

Shanty and Sea Song background guide

Heard in the 1970s when we were on the island from the likes of Joe Stead, Johnny Collins, Brian, Stan Hugill, Mike, Jim Mageean, Jim Jewell, Bob Roberts, Rob, Stan Rogers, Cyril Tawney and so many more. These are just rough quick notes more information can be found elsewhere.

A life on the Ocean Wave *Music Hall*

A long time ago *Halyard*

Halyard shanty used on English and American ships. One of the most used halyard shanties of all time. Can be lively or slow and melancholy. Could be used for capstan. It has over 80 possible verses. It tells the story of Noah's Ark with some great fun verses.

Admiral Benbow *Shore*

It tells the true story of brave Benbow fighting the French. Sadly he gets killed.

Alabama John Cherokee *Halyard/Capstan*

Common amongst the West Indian Traders. A hauling song, also capstan. Probably introduced to seamen from the cotton workers of Mobile. It is about plantation workers who were taken on board ships in the winter months to travel to the cold north. Many died.

All for me Grog *Forebitter*

Grog was originally a 4:1 mix of water and rum. Stopped seamen getting drunk. The officers did not have their rum diluted! Sung on sailing ships across the Atlantic.

All the Nice girls Love a Sailor *Music Hall*

There were often Music Halls located near the ports.

Aroving *Capstan/Pump*

It is an old song. 'It has coarse and indelicate words wedded to a haunting rhythm'. The tune to it is Elizabethan - there are Dutch, Flemish and French versions of the song.

Baidimi Fheildimi *Rowing*

Baidimi Fheildimi is an Irish rowing song. It is a traditional Irish song which originates in the Gaeltacht region in the north-west of County Donegal. The song tells the story of Fheildimi's little boat. He takes the boat across to the mainland to have a drink in the bar. On the way back he crashes the little boat. There is a moral in this song!

Banks of the Sacramento *Capstan*

Sung at the time of the gold rush in 1849 when prospectors had to make the dangerous journey around Cape Horn. It was a capstan used particularly for raising the mud hook.

Barnacle Bill *Shore*

Very rude song, but fun!. It was originally a traditional folk song called Abraham Brown and later called Bollocky Bill and then finally renamed in the 1920s as Barnacle Bill.

Barrett's Privateers *Modern*

Written by Stan Rogers and recorded in 1976 it is now popular around the world. Inspired by a story told to him.

Bell Bottom Trousers *Music Hall*

This song may have originated in the Royal Navy. The story of a maid who was a good girl until she meets a sailor. The song is a warning to girls living in port towns.

Big Ship Sails *Shore*

It was sung as a skipping song sung in Belfast and in Liverpool and does actually relate to the sinking of a particular ship.

Billy Boy *Capstan/Windlass*

The song is now associated with the north-east of England but strangely enough one of the verses refers to Irish stew and Cornish pasties! It is known that it was sung all over. Sometimes the song was sung in a minor key.

Black Ball Line *Halyard*

The famous Liverpool-New York packets came out in 1816.

For the first ten years the passages of the fleet averaged 40 days outward and 23 days to the eastward. The Black Ball ships carried a large painted black ball in their fore top-sails. The ships were driven across the Atlantic by the captains, as fast as possible, through the fogs and ice of summer and the snow, sleet, and gales of winter.

Blood Red Roses *Halyard*

A real Cape Horner shanty that was popular on ships from Liverpool. It was possibly to do with the terrible blisters that sailors had on their hands. It was used in the film Moby Dick in the famous scene when the ship set sail.

Blow Boys Blow *Halyard/Long Haul***Blow Lisa Blow *Hauling***

Hauling shanty from the Bahamas. The original was recorded in 1935 when it was still being used.

Blow the man down *Halyard*

There are six major versions! The main one is based on the song Ratcliffe Highway. A pretty girl gives a sailor a good time, then she shows him a lovely ship about to sail and suggests that he goes on board. He falls asleep and wakes up out at sea where he is harshly treated. There is a moral to this - beware of pretty girls!

Boney was a Warrior *Halyard*

Based on the life and times of Napoleon Bonaparte. There are no dirty versions of this song!

Bonny Ship the Diamond *Shore/Forebitter*

In 1830 The Diamond, Eliza Swan and The Resolution along with seventeen other whaling ships and were caught in the ice of Melville Bay. Some ships were lost and many sailors lost their lives. The Eliza Swan was among those that got free and brought the sad news home.

Boston Harbour *Pump?*

It was thought that this was a pump shanty. It was popular with American singers who sometimes call it the Big Bow Wow.

Bottle O *Pump***Bully in the Alley *Halyard/Pump***

Shin Bone Alley is where they made the bully beef which was fed to sailors on board ship. Bob goes there and meets up with Sally. It is a story about him courting Sally. He dreams of marrying her and living in Shin Bone Alley.

Bye Bye my Roseanna *Hauling*

Sung as ships were leaving port. Very haunting refrain.

Candlelight Fisherman *Shore/Forebitter on barges*

The fisherman puts a candle out of the window, if the flame blows out there's too much wind for fishing; if it doesn't go out then there isn't enough breeze. In either case go back to bed!

Captain Nipper *Shore/Forebitter*

Sung by sailors during their leisure time. It was produced by a sailor to confuse landlubbers having, for instance, a compass direction "east nor west by south". The title is a contradiction as the nipper was the smallest boy aboard.

Cheerily Man *Capstan/Halyard/Hauling*

The word 'cheerily' means quickly. It was used at the capstan and for halyards (hoisting the topsail). Shakespeare used the term in his play *The Tempest*. One of the oldest of the heaving/hauling songs. On board passenger ships obscene shanties were not allowed. There was a French version but sadly only the title remains – O Celimène.

Chicken on a Raft *Mod*

A mock shanty. A chicken on a raft is poached/fried egg on toast that sailors had for breakfast in the Navy. Written by the late great Cyril Tawney. 'Dabtoes' are seamen and 'dustmen' are engine room ratings. 'Comic Cuts' were orders but originally was the name of a children's comic.

Chinese Bumboatman *Music Hall*

Clear the Track *Capstan*

Capstan shanty based around an Irish Folk song 'Shule Agra'. Bulgine was probably slang for a steam engine called a donkey boiler on the ship's deck. A classic song about the journeys across the Atlantic.

Dance to Your Daddy *Shore*

It came popular in more recent times entitled 'When the boat comes in'.

Deep Blue Sea

This song has connections with the shanty *General Taylor*, which is a halyard shanty.

Donkey Riding *Halyard/Hauling/Capstan*

Sung on timber ships that went from Liverpool to Canada. The wood was loaded through a hole, the bow port, which was in the side of the ship.

Doodle let me go *Capstan*

Many lines sadly impossible to put into print! A homeward bounder song. Callao is an old port city of mid-coast Peru, not far from Lima. Madam Gashay's is a house of ill repute.

Down the Solent *Shore*

A humorous version of the *Rio Grande* about the Isle of Wight.

Drink Old England Dry *Shore*

Drunken Sailor *Halyard/Hauling/Stamp & Go*

It is a typical example of a 'stamp n go' walkaway or runaway shanty. It was popular on ships with big crews when at the halyards. Used to send aloft sails. Way hey was no more than a savage yell. Sung on the Indiamen ship line of the John Company.

Ebenezer *Pump*

A humorous shanty sung for the pumps. A product of the Irish packet seamen. The Ebenezer was a terrible ship, with a drunken captain, cruel first mate and second greaser. They did unspeakable things and the ship was falling apart. A greaser looked after the winches and the engines.

Erie Canal *Shore*

The Erie Canal is a waterway in New York that runs about 363 miles (584 km) completing a navigable water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. First used in 1825. One of the most important works of civil engineering and construction in North America. The song was written in 1905 after the change from mule to engine power.

Essequibo River *Halyard*

A halyard and work shanty from Guyana. It sings the praises of this river. I do believe someone amongst us has been there!!

Faithful Sailor Boy *Shore*

One of the many shore songs about their loved ones going to sea, and in this case never returning.

Farewell Shanty *Shore*

Found handwritten inside an old book in Padstow, Cornwall. Many other verses have been found for this song.

Farewell to Nova Scotia *Shore*

Inspired by a Canadian folk song of 1808 and rewritten prior to 1914. Collected by Mary Crieghton from Nova Scotia (New Scotland). Not all the sea songs are jolly. This is a sad song. A young man is leaving Nova Scotia to go to war. He leaves his family and friends behind, knowing that his 3 brothers that have gone before him have already died.

Feeny Brown *Hauling*

A song from Bermuda used for hauling produce on board ship. Feeny Brown was a very attractive girl.

Fiddlers Green *Mod*

Fiddler's Green is a legendary imagined afterlife, where there is perpetual mirth, a fiddle that never stops playing, and dancers who never tire. This song was written by John Conolly and first recorded in 1968. The term originally appears in 1856 in a sailor's song. It has already gone into the tradition!

Final Trawl *Mod*

Written by Archie Fisher about the fishing industry. A cran is a measure of capacity for fresh herrings as caught; fixed by the Fisheries Board at 37 gallons (about 750 fish)

Fish of the Sea *Shore/Forebitter sung on barges*

Tells us about all the fish that you can catch in the sea.

Floating Bridge *Shore*

Humorous song about a ship that runs on chains from one side of a channel to the other and it just goes backwards and forwards - never goes out to sea - but they still have a captain!

General Taylor *Halyard/Capstan*

A halyard shanty that is part of the Stormalong family of shanties. Mobile Bay was a shanty centre (shanties were passed from one boat to another) and is an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico. It was the centre for cotton export. In this song they mention the term 'shellback'. A shellback is someone who has sailed across the equator. Newcomers are called 'Pollywogs' and have to eat strange food and be doused in salty water before they come a shellback. This started on French ships in the 16th century.

Go to sea once more *Forebitter*

Related to 'Go to sea no more' with its alternative title of Shanghai Brown. The sailor lands in Liverpool, gets drunk, tries it with naughty Angeline - but he is too drunk to do it. He then has his money and watch stolen. He

starts looking for a ship again and eventually gets on board a terrible whaling ship. The song warns sailors not to get drunk but to get married instead.

Goodbye fare the well *Capstan*

This was sung at the windlass or capstan for raising the anchor. It could be an outward bounder or a homeward bounder. There are many versions, Norwegian and French ('As-tu Connu Le Père Lancelot?' and 'Et Nous Irons a Valparaiso').

Goodbye My Lover Goodbye *Hauling*

The story of a farmer's boy who goes to sea. He has no understanding of ships at all. He turns up in his best attire and later he curses the day that he left home.

Goodnight ladies *Capstan*

Hanging Johnny *Halyard*

About the 18th century hangman Jack Ketch, Hanging Jack. The rhythm lends itself to be best of all t'gallant halyard shanties. Often used for 'swigging' a complex manoeuvre that simulated hanging. The singout (shout) before the song could be:

Hang me bullies, heavy arses; Hang ye sons o' whores, hang; or Hang heavy!

Haul Awa *Rowing*

A rowing shanty sometimes called 'Love is Kind'.

Haul Away Joe *Halyard/Hauling*

A famous tack and sheet shanty. Pull or haul were often sung instead of Joe. On this word the vigorous 'drag' came. This final note could be grunted like an upward groan 'Joe-ugh!'

Haul on the Bowline *Halyard*

Always a favourite and possibly the most ancient of shanties. Possibly medieval, pre 15th century. Used later for tacks and sheeting.

Health to the Company *Shore*

High Barbaree *Capstan*

High Barbaree is North African coast. For hundreds of years the corsairs (Barbary pirates) had captured ships and slaves. One of their most famous exploits was that they stole a whole village from the West Coast of Ireland and took them back to Algiers as slaves.

Hob Y Derri Dando *Capstan*

Welsh shanty often sung mixing English verses and the Welsh chorus. Great favourite with Welsh seamen. It was famously sung when the anchor was hove up in Bombay harbour.

Hog Eye Man *Halyard/Pump*

It was said to be obscene and even worse! There is some hidden meaning but nobody seems to know what it is!! It was actually a barge used on rivers, coastal waters and canals at the time of the Gold Rush in America around San Francisco. It is said that the front of a boat depicted a part of a lady's anatomy! The Hog Eye men who worked these barges were notorious in the area.

Holy Ground *Capstan*

This version was originally, it is thought, sung aboard Irish ships at the capstan, also amongst dockworkers. It was also a Welsh capstan song 'Old Swansea Town Once More'. Popular on Welsh ships out of the Bristol Channel. There are also Scottish and Irish versions. The Holy Ground was a poor quarter of Cobh and is sometimes called the Cobh Sea Shanty.

Home Boys Home *Capstan/Shore/Forebitter*

If I was a blackbird *Shore*

I'm bound Away *Capstan*

An anchor song dating back to the 1850s when it was a favourite on ships outward bound from the London River. It could have been originally sung aboard emigrant ships bound for the New World and Australia.

Ja Ja Ja *Pump*

A humorous shanty pretending to be a Dutch shanty sung in a pseudo Dutch accent. The original song was much worse than this one!

John Kanaka *Halyard*

The chorus is Polynesian in origin. Sang with plenty of yelps and hitches. The Kanaka were Hawaiian crews of ships loading hides on the Californian coast. They were extremely strong men.

Johnny Come down to Hilo *Capstan*

Takes bits and pieces from many other songs. Hilo indicates some sort of dance or party.

Johnny Todd *Shore/Forebitter*

The tune was much later taken and used as the theme tune for Z Cars, a TV programme.

Johnson Girls *Capstan/Pump*

A song for ships going down the East Coast of America towards the Caribbean ie Jamaica.

Jolly Roving Tar *Shore*

Keel Row *Shore*

This is about the keel men of Newcastle upon Tyne who loaded boats with coal.

Larry Marr *Capstan/Pump*

Sometimes called The Five Gallon Jar. They used to put drugs into the jar and then shanghai the unsuspecting recipients into the sailing ships.

Leave her Johnny *Capstan/Pump*

Sung warping the vessel into dock (hauling on a line attached to a fixed point or to a kedge anchor) and at the pumps. It was a chance to air grievances just prior to the completion of the voyage.

Leaving of Liverpool *Shore*

The Prince's Landing Stage is where emigrants left Liverpool to go to America. It was noted down in New York in 1880. The tune has inspired many other songs.

Little Sally Racket *Halyard*

It comes from the West Indies and is a splendid hauling song. The shanty names all sorts of women in the song - it was about women who enjoyed having fun!

Liverpool Judies *Capstan*

A favourite capstan song on Liverpool ships. Popular on Western Ocean packets. After a tough voyage this sailor is given some free drinks but he decides eventually not to have another. He is, however, drugged and wakes up on a ship bound for Cape Horn and to make matters worse, he has a dose of the pox. He tells every sailor to keep his hat on.

Lord Franklin *Shore*

Franklin was one of the most dogged and heroic of all the mariners who set out to discover the fabled northwest passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans (1845). It is now thought they died from the effects of lead poisoning. Sir John Franklin died on June 11, 1847. The entire expedition crew of 128 men, were lost. It is thought his widow may have written the song.

Lowlands *Capstan/Pump*

A later version became sentimental, but the original has the usual seamen's verses.

Maggie May *Shore/Capstan*

A famous Liverpool 'judy' (lady of the night!) was called Maggie May. No one actually knows when she lived! Sung at the capstan on many Liverpool ships. Usual story of a girl stealing his money after a night of fun but he finds the woman and has her sent to Botany Bay!

(The) Mermaid *Pump/Shore*

The town can be Plymouth, Portsmouth etc. Now sung as a shore song. A ship sets sail and they spy a mermaid. Mermaids were considered bad luck. The last official one was spotted off Ireland in 1910. A storm blows up and they realise they are going to sink. These are the last words of the crew.

Mingulay Boat Song *Shore*

Supposed to have been sung by Scottish fishermen as they returned from the Atlantic towards the Isle of Mingulay, in the Outer Hebrides. The Isle of Mingulay was abandoned in 1912. However the words were written in 1938! The original tune was a pipe tune, "Creag Ghuanach".

Mister Stormalong *Capstan/Pump*

Stormalong was said to be a sailor and a giant over 9 m tall. He was the master of a huge clipper ship supposedly so tall that it had hinged masts to avoid catching on the moon!

My Son John *Shore/Forebitter*

New York Girls *Halyard/Winch*

Also called 'Can't you dance the polka' or 'Away Susanna'.

Originally to do with the famous red light districts in New York - Chatham Street and Bleeker Street. It can have over 30 verses. It dates from 1830 when the polka came over from Bohemia. It is about a sailor being conned out of his money by a woman who had no intention of being with him.

North West Passage *Mod*

Written by Stan Rogers and is now very popular in the sea song world.

Old Maui *Forebitter*

It is about the anticipation of a whaling crew returning to Maui from whaling in the Kamchatka Sea. Related to the song Rolling Down to Old Mohee 1858. The island of Maui is the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands.

Old Moke Pickin on a Banjo *Capstan*

It is a typical Irish/Negro combination. They often came from Paddy working on the railways and then these songs eventually arrived at sea.

On Board the Kangaroo *Capstan/Pump*

A sailor goes to sea on the ship called The Kangaroo. His sweetheart gave him a token to remember her by. On his return home, he found that she had run off with another man. He vows to go to a foreign shore to find a foreign girl.

One more day *Capstan/Pump/Halyard*

A shanty that was sung just prior to the ship arriving at the “paying off port”. Used on board for different jobs; Capstan, pumps, halyards. Sometimes Charlie replaced Johnny.

Our Good Ship Lies in the Harbour *Shore*

Paddy Doyle’s Boots *Bunt*

Used for one purpose - to get the wet sail rolled up on the yard. When singing this chant the haul usually comes on the word Boots!

Paddy Lay Back *Capstan*

Popular capstan shanty. Old song dates back to the time of the Mobile cotton hoosiers (the men who moved cotton from the docks into the holds of ships, forcing the bales in tightly by means of jackscrews.) Limey barques were British ships because they gave the sailors limes to stop the scurvy instead of lemons. They reintroduced lemons when they found that the limes were not as good as the lemons.

Parting Glass *Shore*

Pay Me Money Down *Hauling*

It was thought that this song originated from the East Coast of America and the West Indies. It is a shore hauling song but was taken to sea as a pump and halyard song as well. This song has later been given a bit of a calypso feel to it.

Pleasant and Delightful *Shore*

Poor Old Horse *Halyard*

At the end of the first month a sea canvas horse filled with shavings was dragged along the deck and hoisted up to the main yard arm. A flare was fired and the horse was allowed to drop into the drink (sea). It was to celebrate the crew earning their pay since the first month was usually already used up when they signed on. It went to boarding house keepers and others. It is a very specific song and tells the story of them paying off this advance.

Pump Shanty *Mod*

Quare Bungle Rye *Shore/Forebitter*

This is a variant of the ‘Oyster Girl’ collected 1820. It is found in Scotland, England, Ireland and North America. Tells the tale of a sailor buying what he thinks is whisky but in fact is a baby!

Randy Dandy O *Capstan/Pump*

It tells of raising the anchor and warping out through the docks. Warping was pulling the boat from various fixed points in the harbour.

Ranzo Rae *Halyard*

It has some wonderful lyrics. The shantyman must have had a vivid imagination. They load grand pianos, rusty razors, German lager, green canaries and stinking guano - all in one song!

Reuben Ranzo *Halyard*

Halyard shanty. A man just had to pull when Ranzo was roared out! Who was Reuben Ranzo is very hard to say but there are many theories. Portuguese, an abbreviation of Lorenzo; famous Danish hero Daniel Rantzau; Russian or Polish Ronzoff; Reub meaning yokel, greenhorn in American. Some sang Rovin Ranzo. Who knows!

Rio Grande *Capstan*

Rio Grande makes you think of Mexico but the river they are singing about is in Brazil, the Rio Grande do Sul. Golden Sands refer to the high sand dunes at the side of the Brazilian river. It was used at the capstan or windlass and was an outward bound song. Heard on ships leaving the west coast of England. There are a huge number of versions.

Robbers' Retreat *Shore*

This was found in The Navy Book and was later called the Cadgwith Anthem. It sounds as if it is about robbers in the West Country but then mentions Kashmir which is in India. So who knows!

Roll Alabama Roll *Halyard*

It tells the story of the Confederate ship 'Alabama' and its fight with the U.S. sloop 'Kearsarge'. It took place on Sunday 19 June 1864. There is some licence in the song where the date was changed to '65 to make it rhyme.

Roll the Old Chariot *Stamp & Go/Capstan*

Used for halyards, capstan – stamp and go, working cargo, anchor work.
Plenty of extra verses; fresh sea-pie, new plum duff, a glass of whisky hot etc.

Roll the Woodpile Down *Capstan*

It was sung amongst sailing ships at the capstan, right up to the 1920's! It is about Florida, drinking and the pretty girls dancing to the banjo but was originally a song for those who rolled logs down the river. The song was later taken to sea.

Roller Bowler *Capstan*

A work song from Trinidad, but was also sung as a shanty aboard the West Indian Sugar and Rum Traders' ships

Rolling Home to Old New England *Capstan*

It undoubtedly was a shanty (Capstan Shanty) and was sung on English, American and German ships. (There is also an Australian version).

Rolling Up Rolling Down *Mod*

Rosabella *Capstan/Halyard*

Round the bay of Mexico *Capstan/Pump*

A pump shanty that is a variant of "Santianna". Started life as a cotton hoosiers song in the Gulf ports.

Running Down to Cuba *Halyard*

This was done by sailors who were annoyed at doing ship runs with either nothing on board or something that wasn't needed. The first line is a joke directed at the captain and owners of the ship.

Sail Away Ladies *Appalachian Folk Song*

Sailboat Malarkey *Capstan*

From the West Indies. The name is actually 'Malachi' or 'Molokai' or.. It is a humorous song which keeps on asking what name of the ship is! A good one for audience participation.

Sailing *Mod*

Written by Gavin Sutherland, recorded by the Sutherland Brothers, a folk duo from Scotland, in 1972. Their biggest hit was 'Arms of Mary'. Rod Stewart recorded 'Sailing' in 1975. It is now included in many German shanty group repertoires.

Sailing Over the Dogger Bank *Shore/Forebitter*

Song dating back to before 1890. It has humorous lyrics in it.

Sally Brown *Halyard/Capstan*

West Indian halyard Shanty 1830. Sally Brown probably a symbol of shore delights! A heroine of shantydom.

Sam's Gone Away *Halyard/Capstan*

It is a traditional song sung by Barouallie whalers (for the short finned pilot whale) from St Vincent on the Windward Islands. The Windward Islands are so called because they were more windward to sailing ships arriving in the New World than the Leeward Islands, given that the prevailing trade winds in the West Indies blow east to west.

Santy Anno *Capstan/Pump*

It has a similar refrain to many other shanties. Started as a pump shanty and adapted for capstans. Popular on whalers and gives an unhistorical account of Santiana. The French language version was inspired by this version's tune. The French lyrics were composed by the French writer Jacques Plante. It tells a completely different story and was made popular by Hugues Aufray.

Serafina *Halyard*

A notorious halyard shanty popular on the west coast of South America. She was quite a girl. She robbed sailors, drank like a fish, had no underwear and was the finest sight in Lima!

Shallow Brown *Halyard/Hauling*

Started as a pumping shanty, West Indian in origin with the refrain 'Challo Brown'. Challo means 'half-caste'. Later the song was sung to halyards. Used in Mobile Bay as a cotton-screwing song.

Shenandoah *Capstan*

One of the most popular of capstan and windlass shanties. Many versions do not actually mention Shenandoah and a better title would be Rolling River. "Oh Polly Brown I love your Daughter" etc. Actually was not a 'clean' shanty - had many naughty verses!!

Shiver Me Timbers *Mod*

Sloop John B *Shore/Forebitter*

It was originally a traditional West Indies folk song, "The John B. Sails," taken from a collection by Carl Sandburg (1927). The *John B.* was an old sponger boat - presumably a sloop - whose crew were in the habit of getting notoriously merry whenever they made port. It was wrecked and sunk at Governor's Harbour in Eleuthera, The Bahamas, in about 1900.

South Australia *Halyard/Hauling/Capstan/Pump*

Sung on emigrant ships going to Semaphore Roads, Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Usually a capstan (anchor) and pump shanty.

This anchor song was heard on the famous clipper ship The Thermopylae.

Has dozens of verses.

Spanish Ladies *Capstan*

It was a homeward-bound song, sang at the capstan. A famous old naval song. It tells of the ship being worked up the channel. There is an altered version to suit Bluenose ships approaching Nova Scotia.

Stormy Weather Boys *Shore/Forebitter*

A proper barge song giving the account of a drunk and disorderly trip from Rotherhithe on the Thames, south east London.

Strike the Bell *Pump*

The sea song was probably contemporary with Click go the Shears 1870 but is thought to be a shanty around 1865 possibly based on a Welsh tune. This is about the crew just waiting for the watch to change so that they can go below into their warm bunks. A bell was rung every half hour, with 8 bells signifying the end of the watch.

Talcahuano Girls *Capstan*

This is sometimes called 'We'll Rant and We'll Roar'. It is a song about Talcahuano in Peru. The girls were there for the whaling crews.

Three Score and Ten *Mod***Throw Out the Lifeline *Music Hall*****Waiting for the day *Shore/Forebitter***

An east coast of England sea-going barge song. With the well known chorus "Waiting for the day till we get our pay".

Water is Wide *Shore/Forebitter*

English or Scottish origin sung in the 1600s. The song is found on many records and many films.

Water of Tyne *Rowing/Shore/Forebitter*

A rowing song in waltz time. The River Tyne is in the north east of England and there was a boatman available to row you across until the end of the 19th century. The first rowing ferry started in 1377 and a new ferry was launched in 2007 (but not rowing!) so it is still going!

When We Go Rolling Home *Mod***Whip Jamboree *Capstan***

Sung at capstan or windlass and was a homeward-bound song. There are several versions and this is the Liverpool one. Dan Laurie's was a famous pub and Music Hall. It moved to Dublin and Gareth Malone, of choir fame, is a descendant of the original owner of the Dan Laurie pub.

Whiskey Johnny *Halyard/Capstan*

John is used to denote a merchant seaman particularly if they come from Liverpool. Jack denotes a naval tar. This is a famous halyard shanty also used at the capstan. Dozens of verses, many versions, sometimes about the disadvantages of whisky drinking and about the advantages!

Yarmouth Town *Shore/Forebitter*

This could refer to Great Yarmouth Town on the East Coast of England, Yarmouth at the western end of the Isle of Wight or Yarmouth at the southern tip of Nova Scotia.

Ye Mariners All *Shore/Forebitter/Capstan*

Traditional sea song possibly used at the capstan. Collected in Dorset.

Yo ho ho and a Bottle of Rum *Shore*

It is a fictional sea song written by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is a gory song and not for the feint hearted!