



"Wellerman" is a sea shanty from New Zealand. The song refers to the "wellermen", supply ships owned by the British Weller brothers who emigrated to New Zealand. In early 2021, versions by British folk music group the **Longest Johns** and Scottish singer **Nathan Evans** became viral hits on the social media site TikTok, leading to a "social media craze" around songs popularly considered sea shanties.

Wellerman

Start with 4 drum beats

There [Am] once was a ship that put to sea
And the [Dm] name of the ship was the [Am] Billy of Tea
The [Am] winds blew hard, her bow dipped down
Oh [E7] blow, my bully boys, [Am] blow

Chorus [F] Soon may the [C] Wellerman come
To [Dm] bring us sugar and [Am] tea and rum
[F] One day, when the [C] tonguin' is done,
We'll [E7] take our leave and [Am] go

She [Am] had not been two weeks from shore
When [Dm] down on her a [Am] right whale bore
The [Am] captain called all hands and swore
He'd [E7] take that whale in [Am] tow

[Am] Before the boat had hit the water
The [Dm] whale's tail came [Am] up and caught her
All [Am] hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When [E7] she dived down be[Am]low

No [Am] line was cut, no whale was freed;
The [Dm] Captain's mind was [Am] not of greed
But [Am] he belonged to the whaleman's creed;
She [E7] took the ship in [Am] tow

For [Am] forty days, or even more
The [Dm] line went slack, then [Am] tight once more
All [Am] boats were lost (there were only four)
But [E7] still that whale did [Am] go

As [Am] far as I've heard, the fight's still on;
The [Dm] line's not cut and the [Am] whale's not gone
The [Am] Wellerman makes his regular call
To [E7] encourage the Captain, [Am] crew, and all

Chorus x2

