

The Corncrake

Written by Ian "Nobby" Dye of Port of Bristol Shanty Crew, this modern shanty pays homage to a General Steam Navigation of London vessel which frequently brought brandy, port, and wines to the city docks of Bristol in the 1960s.

‘Neath summer sky and the setting sun
The Corncrake steams on the Bristol run
Brandy for the waiters tray
The sailors they have earned their pay

Chorus

*O’er the sea to Bristol town
Loaded down with Brandy O’
O’er the sea to Bristol town
Loaded down with Brandy O’, the Brandy O’*

Rolling on through deep green day
Towards the hills of Redcliffe Bay
The Corncrake steams upon her way
Through the moonlit night ‘til the break of day

Then the Captain, I heard tell:
That’s the sound of the King’s Road Bell
Steaming on by Vincent's Rock
To the Brandy shed and the Bristol Dock

We then made fast both fore and aft
For the Corncrake she's a pleasant craft
Now ashore to have some fun
Drinking from a bottle of rum