

Verse 1: Since man was first created
His works have been debated
And we have celebrated
The coming of the Spring

Chorus: Hal-an-tow, jolly rumbalow
We were up long before the day
To welcome in the summer,
To welcome in the sun O
The summer is a-coming in
And winter's gone away O

Verse 2: Now take no scorn to wear the horn
It was the crest when you were born
Your father's father wore it
Your father wore it too

Chorus

Verse 3: God bless Aunt Mary Moses
And all her power and might O
And send us peace to all the world
Send peace by day and night O

Chorus

Both "hal-an(d)-to" and "rumbelo/rumble-o" have provoked scholarly discussion. No decisive answer seems to have been found. The phrases seem to date back at least to the beginning of the fourteenth century

Hal an (perhaps from calend or 1st of the month) tow (garland) could mean loosely mean "wear the garland on the first day of spring"
"rumbylogh" is thought of as a "boating refrain" likened to "heave ho"

The whole phrase can perhaps be thought of as "Yahoo for first day of spring, lets party, dress up and haul in the summer!"

(In the British Isles) the green calendar of spring has many songs, dances and shows but generally their original meaning is lost. So the customs are transformed into ritual spectacles, festivities, distractions, opportunities for a good time.

Hal-an-Tow is a Cornish song, sung for the procession that ushers in the summer. A variant of it still accompanies the Helston Furry Dance on May 8th.