



# Byker Hill

Photo: Miner and Pit Pony

## Byker High Pit Mine

Byker was a high pit mine located in the Newcastle district of Byker.[4] Although no records survive of any mine called "Walker Shore," Walker Collier owned several pits in the neighboring district of Walker.[5] One theory suggests that "Walker Shore" was thus named or nicknamed by reason of its being coastal and extending out under the North Sea;[6] this seems unlikely, as the district is situated ten kilometers inland from the coast. However, some of Walker's pits lay quite close to the river Tyne, so the name may be a reference to the river shore.

---

## Gill

A **gill** (pronounced "jill") is a measure of drink similar to a dram, typically 1/4 of a standard English pint.

---

## Bumble

This verse was borrowed from *Elsie Marley*[7], and the word was originally "bumbo," which referred to a drink made with liquor, sugar, and water, as well as occasionally spices or fruit.[8] It appears unrelated to modern "bumble" or "bumble bee" cocktails involving honey and gin.[9]

---

## The Elsie Marley

The *Elsie Marley* is a jig named for an 18th-century alewife who, along with her husband Ralph, ran a successful public house in County Durham and became somewhat of a local celebrity.[10]

---

## Pitman and Keelman

- **Pitman:** A term for any coal miner.
  - **Keelman:** A worker who operated a "keel" — a large, flat-bottomed boat used for transporting coal during the 19th century, common to the Tyne.
- 

## Trim

**Trim** refers to the process of coal trimming — miners and dockworkers would labor to level out the coal stored in the ship's hold to ensure that it was safe to travel.[11]

---

## Geordie Charlton and His Pig

Geordie Charlton and his pig are mentioned in a few other songs (including some versions of *Haul Away Joe*), suggesting that he may have been a contemporary folk figure.

# Byker hill

Longest Johns / arr. Jason Horsley

$\text{♩} = 170$

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone 1

Bass Drum

(No percussion first verse)

If I had a\_\_ no ther pen y I would have a\_\_ no - ther gill  
 (The) Pit - man and the keel man trim They drink bum ble made from gin  
 First I went do - wn to the dirt I had no cowl nor - a pit shirt  
 All the boys from Walk - er Shore drink half a pint then eighteen more  
 Geor - die Charl ton - had a pig he hit it with a shovel and it danced a jig  
 If I had a\_\_ no - ther pen y I would have a\_\_ no - ther gill

T. 1

T. 2

Bar. 1

BD

1. (Hey)  
 2.  
 3. Walk er Pit's done well by me  
 4. To the tune of the El - sie Mar - ley  
 5.  
 6. The\_\_ bon - ny\_\_ lass of By - ker hill (Hey)

I would make the\_\_ pi - per play the bon - ny\_\_ lass of By - ker hill  
 Then to dance they all be gin to the tune of the El - sie Mar - ley  
 Now I've go - ten\_\_ two or three\_\_ Walk - er\_\_ Pit's done well by me  
 All the way they rant and roar to the tune of the El - sie Mar - ley  
 All the way to\_\_ Walk - er Shore to the tune of the El - sie Mar - ley  
 I would make the\_\_ pi - per play the bon - ny\_\_ lass of By - ker hill

5

T. 1

8

Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore

T. 2

8

Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore

Bar. 1

Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore

BD

8

T. 1

8

Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

T. 2

8

Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

Bar. 1

Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more Byk - erhill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

BD

11

T. 1

8 Byk - er hill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

T. 2

8 Byk - er hill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

Bar. 1

Byk - er hill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more

BD

The musical score is for three voices (T. 1, T. 2, Bar. 1) and a Bass Drum (BD). The score is for measures 11 and 12. T. 1 and T. 2 are in treble clef, and Bar. 1 is in bass clef. All three voices have the same melody: 'Byk - er hill and walk - er shore Coll - i - er lads for e - ver more'. The BD part consists of a series of eighth notes in measure 11 and a series of eighth notes in measure 12.