

Farewell Shanty

Farewell Shanty was allegedly discovered either by the late Mervyn Vincent or a friend of his in Plymouth Library whilst looking up old books about ships and sailing. Whoever discovered it, Mervyn popularised it on the folk circuit and he may even have written it (see Bring Us a Barrel).

It is time to go now.
Haul away your anchor,
Haul away your anchor.
Tis' our sailing time.

Get some sail upon her.
Haul away your halyards,
Haul away your halyards.
Tis' our sailing time.

Get her on course now.
Haul away your foresheets,
Haul away your foresheets.
Tis' our sailing time.

Waves are breaking under.
Haul away down channel,
Haul away down channel.
On the evening tide.

When my time is over.
Haul away for heaven,
Haul away for heaven.
God be at my side.