

Good Morning Lords and Ladies

Traditional song, arrangement © S. Morgan December 2003.

Melody

Good morn-ing lords and la - dies it is the first of May. We

Good morn-ing lords and la - dies it is the first of May. We

Good morn-ing lords and la - dies it is the first of May. We

hope you'll view our gar - land in all its bright ar - ray. For it

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hope you'll view our gar - land in all its bright ar - ray. For it

is the first of May, oh it is the first of May, Re -

is the first of May, oh it is the first of May, Re -

is the first of May, oh it is the first of May, Re -

mem - ber lords and la - dies it is the first of May.

mem - ber lords and la - dies it is the first of May.

mem - ber lords and la - dies it is the first of May.

Good Morning Lords and Ladies

Traditional song from Bedfordshire.

Good morning lords and ladies it is the first of May.
We hope you'll view our garland in all its bright array.
For it is the first of May, oh it is the first of May.
Remember lords and ladies it is the first of May.

We gather'd them this morning all in the early dew
And now we bring their beauty and fragrance all for you.
For it is the first of May, oh it is the first of May.
Remember lords and ladies it is the first of May.

The cuckoo comes in April, it sings its song in May,
In June it changes tune, in July it flies away.
For it is the first of May, oh it is the first of May.
Remember lords and ladies it is the first of May.

And now you've seen our garland we must be on our way.
Remember lords and ladies it is the first of May.
For it is the first of May, oh it is the first of May.
Remember lords and ladies it is the first of May.

Sing this song joyously, but not too fast.

The bearing of May garlands on the first of May was a widespread custom. My neighbour in St. Mary Bourne, Hampshire, recalls making "garlands" in the 1930s (a decorated stick for poor children, a more elaborate hoop for the better off) and taking them to school, where they were judged by the teacher. They sang:

The first of May is garland day,
The second of May is tread-toe day,
Knock at the knocker and ring at the bell,
Please for a penny for singing so well.