

Seaweed

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Last Sum - mer time I went a - way to Bourne-mouth by the sea _____ and thought I'd like to bring a bunch of sea - weed home with me. _____ It tells you if it's going to rain or if it's going to snow _____ and with it an - - y one can tell just what he wants to know. _____ With me sea - weed in me hand _____ I jumped in to the train. _____ All the pubs were closed _____ when I got out a - - gain. _____ I could - n't get a drink. _____ With thirst I thought I'd die _____ and as soon as I touched me sea-weed, I knew it was going to be dry. _____"

2. Two lovers walked one evening down a quiet country lane.
The chap was honest William and the girl was Mary Jane.
They talked and walked and walked and talked about their future life.
I heard him say "I shall be glad when you're me darling wife."
Then he kissed her ruby lips and looked on her with pride.
Said "I shall be glad when you're me darling bride."
"Tomorrow we'll be wed, and then you will be mine."
And as soon as he touched his seaweed, he knew it was going to be fine.

3. Sometime ago I had a shock right in the dead of night.
The missus cried "Wake up, you fool, the house is all alight."
I quickly scrambled out of bed, though I could hardly stand.
Me seaweed hung upon the wall; I grabbed it in me hand.
And I jumped upon the roof, forgot to take me clothes.
The fireman down below was squirting with his hose.
He it me where I stood, right on that parapet,
And as soon as I touched me seaweed, I knew it was going to be wet.

4. I was so cold in bed one night I woke me wife Maria
And said "I'm going to jump out, love, and light a little fire."
So in me nightie I jumped up so [balmy] on the [batch]
I found the wood , I found the coal and then I struck a match.
And I stood before the fire, as happy as could be.
Soon I felt the warmth round my anatomy.
Me shirt was all alight, and I'll forget me not -
For as soon as I touched me seaweed, I knew it was going to be hot.

5. Now in all me happy married life, we've never had a row.
'Till someone put the poison in now things have altered now.
Me wife when I got into bed the other Thursday night,
She plonked her cold feet on me back and kicked with all her might.
And she kicked me out of bed; I rolled upon the floor.
She said she wouldn't have me back there anymore.
She took the sheets and quilt, in which herself she rolled.
And as soon as I touched me seaweed, I knew it was going to be cold.

Source: Sung by Archer Goode, Cheltenham. Collected by Gwilym Davies 1974.