

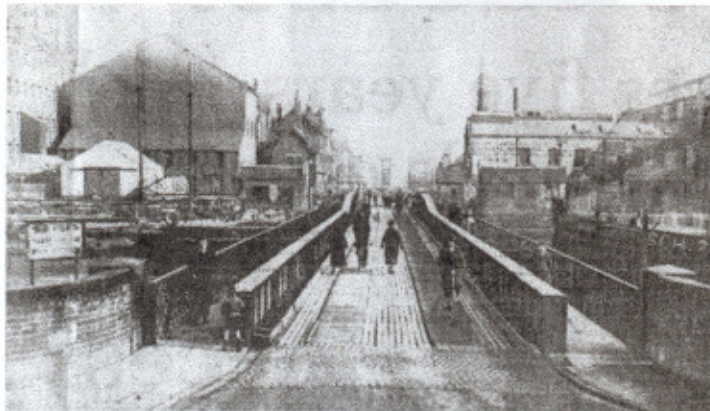
THE FISH DOCK RACES

On Friday afternoons at half-past one, the schoolhouse gates all closes
The lads & lasses all troop out, droopy drawers & runny noses
Hundreds of kids are racin' to the Docks to get Dad's wages
And if you're late at the back o' the queue, you're standin' there for ages

**The West Marsh kids are on the move
Big parish boots make paces
They're all let off on special leave
To go to the Fish Dock Races**

With your hair stuck up & growin' like grass, & your backside through your trousers
Steppin' it out beside our lass, wi' er drawers made from old blouses
There's women with kids hangin' on their skirts & brawlin' brats in prams
Down Charlton Street, Corporation Road, keepin' up wi' the clangin' trams

We've reached the wooden bridge, so old, it never seemed safe to cross
The beams beneath as green as a toad, & all of 'em rotten with moss
We've crossed the Alexandra Dock & the Palace Corner reached
Where the 'ands of the big Newmarket clock our eager eyes do seek



You see the old Newmarket pub, running spittoon in the bar?
The town's best beer you'll find in there, spit & sawdust, & your Pa
But it's round the corner past the Palace Theatre now we're runnin'
The flea-pit Globe across the road, that we often used to get our fun in

Down from the top of Spiller's Mill the stone bulldog did face us
Victoria Street school gates was locked on account of the Fish Dock Races
We're soon in Cleethorpe Road, & past the Royal Hotel we're speedin'
Slip through the closin' railway gates & we'll gain the time we're needin'

We've passed the Railway & the Coach, the crowd stopped by the gates
We laugh to see them push & shove, all cursin' their sad fates
But a copper stands at Riby Square where Freeman Street we're meetin'
And lets a hundred bikes pass through, so it's with us they're competin'

So on we race, we're almost there - push on, we must keep goin'
We're at the office window now & they've hardly started queuin'
Then back by tram to dear old Mam, who's off her pledge to pay
To fetch Dad's suit back out of pawn - he's due to land today!