

Bring us a Barrel

Keith Marsden sang Bring Us a Barrel with his group Cockersdale in 1985 on their album "Prospect Providence: Songs by Keith Marsden". He commented in the album's liner notes: 'Written 1966—the first song of them all and little did I realise how addictive song writing would become. To gain acceptance in the folk climate of the time, I originally passed it off as "collected from Charlie Hayes of Reading" so I do not now complain if so many think of it as traditional.'

No man that's a drinker takes ale from a Pin
For there is too little good stuff there within
Four and a half is it's measure in full
Too small for a sup, not enough for a pull...

Chorus

*So bring us a barrel and set it up right
Bring us a barrel, to last out the night
Bring us a barrel, no matter how high
We'll drink it up Lads, we'll drink it dry.*

The poor little Firkin's nine gallons in all
Though the beer it be good, the size be too small
For lads that are drinkers like you and like I
That firkin small barrel too quickly runs dry.

And when I'm lyin' all on me death bed
Then put by me bedside a fine full Hogshead
That if down below I must go when I die
Then me and old Nick we will both drink it dry.

Then bring forth the Puncheon and roll out the Butt
These are the measures before us to put
Our pots will go round and the good ale will flow
And we'll be content for an hour or so.