

Now The Day Is Over

PLAY MEDIA

It's bin sixty year sin aw started schoo'. Aw remember it as if it wur yesterday. Weel, that's not quite true. I con niver remember wor 'appened yesterday, bur aw do remember startin' schoo'.

Aw set at th' end desk, un lad next t' mi wur co'ed 'Erbert. 'E wur th'only 'Erbert in t' class. Oal kids o' course co'ed 'im a proper 'Erbert. 'E niver bothered. 'E jus' used to grin an' say "Aye, aw'm biggest 'Erbert in t' class".

Which o' course wur true. Thing wur 'e wur a reight clever lad. 'E allus seemed t' be able t' answer questions nobody else could. 'E 'elped me mony a time when aw wur stuck wi summat. Aw went oal through schoo' wi' 'im an' geet t' know 'im weel. Aw could allus depend on 'Erbert. Aw still see 'im neaw. Only tuther week wi wur walkin' dooan rooad an' as we coom past th' owd schoo' we 'eard childer startin' t' sing..

Now the day is over
Night is drawing nigh
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

"'Ee doesta remember us singin' that 'Erbert," aw said. "Aye," 'e said an' joined in

Now the darkness gathers
Stars begin to peep
Birds and beasts and flowers
Soon will be asleep.

"Aye, aw remember that o'reight", 'e said.

"Aw wonder who wrote it" aw said, "aw've niver known".

"Neaw it's funny tha should say that", 'e said.

This wur wi'eawt deawt 'Erbert's favourite expression. 'E allus said it afore 'e towed thi eawt.

"Aw wunce stayed in 'otel that used t' be a vicarage an' parson theer wrote that 'ymn. E wur co'ed William Sabine Baring-Gould."

Aw wur gloppened. Aw nodded, an' tried t' luk intelligent.

"An' tha knows what else 'e wrote?" 'e said.

Aw pretended it wur on t' tip o' mi tongue.

"Onward Christian Sowjers" 'e said. "Wi oal know Onward Christian Sowjers doan't wi?"

Aw nodded knowingly. 'Erbert carried on.

"Aye, 'e wrote it in ten minutes. 'E wur proper surprised when it coom t' be soa popular. 'E wur eccentric tha knows bur 'e could speyk six languages. 'E wur a biographer an' collected fooak songs an' poems o' Devon an' Cornwa'. 'E published a book wi' em in an' it wur used in oal schoo's in England. Bur 'e could on'y play t' piano wi' wun finger. 'E married a Yorkshire lass an' they 'ed fifteen childer. George Bernard Shaw wur a friend o' theers an' 'ees supposed to 'ave used 'em fer t' story that became Pygmalion."

Aw shook mi 'ead in disbelief.

"'Erbert", aw said, "Tha'art a marvel, it's n' wonder tha wur allus top o' t' class."

Then jokingly aw axed

"Tha doesn't 'appen t' know who wrote Oal Things Breet an' Beautiful doesta?"

'Erbert stepped back and raised 'is finger.

"Neaw it's funny tha should say that".