



Words & Music by Bob Watson

1. Now modern ships carry mighty funny gear,
* (And away, get away, you Shantyman!)
Aint seen a halliard in many's the year,
** (And they got no use for a Shantyman!)
Slick new fittin's is all you'll sight,
* (And away, get away, you Shantyman!)
All very clever, but it just ain't right,
** (And they got no use for a Shantyman!)

Chorus: Shantyman, oh Shantyman!
Who's got a berth for a Shantyman ?
(Oh!) Sing us a song of a world gone wrong,
When they got no use for a Shantyman!

2. Dials and buttons is all they need, *
And your real live sailor he's a vanishing breed; **
It's pushin' on the buttons and pullin' on the levers,
They got no use for the horny-handed heavers, **

Chorus

3. Old time ways is forgotton and gone, *
And nobody listens to the shantyman's song, **
No, things no loner how they used to be, *
It's the nackers yard for the likes of me, **

Misprint:
longer

Chorus

4. Ships'll soon be sailing by remote control, *
And that'll be pleasin' to the owners' soul, **
They'll move their ships from dock to dock, *
All sat on their arses in an office block, **

Chorus

Variant: If you listen to my song, will you
tell me what you'll do ? *

5. New fangled gear's no use to you, *
When you're off Cape Horn with your fuses blew, **
Then's the time for to curse the day, *
You sent your shanty crew away, **

Chorus

6. Listen at night and you might hear, *
A ghostly voice on the quiet night air, **
Is it a voice from the distant past ? *
Or the wind just whistling in the radar mast ? **

Chorus

SHANTYMAN – Additional/Extra/Alternative

Verses

Add/1 Now a seaman's life it once was hard, *
DON'T LIKE Way up aloft on the tops'l yard. **
THIS VERSE Now it don't matter if the wind blows high, *
NOT REALLY You can face force ten with your feet still dry. **
TRUE

Add/2 Cargo comes stowed in a polythene pack *
 Raised and lowered by a dry bollocks jack **
 Floating computer dressed up as a ship *
 All skippered and crewed by a micro chip **

GENERAL NOTES:

1. Words given on Page 1 are the verses that I would normally sing myself. The appended verses also fell off my pen at the time of writing, but as time goes by I've found that 6 verses are enough in any one rendition, and a lot of other people seem to have come (independently) to the same conclusion.
2. Most singers start with Verse 1 and finish with Verse 6, but what gets sung in between seems to vary quite a bit. Some sing more (or less) verses, and some mix 'n' match by combining pairs of lines taken from different verses.
3. Additional Verse Add/1 is sung by some people, but one should be aware that some parts are not strictly true!
4. I hope that you enjoy singing the song -- whichever way you choose to do it!

Bob Watson