

HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT, THE

(Songbooks 2008)

There's a lamp on the cliff top that flickers at night
Offers poor weary sailors both peace and delight
But it beckons the helmsman to rocks, out of sight
On the shore 'neath the House that Jack built.

They that trust to that light and pay no heed to charts
May soon find themselves stranded in strange foreign parts
There are those on this shore with the blackest of hearts
And they meet in the House that Jack built.

Chorus There is nobody knows, for there's no-one can tell
What lies 'neath the water that flows in the well
But someone is dead, for they're ringing the bell
In the church near the House that Jack built

When a ship strikes the rocks, why tis then our plan
For to plunder her cargo – take all that we can
Then we scour the shoreline and kill every man
On the rocks 'neath the House that Jack built

Then each gathers round with his horse and his cart
For to break up the wreck and disperse every part
To build stables and houses with consummate art
That look much like the house that Jack built

Chorus There is nobody knows, for there's no-one can tell
What lies 'neath the water that flows in the well
But someone is dead, for they're ringing the bell
In the church near the House that Jack built

Now we watch for the excise and coastguard each day
For if they find our hoard e'er we get it away.
Why, then there'll be much more than Duty to pay
On what lies 'neath the House that Jack built

But they came on their horses while we took our chance
And they'd muffled their hooves so we'd not hear 'em prance
And now twenty-one wreckers are learning to dance
On a tree near the House that Jack built

Chorus There is nobody knows, for there's no-one can tell
What lies 'neath the water that flows in the well
But someone is dead, for they're ringing the bell
In the church near the House that Jack built