard a thump, thump, thump - like someone playing a spoon or a ladle on a hand drum.

The women and children came out of their houses. "We hear someone singing and playing a drum," they said. And they all looked down the street. They all looked, and they all listened.

## **艾肯鼓 – 蘇格蘭民間故事**

很久以前，某個鎮上的居民總是很疲憊，心情很不佳，因為他們的工作量實在是太多了。他們從來沒有時間陪伴他們的孩子。

一位農夫說：「我無法在變天前收割打穀所有的稻穀。我真的很需要幫手！」

乳牛場工人說：「我有太多乳牛需要擠奶。每次當我準備完乾草給乳牛，做完我的工作後，又要開始擠奶。我真的需要人來幫忙照顧我的動物。」

麵包師傅說：「我每天早上要早起為村裡的每個人做麵包和糕餅，可是還是供不應求。我真的希望有人可以到我的麵包店來幫忙！」

一位母親說：「我整天在做家事，我都沒有時間陪我的孩子玩。我真的希望有人能夠來幫我做家事！」

每個人似乎都有點疲憊，過得不是很快樂；他們也不太喜歡他們的工作。

當每個人都在談論時，他們聽到遠處傳來歌聲。

「有工作給艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓嗎？」

他們往街上看過去，可是沒有看到任何人。他們聽到砰砰的聲音，就像有人用湯匙或杓子在手鼓上敲擊著。

婦女孩童都從家裡跑出來，他們說：「我們聽到人在唱歌打鼓。」大家都沿著鼓聲往街上看去。

They all heard, "Have you any work for Aiken-Drum, Aiken-Drum, for Aiken Drum? Have you any work for Aiken-Drum? Any work for Aiken-Drum?"

Suddenly, one little very happy girl, who loved to help her mother with her chores shouted, "Look, look! I see a funny little man coming down the street."

The men and the women looked at the little girl and frowned. They couldn't see anything, so they knew she couldn't either!

But, a little boy who always happily helped his father with the yard work said, "I see him too. He's only as big as we are. It's a grown man - but he's the size of a child."

"He's asking if anyone has work they need done," said one little boy. "I like to work. It's fun. When I help do the work, there is always more time for everyone to play together. He keeps singing, 'Have you any work for Aiken-Drum, Aiken-Drum, for Aiken Drum? Have you any work for Aiken-Drum? Any work for Aiken-Drum?'"

"I don't see him", said another little boy who never helped out with jobs at home. "What does he look like?"

Each of the other good little children described him in the exact same way, so everyone knew that they were telling the truth. "He is short and thin. He looks quite strong. His eyes are very big and round, and they are very black. He has a big smile on his face."

Then an old grandmother came walking down the street. She had heard the singing too, but she had not been able to move as fast as the others. "The little person is a Brownie," the old woman said. "My mother told me about Brownies when I was a child. Brownies are little people, who love to work. Be good to this Brownie, and he will help all of you get your work done. Then there will be enough time for everyone to relax and to play."

牠們都聽到：「有工作給艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？」

突然，一個平常喜歡幫她媽媽做家事，總是很快樂的小女孩說：「看那邊，看那邊！我看到一個有趣的小人兒走在街上。」

大家都很不悅地看著小女孩。他們什麼都沒看到，他們知道小女孩也是什麼都沒看到！

但是一個總是很開心地幫助他父親清理庭院的小男孩說：「我也看到他。他跟我們一樣大。他是個大人，可是他的體型跟小孩子一樣。」

「他在問說有沒有人需要幫手，」一個小男孩說。「我喜歡工作，工作真的很有趣。當我一起幫忙時，大家就會有更多的時間一起玩樂。他一直在唱『有工作給艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？』」

「我看不到他，」另一個從不幫忙家事的小男孩說。「他長什麼樣子啊？」

每個乖巧的孩子都把他形容的一模一樣，所以大家知道他們說的都是實話。「他矮矮瘦瘦的；他看起來蠻強壯的；他深黑色的雙眼又大又圓；他臉上掛著微笑。」

一位老奶奶走到街上，她也聽到了歌聲，但是她走得比大家都還慢。「那個小人兒是布朗尼精靈，」老奶奶說。「我小的時候，我母親曾經告訴我有關布朗尼精靈的故事。布朗尼們是喜愛工作的小人兒。對這個布朗尼精靈好一點，他會幫你們把所有的工作都做完。這樣大家就會有更多的時間來休息玩樂了。」

This was how the Brownie called Aiken-Drum came to live in the small town. Every day the old grandmother put out some bread and some milk for the Brownie. Every morning the bread and milk was gone. Only the children saw the Brownie. But, they all saw the work that was getting done.

The farmer somehow knew that the brownie was helping him. He whistled happily as he cut and threshed his grain. He worked long and hard, but was happy the entire time. He got all the grain into the barn and would be able to sell it and pay his bills for the entire year.

The dairy man knew that he was the one that the Brownie was helping. He hummed a tune as he fed his cows. The music seemed to make them stand more still so the milking went faster. His happy attitude the music seemed to make the cows give more milk.

The baker's rolls seemed to rise higher. His cakes didn't seem to fall like they did when he stomped around his kitchen in a bad mood. He was much happier and baked so many goods that he had enough to sell everyone who wanted baked goods and enough to give to the poor who needed food. He was certain that help from the Brownie was why his work was getting done.

The mother laughed because she thought the Brownie was helping her. She acted so happy that all of her children also helped her. The beds got made faster. Dinner was on the table on time. Dishes were done by everyone, and there was time enough for mother to play with her children.

Aiken-Drum did a little bit of work for everyone in town. But most of the people got more work done simply because they acted happier and sang and hummed as they worked. Happy workers always get more done. Aiken-Drum encouraged all the children to become good workers also, to help their parents, and he always had time to play with them when their work was done.

這就是布朗尼精靈艾肯鼓來到這個小鎮的原因。每天晚上老奶奶都會為布朗尼精靈準備一些麵包和牛奶。每天早上麵包和牛奶就消失了。只有孩童們看得到布朗尼精靈。但是大家都發現所有的工作能夠如期完成。

農夫不知怎麼的就是知道布朗尼精靈在幫他。他邊收割打穀他的稻穀邊吹口哨。工作雖辛勤漫長，但是農夫卻很快樂。他將所有的稻穀放進穀倉裡，準備將這些稻穀賣掉以支付他整年的生活費。

乳牛場的工人知道布朗尼精靈在幫他。他邊餵乳牛邊哼歌。他哼的歌曲似乎讓這些乳牛乖乖的站著，讓他能夠更快速的擠奶。他快樂的心情似乎讓這些乳牛製造出更多的牛奶。

麵包師傅的麵包似乎越堆越高，他做的蛋糕似乎不像之前一樣會垮下來。他現在快樂多了。他烘焙了很多麵包及糕餅，多到可以賣給每個需要的人，還有剩餘的麵包可以給窮人。他很確定他能夠把工作完成是因為有布朗尼精靈的幫忙。

那位母親很開心的笑著，因為她知道布朗尼精靈在幫她。她是如此的快樂，於是她所有的孩子也來幫她忙。鋪床的工作更加的迅速。晚餐準時做好。每個人都幫忙把碗盤洗好。還有多餘的時間讓這位母親陪她的孩子玩。

艾肯鼓幫鎮上的每個人分擔一些工作。但是大部分的人能完成工作是因為他們變快樂，邊工作邊唱歌。快樂的工作總是可以把事情做完。艾肯鼓也鼓勵孩童們快樂的工作，多幫他們的父母。他也總是在孩子們完成工作後陪他們玩。

Then, one day the mayor of the town said to his wife, "Aiken-Drum has been very good to everyone in town. We should do something good for him."

"You are right, husband," she told him. Then she made a little green cap that would fit a man the size of the children. She also made him a small brown coat to wear. She asked the grandmother to put them out with the bread and milk that she put out every night.

"Brownies work for the love of working," said the old woman. "You must never pay a Brownie. If you try to pay a Brownie for his work, he will leave."

"We must try to something nice for the Brownie since he has been so nice to us," said the Mayor and his wife. "Besides, everyone in our town is so happy and is getting so much done that we have less work for the Brownie to do." So, the grandmother laid out the small green cap and the brown coat next to the bread and milk that night.

Aiken-Drum found the little brown coat and the small green cap and knew they were made for him. "What a beautiful and warm coat and lovely cap," said Aiken-Drum to himself. He knew they were for him. "But now I must leave and find another place where I am needed. I can't stay here any longer."

He left the small town and walked down the road singing his song, "Have you any work for Aiken-Drum, Aiken-Drum, for Aiken Drum? Have you any work for Aiken-Drum? Any work for Aiken-Drum?"

The adults who had never seen Aiken-Drum in the first place thought he was still there helping them. They worked happily every day with whistling, singing and humming. Since they were happy, it always seemed like their work got done faster and easier than on days when they acted grumpy and sad.

有一天鎮長對他的太太說：「艾肯鼓幫鎮上的人這麼多的忙，我們應該要為他做些什麼來感謝他。」

她回答：「你說的沒錯。」於是她替艾肯鼓做了一個綠色的小帽子，她還替他裁縫了一件咖啡色的外套。她請老奶奶將帽子和外套跟每晚放在外面的麵包和牛奶放在一起，送給艾肯鼓。

「布朗尼精靈工作是因為他熱愛工作，」老太太說。「你不能給布朗尼精靈酬勞，否則他將會離去。」

「布朗尼精靈對我們這麼好，我們一定要回報他，」鎮長和他的太太說道。「而且鎮上的每個人都很快樂，工作也都能如期完成，所以現在也沒有很多工作可以給布朗尼精靈做。」於是老奶奶當天晚上將綠色的帽子和咖啡色的外套放在牛奶和麵包的旁邊。

艾肯鼓發現了咖啡色的外套和綠色的帽子，他知道這是特別為他做的。「好溫暖的外套和漂亮的帽子啊！」艾肯鼓對自己說。「但是現在我必須離開到另一個需要我的地方去。我不能在這個鎮上多留。」

他離開小鎮，邊走邊唱「有工作給艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓，艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？有工作給艾肯鼓嗎？」

沒有看過艾肯鼓的大人們以為他還在幫他們忙。他們每天快樂的邊工作邊唱歌。因為他們很快樂，工作似乎總是比他們心情煩躁時還要快完成。

The children realized that Aiken-Drum had left them, but they continued to happily help around their houses. They wanted to have the work done so their parents would have time to play with them and have time to play if Aiken-Drum came back again.

Some children still put out bread and milk for Aiken-Drum and other Brownies that wander around the land. When the milk and bread are gone, their parents tell them that a cat or dog must have eaten it. But the children know better and always are on the lookout for Aiken-Drum.

Note: The folk tale and song of Aiken-Drum goes back to about 1715 where the story and song could both be heard in Scotland. For those who would like to play or sing the tune and continue to oral tradition of adding music to story telling, the music is printed below. Thanks to the Mudcat Cafe for printing this copyright free folk music and making it available for everyone on their website at <http://www.mudcat.org/threads.cfm>.

孩童們發現艾肯鼓已經離開他們了，但是他們還是繼續快樂的幫忙他們的父母。他們想要趕快把工作完成，這樣他們的父母就可以陪他們玩了。

一些孩童們仍然持續放一些麵包和牛奶給艾肯鼓或其他流浪的布朗尼精靈們吃。當牛奶和麵包不見時，他們的父母告訴他們是被貓狗吃掉了。但是他們知道真相並總是在期盼著艾肯鼓。