

Roam Around Retford

Six songs for choirs

by

Janet Wood



Published in 2016 by Retford Community Singers

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www.retfordcommunitysingers.co.uk

Cover photograph – Retford Community Singers in front of the Dyers Court mural

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St Swithun's church

Few towns have their own song. Retford now has a whole set!

Introduction

It all started when Janet Wood, musical director of the Retford Community Singers (RCS), went for a walk. She was a fairly recent arrival in Retford and wanted to find out a bit about the town's history. So she roamed around Retford with the help of the Heritage Town Trail produced by Retford Civic Society. At about the same time, Pat Barnett, chair of RCS, discovered in the library some old photographs of Retford working people such as the town's first postman, the old lamplighter, Clark's Laundry workers and others. Some of the places and people from the past inspired a song or two from Janet, which she tried out on the singers at RCS who really enjoyed them. These songs led to others and eventually to performances around the town and to two singing workshops for the public.

Some of the choir members also belong to Retford Civic Society and began to make connections. They felt the songs deserved a wider audience in a more permanent form, so began thinking about how funds might be raised to make this possible. The Civic Society donated some funding to start the project off and a grant was obtained from the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund under their brief to encourage wider participation in music among the local community. This has enabled us to publish the words and music of the songs together with the accompanying CD which was produced with the help of Swanyard Music Studio, Retford.

The CD is a learning tool which anyone can use even if they cannot read music, making it easy for teachers, choir leaders and individuals to learn the parts and produce the wonderful harmony sounds which are Janet Wood's special skill. She has generously allowed the songs to be freely available as a resource for anyone to use. This booklet and the accompanying CD can be copied as required free of charge. The booklet can be downloaded from www.retfordcommunitysingers.co.uk.

This is a unique and exciting initiative and we welcome feedback and suggestions to singing@retfordcommunitysingers.co.uk. You may even be inspired to add more songs or poetry of your own, so let us know! Please also inform us if any of the songs are to be performed in public.

Roam Around Retford

Roam around Retford
Stroll down the streets
Feel the heartbeat of history
Beneath your feet

Roam, roam around
Roam and stroll
Stroll on down
Feel the beat of all that's gone before you
Feel the beat beneath your feet

See the Georgian buildings in the Market Square
And the fine Town Hall with a noble air
And the coaching inns on the Great North Road
And the cannon from Sebastopol

Almshouses, churches, chapels, mews
Mansions, tenements, shops and schools
The River Idle, bridges and locks
On the Chesterfield canal

This song has four vocal parts - soprano, alto, tenor and bass. However the range is such that most singers will be able to tackle them all. The parts can be sung one after the other or in combination.



The Chesterfield Canal



Retford Town Hall

Roam Around Retford

Janet Wood

SOPRANO

Roam a-round Ret-ford Stroll down the street Feel the

ALTO

Roam a-round Ret-ford Stroll down the street Feel the

TENOR

Roam a-round Ret-ford Stroll down the street Feel the

BASS

Roam, roam a__round Roam and stroll, stroll on_ down Feel the__

5

heart - beat of hi - sto-ry be-neath your feet

heart - beat of hi - sto-ry be-neath your feet

heart - beat of hi - sto-ry be-neath your feet

beat of all that's gone be - fore you Feel the beat be - neath your feet

2.

feet See the Geor-gian build-ings in the mar-ket square And the

feet Roam a-round Ret - ford

feet Alms-hou-ses, chur - ches cha-pels, mews

neath your feet Roam, roam a - round, Roam and

12

fine Town Hall with a no - ble air And the coa - ching inns on the

Stroll down the street Feel the heart - beat of hi -

Man-sions, te - ne-ments, shops and schools, The Ri - ver I - dle,

stroll, stroll on down, Feel the beat of all that's

15

Great North Road And the can-non from Se-ba sto - pol See the pol

sto-ry be-neath your feet feet

brid - ges and locks on the Che - ster - field Ca - nal nal

gone be - fore you Feel the beat be-neath your feet beat

1. 2.

Turpin Hero

Based on a traditional folk tune, this song recalls the days when the White Hart was a busy coaching inn on the Great North Road. Dick Turpin was a notorious highwayman in the area and is believed to have stabled his famous horse, Black Bess, in what is now Swanyard Music Studio off Carolgate. The White Hart has recently been restored and reopened as a pub and the former stables now accommodate a restaurant.



The White Hart Yard

Photographs courtesy of Bassetlaw Museum

Turpin Hero

Come gather round with your pints of ale
For the White Hart inn holds many a tale
Of coaches that stopped on the northern run
And England's notorious highwayman

O rare Turpin hero
O rare Turpin – o

Hooves on the cobbles – a welcome din
For Turpin sitting in the White Hart inn
In the corner he sat and drank
Weighing up the people of highest rank

Chorus

Under the archway, into the yard
Where ostlers and stable-boys worked so hard
To change the horses quick as a wink
While the passengers alighted for food and drink

Chorus

The porter doffed his black top hat
And the travellers passed where Turpin sat
He watched and waited, took his time
As the wealthy gathered so rich and fine

Chorus

Out of the yard with a warning blast
The coach would sweep so proud and fast
But Turpin had thundered out before
To lie in wait on Markham Moor

Chorus

Turpin Hero at the White Hart Inn

Em D C B⁷ Em D

Come ga - ther round with your pints of ale For the White Hart Inn holds

5 C B⁷ G Em

ma - ny a tale Of coa - ches that stopped on the nor - then run And Eng - land's no - to - ri - ous

9 D Em D Em D Em

high - way - man O rare Tur - pin he - ro O rare Tur - pin O

16 Em D C B⁷ Em D C B⁷

Hooves on the cob - bles a wel - come din For Tur - pin sit - ting in the White Hart Inn

20 G Em D Em

In the cor - ner he sat and drank Wei - ghing up the peo - ple of high - est rank O rare

25 D Em D Em Em D

Tur - pin he - ro O rare Tur - pin O Un - der the arch way

31 C B⁷ Em D C B⁷ G

in - to the yard Where ost - lers and sta - ble boys worked so hard To change the hor - ses

35 Em D Em

quick as a wink While the pass - en - gers a - light - ed for food and drink O rare

39 D Em D Em Em D

Tur - pin he - ro O rare Tur - pin O The por - ter doffed his

45 C B⁷ Em D C B⁷ G

black top hat And the tra - vel - lers passed where Tur - pin sat He watched and wai - ted

Turpin Hero at the White Hart Inn

49 Em Em D

took his time As the weal-thy ga-thered so rich and fine O rare Tur-pin he - ro

54 Em D Em Em D C B⁷

O rare Tur-pin O Out of the yard with a warn-ing blast The

60 Em D C B⁷ G Em

coach would sweep soproud and fast But Tur-pin had thun-dered out be-fore To lie in wait on

65 D Em D Em D

Mark-ham Moor O rare Tur - pin he - ro O rare Tur - pin

70 Em D Em D Em

O rare Tur-pin he - ro O rare Tur-pin O

Someone Took a Photograph

A chance remark about Thomas Tootell being buried in St Michael's churchyard and there being a photograph of him in the Library inspired Pat Barnett to go to the Local Studies collection in the Denman Library to look at the photo. Someone had also mentioned that there was a picture of a lamplighter there as well. Pat found both of these pictures and also many others of Clarks Laundry. These laundry photos had already been used by local artists and volunteers to create a mural in Dyers' Court - a project organised by Retford Civic Society.

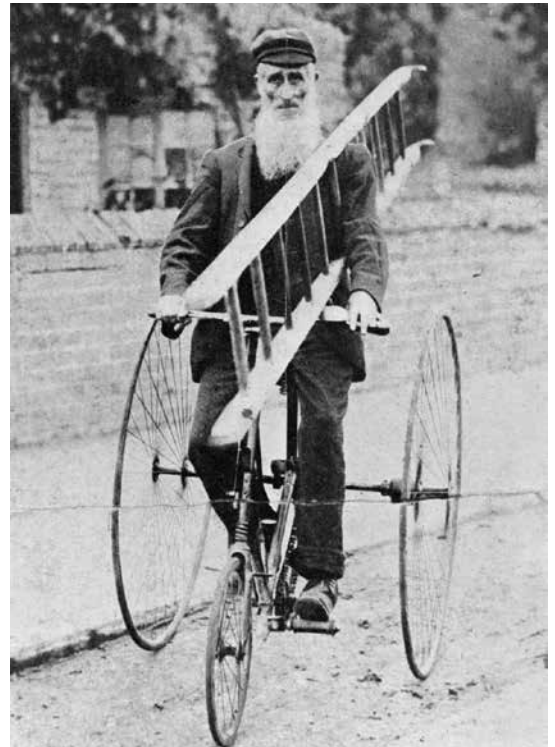
Pat wrote some lyrics and gave them to Janet who expanded them and set them to music. Interestingly, Pat made up the name 'Edith Watson' for a laundry girl at Clarks Dyeworks and then wondered if this was good enough. However, before she had time to go and find a list of Clarks' employees, a choir member came across someone who had known an Edith Watson who worked there!

The strange coincidences continued. Someone else in the choir knew someone in Ordsall related to Thomas Tootell – his great grand-daughter in fact. When we performed the songs for the first time around the town on Heritage Day 2014, she came with her husband to listen. They have a truncheon belonging to Thomas, as he was a constable as well as a 'letter carrier'. (Postmen were called letter carriers until the introduction of parcel post). Thomas' son was a postman too and his photograph is also in the Library.

Nothing could be found about Mr Caunt the lamplighter, but there are still very elderly folk around who remember their local lamplighter, on his bike, coming down their street. His bike would have been a bit more modern than Mr Caunt's though!



Thomas Tootell the letter carrier



Mr Caunt the lamplighter



Workers at Clarks laundry

Photographs courtesy of *Picture the Past*

Someone Took A Photograph

Thomas Tootell was a postman
First one in our town (a letter carrier)
In his greatcoat and top hat
He looks so tall and proud (citation from the queen)
No emails, fax or telegraph,
The letters told the tale
With Thomas in his uniform
Delivering the mail.

***Someone took a photograph,
A message from the past
Delivering a memory
Making it last***

Edith Watson worked at Clarks
She was a laundry girl (it was on Grove Street)
Gazing through the camera lens
Into a future world (what's going through her mind?)
She worked with all the other girls
To wash and press and clean
They worked so hard to earn their pay
Toiling through the steam.

***Someone took a photograph,
A tiny flake of time
Cleaning up a memory
Making it shine***

Mr Caunt lit up the lamps
Each evening in this place (a cap upon his head)
A life of service and hard graft
Is etched upon his face (and a wonderful white beard)
He travelled on his tricycle
His ladder strapped so tight
Putting out the lamps each dawn
And lighting them at night

***Someone took a photograph,
A glimpse of long ago
Lighting up a memory
Making it glow***

Thomas Tootell was a postman
Edith worked at Clarks
While Mr Caunt lit up the lamps
In Retford after dark
The little that we know of them
Is down to this one thing
That someone took a photograph
And prompted us to sing.

***Someone took a photograph
A shot of history
Developing a memory
Helping us see***

The tune and the harmonies to the chorus can be sung quietly to 'ooooh' during the verses

Someone Took A Photograph

Lyrics by Pat Barnett

Music score for the song "Someone Took A Photograph" by Pat Barnett. The score is written for six voices: Voice, Voice, SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, and BASS. The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

Voice: A let - ter

Voice: Tho-mas Too-tell was a post-man First one in our town

SOPRANO: Some - - one took a pho - to - graph. A

ALTO: Some - - one took a pho - to - graph. A

TENOR: Some - - one took a pho - to - graph. A

BASS: Some - - one took a pho - to - graph. A

3

car - ri - er _____ Ci - ta - tion from the

In his great-coat and top hat he looks so tall and proud No

mes - sage from the _____ past _____ De -

mess - age from the _____ past _____ De -

mes - sage from the _____ past _____ De -

5

queen

e - mails fax or te - le - graph The let - ters told the tale With

li - ve - ring a me - mo - ry Ma - king it

li - ve - ring a me - mo - ry Ma - king it

li - ve - ring a me - mo - ry Ma - king it

li - ve - ring a me - mo - ry Ma - king it

7

Tho - mas in his u - ni - form De - li - ve - ring the mail

last

last

last

last

Kings Park Calypso

Kings Park means a lot to Retford people. For this song Janet invited members of the choir to write down their individual memories and feelings about it and she set these to music using their words. What does the park mean to you?

Do have fun with this song. Can you make up your own verses?

The song is based on a simple four chord turnaround which works well on the ukulele but could be played on a guitar or any other chordal instrument.



KING'S PARK CALYPSO

*Let me take you down to the park in Retford
The park of kings
It's a place of beauty, peace and memories
Of many things*

My thoughts would be about some of the trees in the park
Which I regard as my extended front garden
Every year I wait for the first spring growth
On the willows by the river
There are some choice specimens near the Goodwin Hall
Copper beech, magnolia, acacia, cherries and more
(This time of year is the) very best for trees! (Sops only)

Chorus

Don't know if you know about the children's play park
That used to be by the side of Asda?
During the war us kids spent many happy hours down there
There were swings, roundabouts, seesaws
Sand pits and many more things to play on

That land was given in perpetuity
To the people of Retford for that purpose
But the council sold it to Asda
Very contentious at the time
There were swings, roundabouts, seesaws
Sand pits and many more things to play (on)(Some do this while other
start chorus)

Chorus

My...my goldfish died when I was a little girl
And my mother told me
That it had gone down the plughole
Into the pond in King's Park
And I believed it until I was eleven
Then it dawned on me that the goldfish had died
It was the biggest shock of my life!

Chorus – repeat “many things” at the end.

Kings Park Calypso

C F C G Chords continue..

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Ah...

Ah...

Dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum

6

Let me take you down to the park in Ret

11

ford The park of Kings It's a place of beau ty, peace and

The musical score is written for three voices: Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a four-measure introduction for each voice part, with chords C, F, C, and G indicated above the measures. The Alto and Tenor parts have a melodic line that ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a whole note. The Bass part has a rhythmic line of eighth notes. The lyrics 'Ah...' are written below the Alto and Tenor parts. The score then continues with a series of 'Dum' notes in the Bass part. The next section starts at measure 6, with the Alto and Tenor parts having a melodic line that ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a whole note. The Bass part has a rhythmic line of eighth notes. The lyrics 'Let me take you down to the park in Ret' are written below the Alto and Tenor parts. The score then continues with a series of 'Dum' notes in the Bass part. The next section starts at measure 11, with the Alto and Tenor parts having a melodic line that ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a whole note. The Bass part has a rhythmic line of eighth notes. The lyrics 'ford The park of Kings It's a place of beau ty, peace and' are written below the Alto and Tenor parts.

15

me - mories of ma-ny things My thoughts would be a bout some

Accompanying parts can continue if desired

18

of the trees in the park which I re-gard as my ex-tend-ed front garden Ev' ry year I wait

22

for the first spring growth on the wil-lows by the ri ver There are some choice spe-ci-mens

26

near the Good- win Hall Cop-per beech, mag-no-lia, a - ca-cia, cher-ries and

31

more This time of year is the ve-ry best for trees!

Cop-per beech, mag-no-lia, a - ca-cia, cher-ries and more ve-ry best for trees!

Cop-per beech, mag-no-lia, a - ca-cia, cher-ries and more ve-ry best for trees!

Cop-per beech, mag-no-lia, a - ca-cia, cher-ries and more ve-ry best for trees!

36

Let me take you down to the park in Ret-ford The park of Kings

41

It's a place of beau-ty, peace and me-mories of ma-ny things-

45

Don't know if you know a-bout the chil-dren's play park That used to be by the side of As-da?

49

Du-ring the war us kids spent ma-ny hap-py ho-urs down there There were

53

swings, round-a-bouts See-saws, Sand pits and ma-ny more things to play on

58

That land was gi-ven in per-pe-tu-i-ty to the peo-ple of Ret-ford

64

for that pur-pose But the coun-cil sold it to As - da Ve-ry con-ten-tious at the

68

time There were swings, round-a- bouts See-saws sand-pits and ma-ny more things to play

73

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Park of Kings". It consists of five staves. The first staff is a vocal melody in treble clef, starting with a half note on G4 (labeled "on") followed by a quarter rest, then a half note on A4, and a quarter rest. The second staff continues the vocal melody with the lyrics "Let me take you down to the park in Ret-ford The park of Kings". The third and fourth staves are accompaniment in treble clef, featuring whole notes on G4 and A4 respectively. The fifth staff is a bass line in bass clef, featuring a sequence of eighth and quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F88, G88, A88, B88, C89, D89, E89, F89, G89, A89, B89, C90, D90, E90, F90, G90, A90, B90, C91, D91, E91, F91, G91, A91, B91, C92, D92, E92, F92, G92, A92, B92, C93, D93, E93, F93, G93, A93, B93, C94, D94, E94, F94, G94, A94, B94, C95, D95, E95, F95, G95, A95, B95, C96, D96, E96, F96, G96, A96, B96, C97, D97, E97, F97, G97, A97, B97, C98, D98, E98, F98, G98, A98, B98, C99, D99, E99, F99, G99, A99, B99, C100, D100, E100, F100, G100, A100, B100, C101, D101, E101, F101, G101, A101, B101, C102, D102, E102, F102, G102, A102, B102, C103, D103, E103, F103, G103, A103, B103, C104, D104, E104, F104, G104, A104, B104, C105, D105, E105, F105, G105, A105, B105, C106, D106, E106, F106, G106, A106, B106, C107, D107, E107, F107, G107, A107, B107, C108, D108, E108, F108, G108, A108, B108, C109, D109, E109, F109, G109, A109, B109, C110, D110, E110, F110, G110, A110, B110, C111, D111, E111, F111, G111, A111, B111, C112, D112, E112, F112, G112, A112, B112, C113, D113, E113, F113, G113, A113, B113, C114, D114, E114, F114, G114, A114, B114, C115, D115, E115, F115, G115, A115, B115, C116, D116, E116, F116, G116, A116, B116, C117, D117, E117, F117, G117, A117, B117, C118, D118, E118, F118, G118, A118, B118, C119, D119, E119, F119, G119, A119, B119, C120, D120, E120, F120, G120, A120, B120, C121, D121, E121, F121, G121, A121, B121, C122, D122, E122, F122, G122, A122, B122, C123, D123, E123, F123, G123, A123, B123, C124, D124, E124, F124, G124, A124, B124, C125, D125, E125, F125, G125, A125, B125, C126, D126, E126, F126, G126, A126, B126, C127, D127, E127, F127, G127, A127, B127, C128, D128, E128, F128, G128, A128, B128, C129, D129, E129, F129, G129, A129, B129, C130, D130, E130, F130, G130, A130, B130, C131, D131, E131, F131, G131, A131, B131, C132, D132, E132, F132, G132, A132, B132, C133, D133, E133, F133, G133, A133, B133, C134, D134, E134, F134, G134, A134, B134, C135, D135, E135, F135, G135, A135, B135, C136, D136, E1

77

It's a place of beau ty, peace and me mories of ma-ny things

81

My, my gold - fish died when I was a lit-tle girl and my mo-ther told me

85

That it had gone down the plug-hole In-to the pond at Kings Park And I be-lieved it un

89

til I was e-le-ven and it dawned on me that the gold- fish had died It was the

93

big - gest shock of my life! Let me take you

98

down to the park in Ret- ford The park of Kings It's a place of beau

102

ty, peace and me-mories of ma-ny things ma-ny things

106

110

This musical score block contains measures 110 through 114. It is written for three staves: a Treble staff, a Treble 8va staff, and a Bass staff. The music is in 4/4 time. Measures 110-112 feature a simple harmonic progression in the Treble staff with whole notes. The Treble 8va staff provides a sustained accompaniment with whole notes. The Bass staff features a more active line with eighth and quarter notes. Measures 113-114 conclude the phrase with sustained notes in the Treble and Treble 8va staves, and a final sustained note in the Bass staff.

Idle Valley Round

Meet me at the lake at Idle Valley
Where willows arch in welcome as we walk through
And giant insects watch in silver silence
And the sky holds rainbow memories of you

So elegant the swans at Idle Valley
White galleons that sail on the lake of blue
While dragonflies perform their lovestruck dances
And the sky holds rainbow memories of you.

The Idle Valley Nature Reserve, just north of Retford, is a great place for a walk.
The path round the lake goes through a delightful tunnel of willow and under
sculptures of insects.

The words in verse 2 are by Aggie Wilkie

The song works as a round. Bringing parts in every two bars gives a nice sense of movement but four bar divisions also work well. Try both!



Idle Valley Round

5 Meet me at the lake at I - dle Val - ley Where

9 wil - lows arch in wel - come as we walk through And

13 gi - ant in - sects watch in sil - ver si - lence And the

sky holds rain - bow me - mo - ries of you

Aggie from the choir wrote a second verse...

How elegant the swans at Idle Valley
White galleons that sail on the lake of blue
While dragonflies perform their lovestruck dances
And the sky holds rainbow memories of you

Unquiet Souls

*Unquiet souls
Footsteps on landings
And icy cold air
Unquiet souls
May you find peace*

I roam the corridors of this hotel
Cross to the stables that once used to be
And I search in vain for my stable boy love
Where is he? Where is he?

spoken The ghost of an unfaithful wife has been seen in the West Retford Hotel since the 1910s. She roams the corridors and crosses to where the stables once were. She is said to have had an affair with the stable boy, who killed himself once it became public knowledge.

I skip and I play in the old cobbled courtyard
Absorbed in my games as I was that dread day
My likeness was cursed by my grief-stricken father
So here in the bar it must stay

spoken There are many reported sightings of a young girl who was knocked down and killed by a horse-drawn coach in the yard of The White Hart in the nineteenth century. A bust of the girl in the bar is said to be cursed and woe betide anyone who tries to move it.

I sweep down the staircase of Retford Town Hall
In my sombre grey wig and my flowing black gown
And in the committee room I check the papers
And frown, frown.

spoken Separate eye-witness accounts from a cleaner and the Town Clerk in the 1970s tell of the lanky figure of an Edwardian barrister or judge seen on the main staircase and bending over a desk in one of the committee rooms of Retford Town Hall.

Unquiet souls

Like many towns Retford has its own ghost stories. This song tells three of them. In the White Hart pub you can still see the bust of the little girl killed by a coach which, the story goes, must never be moved or terrible things will happen.

Unquiet Souls

Janet Wood

SOPRANO 1

ALTO

Tenor

Ng

Un - qui - et souls____ Foot-steps on lan-dings and i - cy cold air____

Ng

5

1.

May you find peace____ I roam the co-rr-i-dors of this ho-tel

Un - qui - et souls_May you find peace____ I roam the co-rr-i-dors of this ho-tel

May you find peace____ I roam the co-rr-i-dors of this ho-tel

11

Cross to the sta-bles that once used to be And I search in vain for my stable boy love Where is

Cross to the sta-bles that once used to be And I search in vain for my stable boy love Where is

Cross to the sta-bles that once used to be And I search in vain for my stable boy love Where is

15

he? Where is he? Girls and boys come

he? Where is he?

he? Where is he? Jack and Jill went up the hill

2.

21

out to play

O-ran-ges and le-mons say the bells of St Cle- ment's I

25

La la la la sim...

sit and I play in the old cob-ble court-yard Ab-sorbed in my games as I

La la la la sim...

28

was that dread day My like-ness was cursed by my grief-stri-cken fa-ther So

was that dread day My like-ness was cursed by my grief-stri-cken fa-ther So

was that dread day My like-ness was cursed by my grief-stri-cken fa-ther So

31 3.

I sweep down

here in the bar it must stay I sweep down

I sweep down the stair-case of

35

stair - case Grey wig flo-wing black gown

stair - case Grey wig flo-wing black gown

Ret-ford Town Hall In my so-lemn grey wig and my flo-wing black gown And

38

Com - mit - tee room pa - pers frown_ frown_ Ng...

Com - mit - tee room pa - pers frown_ frown_ Un - qui - et

in the co-mmi-ttee room I check the pa-pers and frown_ Frown Ng...

43

souls_ Foot-steps on lan-dings and i - cy cold air_

souls_ Foot-steps on lan-dings and i - cy cold air_

May you find peace_____

Un - qui - et souls_____ May you find peace_____

May you find peace_____

During the choruses between the verses (which are all hummed on an "ng") there is spoken text about the previous verse's ghost. I normally have some people in the choir - maybe half of each section - whispering to provide a ghostly accompaniment. The conductor needs to be sensitive to what is going on in the spoken text and get the choir to hold on the last bar each time if necessary. Listen to the recording to see how we did it.

Track	Song	Voice Part	time
1	<i>Roam Around Retford</i>	<i>mix</i>	2.53
2	<i>Roam Around Retford</i>	<i>chorus soprano</i>	0.25
3	<i>Roam Around Retford</i>	<i>chorus tenor</i>	0.25
4	<i>Turpin Hero</i>	<i>mix</i>	2.38
5	<i>Turpin Hero</i>	<i>chorus lower part</i>	0.17
6	<i>Turpin Hero</i>	<i>chorus upper part</i>	0.17
7	<i>Turpin Hero</i>	<i>chorus melody</i>	0.22
8	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>mix</i>	3.12
9	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>Ooh bass</i>	0.30
10	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>Ooh tenor</i>	0.30
11	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>Ooh alto</i>	0.30
12	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>Ooh soprano</i>	0.30
13	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>chorus bass</i>	0.30
14	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>chorus tenor</i>	0.33
15	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>chorus alto</i>	0.30
16	<i>Someone Took a Photograph</i>	<i>chorus soprano</i>	0.30
17	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>mix</i>	3.51
18	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>Ahh alto</i>	0.23
19	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>Ahh tenor</i>	0.23
20	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper bass</i>	0.19
21	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper tenor</i>	0.19
22	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper alto</i>	0.19
23	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper mix bass</i>	0.23
24	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper mix tenor</i>	0.23
25	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>copper mix alto</i>	0.23
26	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>end bass</i>	0.20
27	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>end tenor</i>	0.20
28	<i>Kings Park Calypso</i>	<i>end alto</i>	0.20
29	<i>Idle Valley</i>	<i>mix</i>	2.08
30	<i>Unquiet Souls</i>	<i>mix</i>	3.05
31	<i>Unquiet Souls</i>	<i>lower part</i>	3.10
32	<i>Unquiet Souls</i>	<i>middle</i>	3.11
33	<i>Unquiet Souls</i>	<i>high</i>	3.05



Retford Community Singers was formed in 2012 to encourage more people to have a go at singing. Its musical director, Janet Wood, is a very experienced professional choir leader and song writer. The emphasis is on singing for fun rather than performance. There are no auditions and there is no need to be able to read music as everything is learned by ear. Over 50 men and women attend each Tuesday evening session. New singers are always welcome.

www.retfordcommunitysingers.co.uk