S5 E14 - Ye Bandit of Sherwood Forest

Transcribed by Kurt Adkins, corrections by Peter Olausson. Additional corrections by thegoonshow.net. Final corrections by Helen.

GREENSLADE:

This is the BBC Home Service.

THROAT:

Cor blimey!

ORCHESTRA:

'JINGLE BELLS'

THESPIAN:

[SELLERS] 'Tis Christmas and in every home are sounds of revelry and good cheer. But alas, outside...

GRAMS:

SNOW BLIZZARD UNDER SPEECH

THESPIAN:

Outside in the driving snow a lone tragic ragged figure stumbles through the icy streets. His thin frost-bitten fingers clutching at the thread-bare overcoat. He stumbles into a decrepit hovel, ignoring the poor wretches who lay groaning on the straw-covered floor. He staggers in, lets fall his ragged coat, lurches forward and says...

SEAGOON:

Welcome to the Goon Show!

GRAMS:

VARIOUS MOANS AND WAILINGS...

SEAGOON:

Thank you, listeners! And a Merry Christmas to all our readers. For the Christmas festival, we present on the new curved speaker radio set: A Bandit Of Sherwood Forest!

OMNES:

OLÉ!

SEAGOON:

Olé!

ORCHESTRA:

GRAND OPENING FANFARE

GREENSLADE:

Doncaster, late in the 12th century. 'Tis December and the snow covered coaching yard of the Bowman's Inn is thronged with travellers each awaiting to go his journey.

THE SHERIFF:

[SELLERS as GRYTPYPE-THYNNE] Oh, coach master, a word, I pray.

SEAGOON:

(WEST COUNTRY ACCENT) Coming, sir! Ah, 'tis the Sheriff of Nottingham. A pleasure to talk to the only real gentleman here.

THE SHERIFF:

Oh, really?

SEAGOON:

Yes, that's him over there by the wall. Wallace the Greenslade.

THE SHERIFF:

Hm, forsooth this day I would travel to Nottingham. I wish to buy a ticket for the coach.

SEAGOON:

Coach don't need a ticket, it travels free! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

THE SHERIFF:

Ye good joke. Now then, I wish a seat with my back to the horses.

SEAGOON:

Don't matter where you sit. If you're downwind, you'll still cop it! Hur hur hur...

THE SHERIFF:

Euh, ye good joke. (LAPSES INTO COCKNEY) Now, belt up, will ya! (POSH AGAIN) Baggage boy! Baggage boy!

ECCLES:

Hello. Didst thou call, sire?

THE SHERIFF:

Long thin lad, put my three bags atop of the coach for Nottingham.

ECCLES:

Forsooth, I will do that. I say sooth, sooth, sooth, sooth and sooth!

THE SHERIFF:

What manner of an idiot is this that keeps saying sooth?

ECCLES:

Little does he know that I'm a soothsayer! (LAUGHS) No don't hit me now! It's Christmas. Ooh, what was that?

THE SHERIFF:

Just my little foot.

ECCLES:

Oh.

THE SHERIFF:

Now, get those bags and...

ECCLES:

Okay, don't get down, I'll get the bags, I'll get all the bags up there, I've done this before, you know.

GRAMS:

CASES BEING MOVED AND THUMPED ABOUT

ECCLES:

I've done all them bags, steady on, I'll get them up, ooh, I've done this before, you know. I'm no idiot, I'll get the old bags up there! (FAINTLY) There they are! All safe and sound on top. Oooh! I forgot the bags! I'll come down and...

THE SHERIFF:

No, no, no, no, stay there and I'll throw them up to you. Here's one (STRAINS), two (STRAINS), three (STRAINS). Got them?

SEAGOON:

Excuse me, sir? Could you give I a hand round the other side of the coach?

THE SHERIFF:

Why?

SEAGOON:

There's a lad lying there with three cases on top of him.

THE SHERIFF:

Idiot! Idiot!

ECCLES: Okay! It's okay, it's okay, sire, I didn't hurt myself.

THE SHERIFF:

Well, jump again.

ECCLES: I fell on this old woman.

GREENSLADE: I'm not an old woman.

ECCLES: I'm sorry, I meant this old man.

GREENSLADE: I'm not an old woman or an old man.

ECCLES: Ooooh!

GREENSLADE: I'm a young man.

COACHMAN AND ECCLES:

(LAUGH) Ye good joke!

FLOWERDEW:

Hark, ye all! Hark, ye all! The coach for Nottingham leaves but quick, do you hear me? Step quickly! Oh, I could spit!

SEAGOON:

All onboard, then!

OMNES:

All onboard. Good-bye!

SEAGOON:

Next stop, Sherwood Forest!

ORCHESTRA:

CHEERFUL LINK

GRAMS:

CARRIAGE ROLLING ALONG OVER SPEECH

MINNIE:

(SNORING) Oh. (SMACKS LIPS) Oh, dear, dear, dear, no, dear! I must have dozed off. Where are we, pray, gentlemen?

THE SHERIFF:

We're in Sherwood Forest, madam. Pity you're not younger.

MINNIE:

Oh! Oh, dear! What's become of the long, thin lad?

THE SHERIFF:

I threw him out of the coach a mile back.

MINNIE: What ever made you do that, sir?

THE SHERIFF:

I don't know, just high spirits, I suppose.

MINNIE:

The poor, poor lad. Lost in the forest. The wolves will get him.

HUNGARIAN:

[SECOMBE] (HEAVILY ACCENTED) Please don't mention the wolves!

MINNIE:

Why not?

HUNGARIAN: I'm a Hungarian!

GRAMS: CARRIAGE SCREECHES TO A HALT

FRIAR BALSAM:

[SELLERS as BLOODNOK] Stand and deliver!

MINNIE:

Ooooh!

FRIAR BALSAM:

Hands up or I'll split your grotkin in each quarter!

MINNIE:

Mercy, it's an outlaw!

FRIAR BALSAM:

I warn you madam, one step nearer and I'll scream.

GREENSLADE:

Art thou one of Robin Hood's men?

FRIAR BALSAM:

I art. Me name is Friar Balsam.

GREENSLADE:

What luck! Oh, indeed, what luck! I wish to join your band, I play the saxophone.

FRIAR BALSAM:

Oh, just what we need. Right, we shall keep you. Now, coachman, you may drive on unarmed.

SEAGOON:

Giddup!

FX:

HORSE GALLOPS OFF (GETTING FASTER) INTO DISTANCE

FRIAR BALSAM:

Well, now, my man. From now on you will be known as Little John and...

ROBIN HOOD:

Ahoy, there, my merry men. It is I, Robin Hood, née Neddie Seagoon nearly as handsome Harry plus Harry Secombe now playing in pantomime (SINGING) Be my love! For no one else. Falling in love with love is falling! (CONTINUES TO SING OPERA THEN STOPS) Hooray! Well done. More! More! More! More! Here we are. More! More! Thank you. More!

THE SHERIFF:

Come along, Robin, there's no need to be so shy. Robin, this is our new recruit.

ROBIN HOOD:

Welcome to the band. I'll have you fitted for a suit of Lincoln Green. Call Nobby the tailor!

NOBBY:

[SELLERS] (JEWISH) Yes, er, what is it, dumpling?

ROBIN HOOD:

Measure this man.

NOBBY: Why, is he dead?

ROBIN HOOD:

For a suit!

NOBBY:

Oh, a suit? Oh, er, alright, then. Elkan, you got the tape?

THROAT:

Yes!

NOBBY:

Good. Right now then um - and the chalk, Elky, that's right, boy. Now, er, er, chest 17, including shoulders.

GREENSLADE:

That's right. Yes, alright, alright, yes.

NOBBY:

Waist... 56? 'Ere, you're a bit of a nosher, ain't you? Never mind

GREENSLADE:

Yes, I like good [UNCLEAR].

NOBBY:

It's nice... it's nice to see it on you. Right arm, 18. Left arm, 28.

GREENSLADE:

That's right, yes.

NOBBY:

Now then, er, inside leg...

GREENSLADE:

Oooooh!

NOBBY: Sorry! That's all, now. Half a nicker to you.

GREENSLADE:

I refuse to be seen wearing half a knicker!

ECCLES:

Oh, here, here, here, oh, here! Ooh, help! Robin Hood, help!

ROBIN HOOD:

'Tis Will Eccles, what's happened?

ECCLES:

The Sheriff of Nottingham, he threw me out of the coach - clung! But I learnt something else: his men have kidnapped Maid Marion!

ROBIN HOOD:

Oh, no! Maid Marion, she's the most beautiful girl in the world!

FRIAR BALSAM:

You must rescue her.

ROBIN HOOD:

Yes, I must rescue her. She's so beautiful!

FRIAR BALSAM:

It'll mean certain death for you.

ROBIN HOOD:

I don't know, she wasn't that pretty. I wonder where they're keeping her.

ECCLES:

Where they're keeping her? In the forest, of course. Oh, there's plenty of good hiding places there. My dad used to take me there.

ROBIN HOOD:

What for?

ECCLES: A good hiding - Ha ha!

FRIAR BALSAM:

You're all cowards, do you hear me? The fair Maid Marion must be rescued at all costs. Will Eccles, saddle me horse.

ROBIN HOOD:

Max Geldray? Strap on a perforated mackerel sheet. Zouuuunds!

MAX GELDRAY:

'OH, LADY BE GOOD'

ORCHESTRA:

DRAMATIC LINK

FX: CHAINS CLANKING

MAID MARION:

[CHARLOTTE MITCHELL] (POSH ACCENT THROUGHOUT) Oh, no! No! No!

THE SHERIFF:

Get in there, you naughty Maid Marion.

MAID MARION:

Sheriff of Nottingham, take your hands off me! If they're not off in the next three hours I'll write to the police.

THE SHERIFF:

Little Spitfire!

MAID MARION:

Oh, fie! Oh, fie! You see, my fiancé, Mr. R. Hood, will come and fisticuff you. He'll hit thee! Splat! Thun! Blat! Zowee! Socko! Blam! Thud! Biff! He learned all his boxing from comic strips. Have you ever seen a comic strip?

THE SHERIFF:

Only in a Turkish Bath.

MAID MARION:

I don't wish to knowest that.

THE SHERIFF:

In that case, goodbye-est!

FX:

HEAVY DOOR SHUTTING

MAID MARION:

Oh! Sobs of despair! Sobs! Locked in this dark dungeon with nothing but an old straw television set! This is the chamber of torture. Oh, woe! Oh, misery! Oh, fie! Oh, whatever shall I do... (FADES)

SMOOTHY ANNOUNCER:

[SELLERS] The part of Maid Marion is being played by Miss Charlotte Mitchell. And a ripe little ham she's proving. Pray, continue.

MAID MARION:

But I know my fiancé, Robin Hood, will rescue me, err long.

ROBIN HOOD:

Psssst!

MAID MARION:

What is that pssst I hear?

ROBIN HOOD:

Pssst!

MAID MARION:

How do you spell it?

ROBIN HOOD:

P... ss... tt...!

MAID MARION:

That's how my Robin spells his psssts! Is that you, Robin, come to rescue me?

ROBIN HOOD:

Yesssst.

MAID MARION:

Oh, where are you, my clever one?

ROBIN HOOD:

(THIN VOICE) Chained to the wall behind you. (NORMAL) The truth is I'm a prisoner. My arms are chained.

MAID MARION: Are your legs chained?

ROBIN HOOD: No.

MAID MARION: Then let's dance, Robin!

ORCHESTRA: LOUNGE DANCE MUSIC UNDER SPEECH

MAID MARION: Oh, you waltz divinely!

ROBIN HOOD: Do you come here often? Stop! (ORCHESTRA STOPS) Stop this mad soiree!

MAID MARION: But you're so handsome.

ROBIN HOOD:

I know, isn't it a bore? But we must escape! Wait! Wait, this stone I'm chained to. It's loose. I can feel the draught. (STRAINING) Hnnn! Hnnnnn! Hnnnnn! Ah! I've done it!

MAID MARION:

What?

ROBIN HOOD: Taken an aspirin, I don't want to catch cold.

MAID MARION:

Robin, try and pull the stone out, beloved!

ROBIN HOOD:

My arms are chained, but my teeth aren't! Place the chain twixt my teeth.

MAID MARION:

There 'tis, twixt. Now ... pull, Robin!

ROBIN HOOD:

(MUFFLED) Right, pulling away right now, dear. Hnnnn, it's coming, I think. It's coming, it's coming, hnnn.

MAID MARION:

That's it, Robin, beloved, pull! Let those strong white teeth pull us to freedom!

FX:

SET OF TEETH FALLING ON THE FLOOR

ROBIN HOOD: Well, don't stand there, pick 'em up!

MAID MARION:

Robin, you've pulled the stone out! Let's go through... to freedom! Follow me. Oh! 'Tis dark in here. Oh! Robin, please!

ROBIN HOOD:

It wasn't me.

MAID MARION:

Then who else?

ECCLES:

There's more than one prisoner in here.

ROBIN HOOD:

'Tis the noble Eccles! What are you doing here?

ECCLES:

Six months!

ROBIN HOOD: You captured, too?

FX: HEAVY DOOR OPENED

MAID MARION:

'Tis the sheriff!

THE SHERIFF:

Yes, I've come to take you, Maid Marion.

ROBIN HOOD:

Splat! Thun! Zowee! Blun! Thud! Biff! Club! Wallop! Splam! Blat! Sokko! (GASPS) There, let that be a lesson to you! Blat! Blat!

THE SHERIFF:

You silly twisted boy, you! Come Maid.

FRIAR BALSAM: (BLOWS OUT CANDLE)

THE SHERIFF: Who blew my candle out?

ECCLES:

Ho, ho!

FRIAR BALSAM: Don't move, sheriff, or this club will mash your nugglers!

ROBIN HOOD:

It's Friar Balsam! Let the sheriff have it.

OMNES: THUDS AND SCREAMS OF FIGHTING

MAID MARION: My fiancé Robin is in there!

FRIAR BALSAM: Club'n'yukka. Now, now, you swine, have ya had enough?

ECCLES: Yup, I've had enough.

FRIAR BALSAM: Eccles! Where's the sheriff?

ROBIN HOOD: I've got him by the throat, help me!

FRIAR BALSAM: No!

ROBIN HOOD: Why not?

FRIAR BALSAM: My throat!

FX:

HEAVY DOOR CLOSED SHUT

FRIAR BALSAM:

Flatter me nurtures with crods, he's got away with Maid Marion!

ECCLES:

Oooh!

FX: PHONE RINGS

SMOOTH HERN:

[SELLERS] I'll get it, Bebe. Hello? It's for you.

ROBIN HOOD:

Hello? Hello? Robin Hood here.

ERNIE CASH:

[SELLERS]

(JEWISH, ON OTHER END) Hello, er, Robin. Hello, it's er, listen, listen, listen, it's er, Ernie Cash, here. Now, listen, listen, Robin. The sheriff's been on the blower to me from the Windsor Bearwood and he says um, he says unless you pay him £2000 ransom he's going to kill ya!

ROBIN HOOD:

£2000? What shall I do?

ERNIE CASH:

Offer him 1,750 and take a chance on it.

ROBIN HOOD:

I haven't got a penny on me!

ERNIE CASH:

Don't worry, don't worry, schmooliker. I sent a geezer... I sent a geezer on his way with the geldt to get you out of schtuck.

ROBIN HOOD:

Thank you, thank you, you've saved my life.

ERNIE CASH:

Well, we all make mistakes. Good-bye.

ROBIN HOOD:

All's well. I don't know, Ellington. Tell us why you're in prison as well.

RAY ELLINGTON QUARTET:

'FRAMED'

GREENSLADE:

(SINGING VERY BADLY) Oh, what a night! Oh, what a night it was! It really was! I believe for every drop of rain that falls, someone gets wet. (STOPS SINGING) Yes, Greensladers. It's your own Wallace Greenslade singing to you again. And don't forget - you too can have a signed photograph of Wallace Greenslade for only 3 guineas. So, fan clubs, keep those cheques rolling in, old Wallace will find a use for them! So, 'til next time, this is Mr. Rhythm Greenslade saying chigidi-boo-boo rock-holy-coo-coo obi-doobi-doo chiggidy-snitch. TWO! FOUR! SIX! EIGHT! WHO DO WE APPRECIATE!? GREEN - SLADE!

GRAMS:

CHEERS AND WHISTLES

GREENSLADE:

Stop! (GRAMS STOPS) Hrm. Thank you. And now, to the rest of the B-feature - The Bandit of Sherwood Forest. Maid Marion played by Miss Charlotte Mitchell. Part 3, the sheriff's banquet.

GRAMS:

SOUNDS OF BANQUET

MAID MARION:

Oh, woe! Fie! Prithee! Oh, zounds! Hither, thither! Help! I am undone! Forsooth! Agony! Whither art thou, Robin? Oh, Robin, where art thou...? (FADE)

THE SHERIFF:

The part of Maid Marion is still being played by Miss Mitchell. Fair damsel, pray do not sulk. Eat?

MAID MARION:

No, I'm not hungry.

THE SHERIFF:

Not surprising after that dirty great kipper you wolfed. Now then, my dear, what I...

MAID MARION:

Oh, hot rodkin, sir! Leave me alone! I love Robin!

THE SHERIFF:

You hot little bundle, you! Let me hold you.

FX: VIOLIN STRING SNAPS

THE SHERIFF: My, you are highly strung! But attractive.

MAID MARION: Oh, zoons!

THE SHERIFF: You mean zounds.

MAID MARION: No, it only zounds like zoons.

THE SHERIFF: Oh, ye good joke, yes. What do you say, Baron Fred?

BARON FRED: [SECOMBE] (DRUNKENLY SLURS A TUNE...)

THE SHERIFF: He doesn't seem to care.

MAID MARION: Ooh! There's someone crawling under the table. What are you doing under there, sir?

WINSTON CHURCHILL: [SELLERS]

I'm looking for a telegram.

SEAGOON: Pardon me, zire, but there is a prisoner outzide.

Is he bound? SEAGOON:

Of his health? I know not, sir.

THE SHERIFF: Well, send him in.

THE SHERIFF:

ELLINGTON:

Well, come on! Come on, this way, you! In you get! Now, get on your knees there, son!

BLUEBOTTLE:

Stop it, you! You hurted little me. Enter Bluebottle in doublet made from Mum's old drawers. Ye sausages! Tee-hee! Sausages [UNCLEAR].

MORIARTY:

Silence! Listen you! I speak for the Sheriff of Nottingham. Who are you?

BLUEBOTTLE:

I'm a member of Robin Hood's gang.

MORIARTY:

Sapristi!

BLUEBOTTLE:

I ran away to join him because I was a serf.

MORIARTY:

Tell me, little serf, why have you got a saddle strapped to your back?

BLUEBOTTLE:

That's for serf riding! Tee-hee-hee! I made a little jokules! Tee-hee!

ELLINGTON:

Silence, you!

BLUEBOTTLE:

If I had my arms free I'd give you a black eye.

ELLINGTON:

What's the matter, son? You colour blind?

BLUEBOTTLE:

Nic nic, stop hitting me, nic nic... I don't like this game. Where's my friend Eccules? Let's play another game. Let's play Rita Hayworth and husbands.

MORIARTY:

Sapristi bombit nyackos! Now, listen! Tell us, what is your position here?

BLUEBOTTLE:

Can't you see I'm kneeling down?

MORIARTY:

Speak the truth!

BLUEBOTTLE:

I have broughted the ransom money to free my master, Robin Shwinginge.

MORIARTY:

I understand perfectly, but where is the money, little string-bonce-yeomans?

BLUEBOTTLE:

First, you must free Robin.

MORIARTY: Tie him to a stake!

BLUEBOTTLE: No! Do not tie me to a stake!

MORIARTY: Why not?

BLUEBOTTLE: I'm a vegetarian. Hee, yehee...

MORIARTY: Thud, plun, clunk. Alright...

BLUEBOTTLE: Stop nutting me...

MORIARTY: Stop it man, listen to me, drink this!

BLUEBOTTLE: No, I must not drinkie the alcoholic drinkies! I'm a minor!

MORIARTY: I don't care if you're a navvy, drink!

BLUEBOTTLE:

Well, as you ask-ed me so nicely, and also it is because you're holding a dirty big chopper over my little nut, I'll have to drink it, won't I? Thinks: this must be the dreaded deading of Bluebottle part. Eeh-hee! Good luck to you. Picks up cardboard goblet and drinks. (GULPS)

GRAMS:

WHOOSH, SIREN, WHOOSH, BOING, WHOOSH, BIG BEN STRIKES, CAT SHRIEKS, WHOOSH

BLUEBOTTLE:

Tee-hee! That was jolly nice that was! I thought that was going to dead me, but I was wrong...

GRAMS:

BIG EXPLOSION

BLUEBOTTLE:

You rotten Norman swines you! There was dynamite in my drinkies! Look, my knees have dropped! Exits left with low knees, high groins and shattered boots.

ROBIN HOOD:

Hold on! Stop! Hark ye, I am here!

MAID MARION:

It's my fiancée, Robin!

ROBIN HOOD:

Belt-up, you! 'Tis I, Robin! Freed by Wallace the Greenslade. Come men, attack the sheriff!

OMNES:

BLANG! BONG! BIFF! THUD! BLUT! ZOWEE! BLUNGE!

MAID MARION:

My fiancé's in there somewhere.

ROBIN HOOD:

That's what you think.

MAID MARION:

Robin! What are you doing under the table?

WINSTON CHURCHILL:

He's helping me look for that blasted telegram!

OMNES:

BLAT! THUD! WHACK!

FRIAR BALSAM:

Club! Whack! Oh, Robin, we can't keep this up much longer. Will they never arrive?

ROBIN HOOD:

Who?

FRIAR BALSAM: Those blasted sound-effects men. Blunge! Thoglog!

ROBIN HOOD: Let me help. Blat!

MAID MARION: My fiancé did that!

ROBIN HOOD: Thud!

MAID MARION: My fiancé did that!

MORIARTY: Blam-bonk!

MAID MARION: My fiancé copped that!

ROBIN HOOD: Blat. My fiancé copped that!

THE SHERIFF: Stop, Robin Hood. Robin...

ROBIN HOOD:

You're giving in?

THE SHERIFF:

...call your men off, you win, you win, you win. Your thuds, blats and wallops were far louder than ours. Maid Marion is all yours.

ROBIN HOOD:

Friar Crun?

FRIAR CRUN: Ah, coming, coming.

ROBIN HOOD:

A wedding! Let two be joined as one.

FRIAR CRUN: Stand there, both. Now, do you take this - um - what is it?

MAID MARION:

Man.

FRIAR CRUN: Ah, man, yes. Take this man to be your husband?

MAID MARION:

Yea.

FRIAR CRUN: Yes. And, um, do sir you take this woman to be your wife?

GREENSLADE: Yes I do.

FRIAR CRUN: Pronounced man and wife! 5 shillings.

ROBIN HOOD: Stop! You've married her to the wrong man!

GREENSLADE: Oh, yea? TWO! FOUR! SIX! EIGHT-EST! WHO DO GIRLS APPRECIATEST?

MAID MARION: GREENSLADE!

GRAMS: CHEERS AND WHISTLES

ORCHESTRA: END THEME

OMNES:

BLAT, THUD, WHACK, ETC. UNDER....

GREENSLADE:

That was the Goon Show, a recorded programme featuring Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan and Charlotte Mitchell with the Ray Ellington Quartet and Max Geldray. The orchestra as conducted by Wally Stott, script by Spike Milligan and Eric Sykes, announcer Wallace Greenslade, the programme produced by Peter Eton.

ORCHESTRA:

'CRAZY RHYTHM' OUTRO

Notes:

In the week before the episode was recorded, UK football team Wolves beat Hungarian team Honved 3-2 after fighting back from 0-2 down. The match made front page headlines.

Prime Minister Churchill embarrassed himself by claiming during a speech that he sent a telegram in 1945 ordering Field Marshal Montgomery to stack the surrendered German arms in case they had to be handed back to the Nazis to stop a Russian advance. The statement caused some controversy. No records were found to support the claim and on the 1st December 1954 Churchill had to admit to the House of Commons that perhaps he did not send a telegram after all.

Rita Hayworth was up to her fourth marriage in 1954. She eventually had five.

"Windsor Bearwood" is a reference to the Windsor Theatre, Bearwood.

"Bebe" is probably a parody of Ben Lyon, who had a popular radio programme 'Life with the Lyons' with his wife Bebe Daniels in the 1950s.