

# Jimmy Nail, Big River

Walking on cobbled stones, little bits of skin and bone  
Jumping on a tram car for a ride  
I can remember when, I was a just a boy of ten  
Hanging around the old Quayside.  
Now all the capstans and the cargo boats  
And Stevadores are gone  
To where all the old ships go  
But memories, just like the sea live on  
'Cause that was when coal was King  
The river was a living thing  
And I was just a boy but it was mine  
The coaly Tyne.  
This was a big river  
I want you all to know  
That I was proud  
This was a big river  
But that was long ago  
That's not now, that's not now  
My father was working man  
He earned our living with his hands  
He had to cross the river every day  
He picked up his Union card, out of the Neptune yard  
Mouths to feed and bills to pay  
There came a time for him to sail across the sea and far away  
And finally when the war was won  
They brought him home and home he stayed  
And when his days were done  
Under a golden sun  
They took him back to where he longed to be  
Back to the sea  
This was a big river  
I want you all to know  
That I was proud  
This was a big river  
But that was long ago  
That's not now, that's not now.  
The Neptune was the last to go  
I heard it on the radio  
And then they played the latest number one  
But what do they do all day  
And what are they supposed to say  
What does a father tell his son?  
If you believe that there's a bond between our future and our past  
Try to hold on to what we have  
We build them strong, we built to last  
'Cause this is a mighty town  
Build upon solid ground  
And everything they've tried so hard to kill  
We will rebuild.  
This is a big river  
I want you all to know I'm so very proud  
This is a big river  
But that was long ago  
That's not now  
This is a big, big river  
And in my heart I know it will rise again  
The river will rise again.