

ON BOARD A WHERRY

1 His verse

I'll sing you now a wherryman's song

On board a wherry

I'll tell you how we get along.

On board a wherry

We need the tide and the wind to blow
and one more thing to make us go,
that's a tea-pot boiling down below.

On board a Norfolk wherry.

2 Her verse

I've always lived on board a boat;

On board a wherry

I've brought me children up afloat.

On board a wherry

And when that's coming on to blow
we send the children down below,
but the tea-pot's always on the go.

On board a Norfolk wherry.

3 His verse

Just keep your eye on the wind and sky;

On board a wherry

there's always some-one passing by.

On board a wherry

We don't get time to say a lot,
just "Where are you bound?" and
"What've you got?"

and then tha's time for another pot.

On board a Norfolk wherry.

4 Their verse

To shoot a bridge is quite a trick;

On board a wherry

the sail and mast they come down quick.

On board a wherry

Tha's easy if you've got the tide,
then through the bridge you quickly glide
and have a brew on the other side

On board a Norfolk wherry.

WE'RE SAILING, SAILING!

Alan

All

- 1 The mast goes up The mast goes up
The sail goes up The sail goes up
The wind will blow The wind will blow
All: We're sailing, sailing!
- 2 Our Dad will steer Our Dad will steer
Our Mum makes tea Our Mum makes tea
And we all help And we all help
We're brewing, brewing!
- 3 The river flows The river flows
The river bends The river bends
We work her round We work her round
We're steering, steering!
- 4 A bridge appears A bridge appears
The sail comes down The sail comes down
The mast does too The mast does too
We're shooting, shooting!
- 5 The bridge is past The bridge is past
The mast goes up The mast goes up
The sail does too The sail does too
We're sailing, sailing!
- 6 The cargo's in The cargo's in
The cargo's out The cargo's out
We fetch another We fetch another
We're working, working!
- 7 The sun will shine The sun will shine
The rain will fall The rain will fall
The frost will come The frost will come
We're freezing, freezing!
- 8 We reach the staithe We reach the staithe
The sail comes down The sail comes down
We moor for the night We moor for the night
We're mooring, mooring!
- 9 The sun goes down The sun goes down
The day is done The day is done
We eat and sleep We eat and sleep
We're sleeping, sleeping.
Sleeping. Sleeping. Sleeping.

THE UPTON WHERRYMAN

- 1 Oh me name is John Helsdon,
a wherryman I;
at Upton, near Acle, I dwell.
I'm a dealer in coal
and a carrier too,
and a husband and father as well.
I've three growing children
and though we are poor we're content.
Like me father before me
I know every broad;
all me life on the river I've spent.

*Chorus I've sailed the North River,
the Ant and the Thurne,
I've known them both wild and still,
but the best sight of all's
when we make the last turn,
and there's old Davy's mill.*

- 2 I've been thirty years sailing
and fifteen years wed
to a Gorleston girl, Anna-Marie.
Young Lorina's just like her;
a hard-working girl;
but George was drowned at just three.
Young Woodbine and John,
when they sail with me, make a good crew,
so I hope they'll take over
when I get too old,
and they'll be wherryman too.
- 3 Oh we sail up to Aylsham
and to East Ruston too
and every staithe on the way
where we unload our coal
and then set off again;
we try to get back the same day.
But sometimes we run up to Norwich
or through Oulton Broad,
then we moor at the pub
for a pint and a chat,
then go back and sleep on board.
- 4 Now to Yarmouth we go
once or twice every week;
in the harbour we moor alongside.
Then it's off with the hatches
and in with the coal
and back if we can with the tide.
But once the old gal proudly
pushed her nose out past the pier
to a collier at anchor
in a sea like a pond,
as smooth as Horsey Mere.

THE DAY WE WENT ON ALBION

- 1 At Ludham Staithe we saw her,
history afloat
and at the shed we boarded her,
a Norfolk working boat.
With no engine and no luxuries;
for over a hundred year
the *Albion* has sailed the Broads
and will never disappear.
*The day we went on Albion
we never shall forget.*
- 2 We made some knots and sometimes
we even got them right!
We made some rope from bits of string
and twisted it so tight.
The big black sail goes high above
the trees, where strong winds blow,
but comes down in an instant
when under the bridge you go.
*The day we went on Albion
we never shall forget.*
- 3 Among the cargos that they took
from place to place, you'd find
coal and carrots, pigs and porter
worstead, wheat and wine.
Barrels of beer, rope and reed,
sugar beet and bricks;
thirty tons of sand one day,
cement or ice the next.
*The day we went on Albion
we never shall forget.*
- 4 We squeezed into the Cuddy
and we nearly banged our heads;
we saw the stove for cooking
as we sat along the beds.
Lots of lockers everywhere
for storing food and tea,
but not a sink or table
nor an armchair or TV!
*The day we went on Albion
we never shall forget.*
- 5 We tried to lift a heavy weight
but it was hard we found;
but the pulleys made it easy
to lift it off the ground.
Then sandwiches and singing,
and to the bus we went;
we never shall forget the day
on *Albion* we spent!
The day we went on Albion