

# Barge Ballad

## The Longest Johns

Once there was a barge lad  
Way up atop the mast  
Shouting to the skipper  
"We've made it home at last"

Well, I was that barge lad  
Way up atop the mast  
Now I'm the skipper and that young nipper  
Had better be holding fast

Oh we're loaded down, with bales so high  
You've got lean backwards  
If you want to see the sky  
Oh, the Thames may forgive us  
But the Alde never will  
So eyes front and away we sail

Oh, you've got to be able  
Way up atop the mast  
Your legs better be nimble  
And your head better think fast

Well, I was that able  
Way up atop the mast  
Now I'm the skipper and that young nipper  
Is hearty enough to last

Oh we're loaded down, with bales so high  
You've got lean backwards  
If you want to see the sky  
Oh, the Thames may forgive us  
But the Alde never will  
So eyes front, keep your head, and away we sail

Oh, you've eyes like an eagle  
Way up atop the mast  
Spotting all the obstacles  
That come across your path

Well, I was that eagle  
Way up atop the mast  
But now I'm the skipper and that young nipper  
Will keep us from taking a bath

Oh we're loaded down, with bales so high  
You've got lean backwards  
If you want to see the sky  
Oh, the Thames may forgive us  
But the Alde never will  
So eyes front, keep your head, clear your throat, and away we sail

Oh, you've got to remember  
Way up atop the mast  
Knowing all the river routes  
That you never learn from the charts

Well, I do remember

Way up atop the mast  
But now I'm the skipper and that young nipper  
Is taking the rivers to heart

Oh we're loaded down, with bales so high  
You've got lean backwards  
If you want to see the sky  
Oh, the Thames may forgive us  
But the Alde never will  
So eyes front, keep your head, clear your throat, know your way, fill your p  
ipe, grab on tight, look for the lights and away we sail