

# Big River

## Jimmy Nail

Walking on cobbled stones  
Little bits of skin and bone  
Jumping on a tram car for a rideI can remember then  
    'Cause I was a just a boy of ten  
Hanging around the old QuaysideNow all the capstans and the cargo boats  
    And Stevedores 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 coal TyneFor this was a big river  
    I want you all to know  
    That I was proudThis was a big river  
    But that was long ago  
    That's not now  
    That's not nowMy father was a working man  
    He earned our living with his hands  
    He had to cross the river every dayHe picked up a Union card  
    Out of the Neptune yard  
Mouths to feed and bills to payThere came a time for him to sail  
    Across the sea and far away  
    And finally when that war was won  
You brought him home and home he stayedAnd when his days were done  
    Under a golden sun  
    You took him back to where he longed to be  
    Back to the seaFor this was a big river  
    I want you all to know  
    That I was proudThis was a big river  
    But that was long ago  
    That's not now  
    That's not nowThat's not nowThe Neptune was the last to go  
    I heard it on my radio  
    And then they played  
The latest number oneBut 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 a solid ground  
And everything they've tried so hard to kill  
We will rebuildFor this is a big river  
I want you all to know  
I'm so very proudThis is a big river  
But that was long ago  
That's not nowAnd this is a big, big river  
And in my heart I know  
It will rise again  
The river will rise again

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