

Watercress-O

Words & music: Roger Watson

Dm **F** **Dm**
It's five o'clock on a Sunday neet

[neet = night]

F **Am**
There's a man comes walking down our street

Dm **Am** **C** **Dm**
You can hear him out in front of the row

F **Am** **Dm**
Crying "Tuppence a basket of watercress-o"

REFRAIN: **Dm** **F** **C**
"Watercress-o! Watercress-o!"

F **Am** **Dm**
* Crying "Tuppence a basket of watercress-o!"

[* repeat last line of verse]

Dm **F** **Dm**
Well, come on, Mam, it's time for tea

F **Am**
Go and get tuppence and give it to me

Dm **Am** **C** **Dm**
So as I can go out in front of the row

F **Am** **Dm**
Aye, and fetch a little basket of watercress-o

REFRAIN

Dm **F** **Dm**
Oh, kid, you don't know what you're asking of me

F **Am**
If I'd tuppence to spare I'd be sure and give it thee

Dm **Am** **C** **Dm**
So as thy could go out in front of the row

F **Am** **Dm**
Aye, and fetch me little basket of watercress-o

REFRAIN

Dm **F** **Dm**
But your dad's on strike, kid, can't you see?

F **Am**
And he scarce brings home enough to feed us wi'

Dm **Am** **C** **Dm**
And though it pains me to tell you 'no'

F **Am** **Dm**
Well, you'll have to do wi'out your watercress-o

[wi' = with]

REFRAIN

Dm **F** **Dm**
Well, they're all in Union down our street

F **Am**
So maybe he'll not come back another week

Dm **Am** **C** **Dm**
'Cause 'til the strike is over he might well know

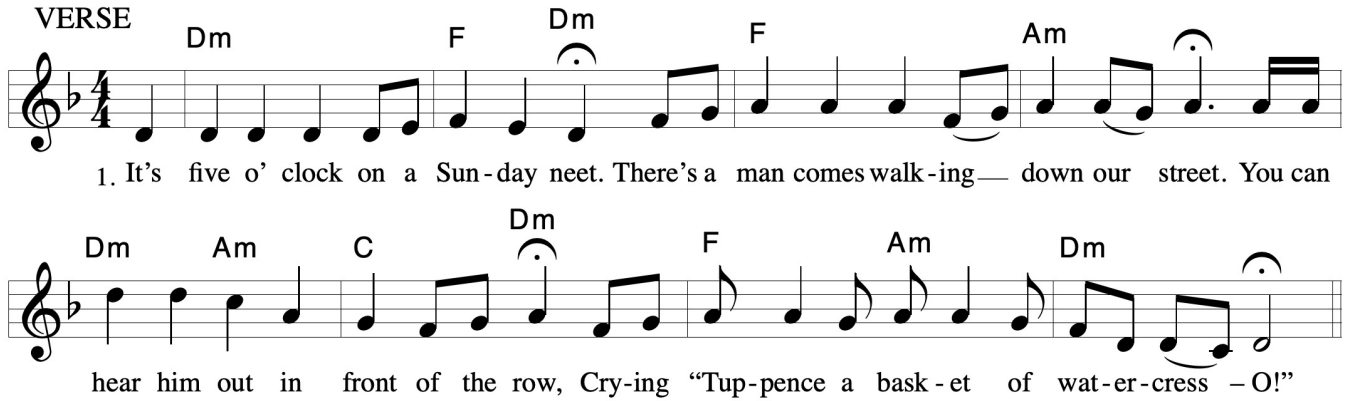
F **Am** **Dm**
That he'll not sell much of his watercress-o

REFRAIN

Watercress-O

Roger Watson

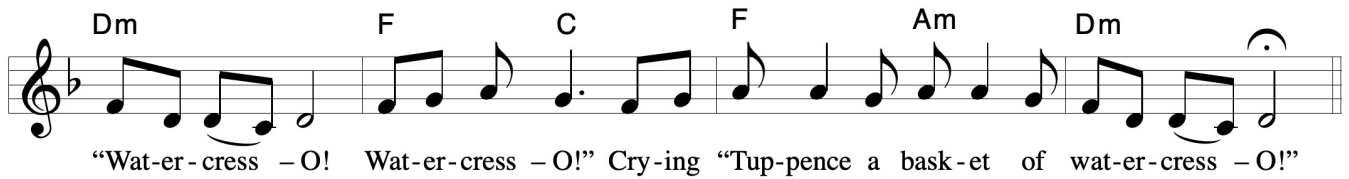
VERSE



1. It's five o' clock on a Sun-day neet. There's a man comes walk-ing— down our street. You can hear him out in front of the row, Cry-ing "Tup-pence a bask-et of wat-er-cess - O!"

The musical notation for the first verse is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, F, Dm, F, Am, Dm, Am, C, Dm, F, Am, Dm.

REFRAIN



"Wat-er-cess - O! Wat-er-cess - O!" Cry-ing "Tup-pence a bask-et of wat-er-cess - O!"

The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, F, C, F, Am, Dm.

2. Well, come on, Mam, it's time for tea
Go and get tuppence and give it to me
So as I can go out in front of the row
Aye and fetch a little basket of watercress-o
Watercress-o, watercress-o
Aye and fetch a little basket of watercress-o
3. Oh, kid, you don't know what you're asking of me
If I'd tuppence to spare I'd be sure and give it thee
So as thy could go out in front of the row
Aye and fetch me little basket of watercress-o
Watercress-o, watercress-o
Aye and fetch me little basket of watercress-o
4. But you're dad's on strike, kid, can't you see?
And he scarce brings home enough to feed us wi'
And though it pains me to tell you 'no'
Well, you'll have to do wi'out your watercress-o
Watercress-o, watercress-o
Well, you'll have to do wi'out your watercress-o
5. Well, they're all in Union down our street
So maybe he'll not come back another week
'Cause 'til the strike is over he might well know
That he'll not sell much of his watercress-o
Watercress-o, watercress-o
That he'll not sell much of his watercress-o

Roger Watson was born the Nottinghamshire town of Mansfield in 1946. In the early 1970s he and wife Helen founded the folk group 'Muckram Wakes' along with John Tams. 'Watercress-O' was written by Roger in 1965 and was based on his grandmother's recollections of the General Strike of 1926, and of its impact on the mining community in which her family lived.