

## **SOLENT SHANTY SING**

### **Song 1 – Ship Ahoy**

I want to be a sailor across the world to roam  
My gallant ship I'll hail her to be my ocean home  
Ahoy! Ahoy! Ship a-hoy!

### **Song 2 – The Ocean is Blue**

1.

The ocean is blue and sometimes green  
But you don't know the places I've been  
Weigh-oh, weigh-oh  
But you don't know the places I've been

2.

I pick a stone each place I roam  
From rock pools and caves to my pockets they go  
Weigh-oh, weigh-oh  
From rock pools and caves to my pockets they go

3.

The wind blows hard in from the seas  
Through Hurst Castle walls to the New Forest trees  
Weigh-oh, weigh-oh  
Through Hurst Castle walls to the New Forest trees

4.

To Lymington, where I call home  
A stone's throw away from a green-blue lagoon  
Weigh-oh, weigh-oh  
A stone's throw away from a green-blue lagoon

5.

My story will never be known  
For in Crooked Lake is where I rest my bones  
Weigh-oh, weigh-oh  
For in Crooked Lake is where I rest my bones  
*My bones, my bones*  
*Wearing old trousers with pockets full of stones (REPEAT 3 TIMES)*  
First verse as a round (we will split you on the day)

### **Song 3 – The Curse of Stokes Bay**

#### *Chorus*

*Hey, hey, I saw some bones, I can see skulls in the stones*

*Hey, hey, I saw some bones, That's the curse of Stokes Bay!*

*\*Point to audience and whisper\*: Maybe you should stay away!*

#### 1. (Y1 and 2)

I fancied fish and chips one day, so went a-walking to Stokes Bay

I saw something along the way, something strange in Stokes Bay! **Chorus**

#### 2. (Y1 and 2)

The ocean blue with seashells in, but then a sight that was so grim

A skull looked back with a toothy grin! I learned the curse of Stokes Bay! **Chorus**

#### 3. (Y3 and 4)

If I'd been warned I would have known what I would see there in the stones

Instead of seashells (spoken) I got bones! That's the curse of Stokes Bay!

**Chorus**

#### 4. (Y3 and 4)

The stones were souls of the lost at sea, it felt like they were watching me

The sea was scary as can be! That's the curse of Stokes Bay! **Chorus**

#### 5. (Y5 and 6)

Where shipwrecks lurk and seaweed grows, the ghosts of pirates touch your toes

You can hear them singing: (spoken) "There she blows!" That's the curse of Stokes Bay! **Chorus**

#### 6. (Y5 and 6)

A spooky cave has a ship inside, a pirate secret it does hide

You can see it at the lowest tide, That's the curse of Stokes Bay! **Chorus**

#### 7. (Y5 and 6)

I heard that once a girl broke in, and limpets slimed and sucked her skin

Then hungry pirates from within, washed her down with a pint of gin!

**Chorus x2**

## **Song 4 – Down the Solent**

Response (Y1 and 2)      *Down the Solent!*  
*And we're bound for the Isle of Wight.*

1.  
Come all you land lubbers and sail with me  
On a red funnel steamer bound from Royal Pier  
So away, girls, away  
We're leaving the pier so let's have a big cheer!

2.  
"Away with the gangplank!" the Captain she roared.  
And hoist up the anchors, Anne's safely on board  
So away, boys, away  
We're leaving the pier so let's have a big cheer!

3.  
On the banks of the Solent there was a big crowd  
They joined in our chorus and sung strong and proud  
So away, girls, away.  
We're leaving the pier so let's have a big cheer!

4.  
Past the old Esso tankers on the outgoing tide  
Polluting our beaches upon either side  
So away, boys, away  
We passed Calshot Spit where the seagulls all flit

5.  
Heave with the will girls, heave long and heave strong  
Let's sing a good chorus, for 'tis a good song  
So away, girls, away  
We passed Calshot Spit where the seagulls all flit

***All: We long left the pier so let's have a big cheer!***  
***And we're bound for the Isle of Wight!***

## **Song 5 – Throw out the lifeline**

**Chorus (Y1, 2, 3, 4 sing higher part, Y5, 6 sing lower part each time)**

Throw out the lifeline, throw out the lifeline

Someone is drifting away.

Throw out the lifeline, throw out the lifeline

Someone is sinking today

**1.**

Throw out the lifeline across the dark wave

There is a brother who needs to be saved

Somebody's brother! Oh, who then will dare?

To throw out the lifeline, his danger to share?

**Chorus (sing "away" twice)**

**2.**

Throw out the lifeline with hands quick and strong

Why do you tarry? Why linger so long

See! He is sinking: go faster today

And out with the lifeboat! Away, then away!

**Chorus (sing "away" twice)**

**3.**

Soon will the season of rescue be done

Soon will we drift to the safety we won

Quick then my sister, no time for delay

So throw out the lifeline and save them today!

**Chorus x2**

## **Song 6 – When I grow up I want to be a ship**

Group 1 – Y3, Y5

Group 2 – Y4, Y6

### **Verse 1**

Group 1: My daddy said I need to sail to make my fortune on the sea

Group 2: *See, in 1931 I watch the dock they build it big*

Group 1: Big and strong is what my daddy says I need to be when I grow up

Group 2: *When I grow up I want to be a ship that's big and strong*

All: So I sit here and dream

### **Verse 2**

Group 1: My granny said that folk were sure the sea would cure their ills

Group 2: *But mummy says the sea's a cure that saves more than it kills*

Group 1: Like Mary Rogers who went down while saying:

All shout: LORD HAVE ME!

Group 2: *Her lifebelt given away to save another from the sea*

All: While I sit here and dream

### **Verse 3**

Group 1: At God's House Tower I sit and watch them steal the beach to build the docks

Group 2: *Docks are very big and strong just like my daddy said that I should be a man*

Group 1: I should be a man, I'll make my fortune on the sea when I grow up

Group 2: *When I grow up I want to be a ship that's big and strong so I'll sit here and dream*

Group 1: Tides rise and fall, flush on shore, racks and bones

Group 2: *Dream, dream, airless dark under deck*

### **Verse 4**

Group 1: We built these docks on land where pirates hanged on gallows in the sand

Group 2: *Sand-washed by three tides to see them drown before they cut them down*

Group 1: Down below the water shipwrecks lay for years before they came

Group 2: *Came to raise the wreck shown less respect than seaside souvenirs*

Group 1: Tides rise and fall, swallow Titanic, ships and wrecks, rusty ship rails sink and sleep

Group 2: *Dream, dream, rusty ship rails sink and sleep and pirates fall into the deep*

### **Verse 5**

Group 1: They say in 2050 when the sea begins to rise

Group 2: *The docks and God's House Tower will be lost beneath the tide*

Group 1: I sat and watched them build the docks, they built them strong and true

Group 2: *These docks they stand on borrowed land and*

All shout: NOW THE DEBT WE OWE IS DUE!

## **Song 7 – The Woolston Ferry**

**1.**

I looked over Woolston, and what did I see?  
Coming for to carry me home?  
The old Woolston Ferry, coming towards me  
Coming for to carry me home.

**2.**

If you're ever up in Sholing, and you want to go to town,  
Don't go by Bitterne, that's the long way around  
Take a trip across the ferry, take a trip across the sea  
And if you're a pedestrian, you can always go for free.

### **Chorus**

*On the Woolston Ferry, it doesn't travel very fast  
It wasn't built for comfort, it was built to last*

**3.**

See the weather beaten Captain, with his weather beaten tan  
He don't wear gold braid, he's a corporation man  
When I speak of its construction, it's surprising to learn  
That the bow going one way, comes back as the stern

### **Chorus**

*On the Woolston Ferry, it doesn't travel very fast  
It wasn't built for comfort, it was built to last*

**4.**

But the floating bridge has had it, it will soon have to go  
Drivers don't like it, 16p a throw  
So they built a bridge of concrete, very modern, very high  
Every time I use it, I look down and sigh

### **Chorus**

*On the Woolston Ferry, it doesn't travel very fast  
It wasn't built for comfort, it was built to last*

### **Ending:**

Verse 1 and the Chorus (sung twice) together (Y1, 3, 5 sing chorus, Y2, 4, 6 sing Verse 1)