



**Sit Thee Down**  
The Oldham Tinkers



Gerry Kearns *vocal, guitar*  
 Larry Kearns *vocal, mandolin, whistle*  
 John Howarth *vocal, banjo, whistle*

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| <p><b>1 The Maid in the Calico Dress</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Whistle</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Whistle</i> Larry Kearns</p> | <p><b>6 Tall Tales Medley</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal and Banjo</i> John Howarth</p> | <p><b>11 Dad's Medals</b><br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns</p>                               |
| <p><b>2 Elsie Bell</b><br/> <i>Vocal</i> Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Whistle</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns</p>   | <p><b>7 Sit Thee Down</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal</i> Larry Kearns and John Howarth</p>   | <p><b>12 Fishing</b><br/> <i>Vocal</i> Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Banjo</i> John Howarth</p>                                       |
| <p><b>3 Pity Me My Darling</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Vocal and Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns</p>            | <p><b>8 John Willie's Ferret</b><br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth and Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns</p>                                    | <p><b>13 Jumping Jack</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Banjo</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns</p>           |
| <p><b>4 The Talking Dog</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Banjo</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal</i> Larry Kearns</p>                  | <p><b>9 The Deserter</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Whistle</i> Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth</p>                           | <p><b>14 Jim's Medley</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal and Banjo</i> John Howarth;<br/> <i>Vocal and Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns</p> |
| <p><b>5 To Sarah</b><br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth</p>  | <p><b>10 Poor Little Hauve-timer</b><br/> <i>Vocal and Guitar</i> Gerry Kearns;<br/> <i>Mandolin</i> Larry Kearns;<br/> <i>Vocal</i> John Howarth</p>              |  |

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 Illustration by John Atkinson





### Dad's Medals

Another of Cliff Gerrard's poems. He has the gift of making people laugh and cry with the same lyric. In *Dad's Medals* delivered here by John and accompanied by Gerry and Larry, the fun and the pathos are real and true. A friend of the Oldham Tinkers, an ex-matelot, born on Oldham Edge, currently an eager rugby player and also a police sergeant, was present at the Free Trade Hall once when the trio performed Cliff's poem. After the concert he admitted to the lads his relief that *Dad's Medals* was not the last item before the interval. Had that been the case people would have seen him with tears streaming down his cheeks as the lights came on. Such is the reality of Cliff Gerrard's poetry.

### Fishing

Larry Kearns wrote the words to this song on his return from a day's fishing with a friend of the Tinkers, John F. John is a very adept angler and is rarely unsuccessful on such trips whereas Larry devotes his time to bird-watching, falling in the river or just watching John F. fish. What is narrated in the first two verses of the song actually happened and in fact often does happen, though not in the higher circles of angling. The message behind the next two verses is not encouraging people 'to give nowt away' but to be wise when dispensing. Gerry wrote the tune.

### Jumping Jack

*Jumping Jack* written as a poem by Eric Holt is so onomatopoeic that it calls to mind Hilaire Belloc's Tarantella:

'And the Hip! Hop! Hap!  
Of the clap  
Of the hands to the twirl and the swirl  
Of the girl gone chancing,  
Glancing,  
Dancing,  
Backing and advancing,  
Snapping of the clapper to the spin  
Out and in  
And the Ting, Tong, Tang of the Guitar.'

In Eric's poem the exotic Iberian air is replaced by a warmer homelier Lancashire atmosphere and the rhythm of *Jumping Jack* is less complicated but no less catchy. Gerry's tune adds enthusiasm and variation.

### Jim's Medley

*Jim's Medley* is so named because the first two chants which Gerry sings were first brought to the trio's notice by Jimmy Rosser, the same lad who introduced them to the first two verses of *A Mon Like Thee*. The theme of the whole medley would appear to be hardship but in each chant the underlying humour prevails.

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