

Hard Times Of Old England Retold  
Billy Bragg

**G** **Bm** **Em** **D**  
For five generations my family have farmed,  
**C** **Bm** **Am** **D**  
by horse and by tractor, by hoe and by hand,  
**G** **Am** **Bm** **D**  
but that won't stave off the bank's latest demand.

**Am** **D** **G**  
Singing oh the hard times of old England  
**Am** **D** **G**  
In old England very hard times

**G** **Bm** **Em** **D**  
Time was, I could sell what I grew at the shop,  
**C** **Bm** **Am** **D**  
Then Tesco's turned up, all of that had to stop.  
**G** **Am** **Bm** **D**  
Now I can't make a living out of my crop.

**Am** **D** **G**  
Singing oh the hard times of old England  
**Am** **D** **G**  
In old England very hard times

**G** **Bm** **Em** **D**  
More and more of our village gets sold every day,  
**C** **Bm** **Am** **D**  
To folks from the city who are happy to pay,  
**G** **Am** **Bm** **D**  
For their holiday cottage to stand empty all day.

**Am** **D** **G**  
Singing oh the hard times of old England  
**Am** **D** **G**  
In old England very hard times

**G** **Bm** **Em** **D**  
The Countryside Alliance expects, I suppose,  
**C** **Bm** **Am** **D**  
My support when they're marching to bloody Blair's nose,  
**G** **Am** **Bm** **D**  
But they said not a word when our post office closed.

**Am** **D** **G**

Singing oh the hard times of old England

**Am D G**

In old England very hard times

**G Bm Em D**

The hedgerows my grandfather tended have gone,

**C Bm Am D**

And with them the lapwing and the corncrake s sad song.

**G Am Bm D**

I fear I ll be carried off before long.

**Am D G**

Singing oh the hard times of old England

**Am D G**

In old England very hard times

**G Bm Em D**

And now to conclude and to finish my song;

**C Bm Am D**

Let s hope that these hard times they will not last long,

**G Am Bm D**

And I may soon have occasion for to alter my song

**Am D G**

Singing oh the hard times of old England

**Am D G**

In old England very hard times