

## **THE LOCK KEY – Ursula Bartlett (May 2017)**

**A Rhyme written for the Little Venice Canal Cavalcade 2017  
(based on a true event whilst aboard our narrow boat 'Forget Me Not')**

One very fine day, happily afloat,  
On Forget Me Not, our trusty narrowboat.  
Approaching a lock and secured to dry land,  
Skipper jumps off with windlass in hand.  
Winds up the paddles then opens the gate,  
Boat glides in effortlessly thanks to First Mate.  
Forget Me Not descending – all going well,  
A noisy splash and glugging sound, followed by a yell!  
“Windlass in the water!” cries Skipper in despair,  
One minute it was in his grasp, and then it wasn't there.  
Thank goodness for the magnet, stored beneath the bunk,  
Crew upon the towpath preparing for a dunk.  
Lowering magnet on a cord very carefully,  
Lifting, lowering, up and down, oh where can it be?  
Suddenly a breakthrough, the crew have got a 'bite',  
Hauling up the magnet; it's going to be alright.  
The windlass is recovered – the magnet saved the day,  
No longer trapped within the lock, we're once more underway!