

# Off To Puck Fair

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"Off To Puck Fair", also known as "My Wife's A Wanton Wee Thing" or "My Wife's A Winsome Wee Thing" is an Irish set dance.

Puck Fair (Irish: *Aonach an Phoic*, meaning "Fair of the He-Goat", 'poc' being the Irish for a male goat) is one of Ireland's oldest fairs. It takes place annually for three days on the 10th, 11th and 12th of August in Killorglin, County Kerry. Every year a group of people go up into the mountains and catch a wild goat. The goat is brought back to the town and the "Queen of Puck", traditionally a young school girl from one of the local primary schools, crowns the goat "King Puck". Tradition dictates that a horse fair takes place on the first day and a cattle fair on the second day. There are usually many street vendors during the festival who advertise their wares to the large numbers of tourists who come to Killorglin for the fair.

Scholars speculate that the fair's origins stem from Pre-Christian Ireland, from the Celtic festival of Lughnasa which symbolised the beginning of the harvest season, and that the goat is a pagan fertility symbol.

I learned from Mick Maloney's recording on his album **Strings Attached**. Maloney learned it from fiddler Eugene O'Donnell who got it from his former teacher Patricia Mulholland who put the six sections together from three (unspecified) tunes in 6/8 time.