

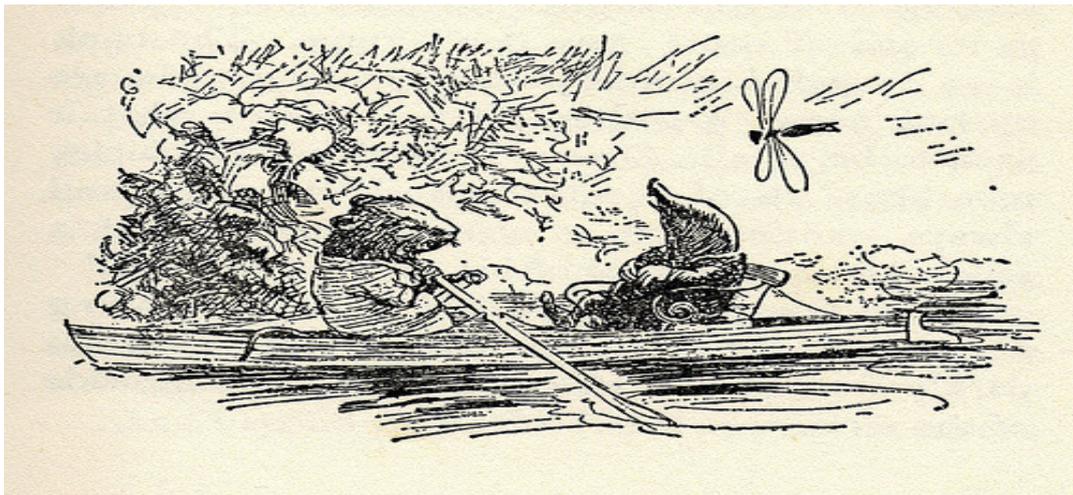
An Ode to Bernard-or dubious references to things we have sung!

We are the Thames Vale Singers
In our choir we take great pride
We practice here in Purley
Right DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Ten years have passed
Since Mr Soper first came on our patch
Some would say in 'Choral terms'
He was really quite a catch



"A warm up is essential" you'd say
"Relax and lighten your load"
But we'd sing of coloured lorries
And tangled up trotting toads!



We've sung of lots of animals
There was toad and mole and ratty
But with MEMORIES of THE GOSLINGS
It all got rather CATTY!

You'd often talk of drifting Kites floating in the sky
Just like our lovely melodies, they'd often get quite high



But sometimes those majestic birds would come down with a splat
Because, yes you've guessed it, the Sopranos had gone flat!

You'd tell of all the naughty kids
At school they'd misbehave
You suggested HIAWATHA –HOW!
Now that was being brave!



We've had BEACH BOYS on a HOLY NIGHT
With the BEATLES and OLIVER too
When we thought we could be ABBA
We nearly met our WATERLOO



With CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Multi culture was our thing
But all that Peter wanted was
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

There's been many a long REQUIEM
With triplets, crochets and quavers
We stumbled with all the Latin
But your faith in us never wavered

In recent times to Austria some lucky folk did go
Singing LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH
And let there be no snow
From mountains high to caverns deep
By church and lake we sang
You brought us all together
We were such a happy clan



As the saying goes
AT THE END OF THE DAY WE'RE ALL ANOTHER DAY OLDER
But dear Bernard, thanks to you
We sing Better, Brighter and Bolder!

By Alison Shephard

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Schulz

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