When the [C] weather is fine you [G] know it's a sign
If you take my advice there's [G] nothing so nice
As [F] messing a [G7]bout on the [C] river

There's [F] long boats and [C] short boats and [G] all kinds of [C] craft
So [C] take off your coat and [G] hop in a boat

There are [C] boats made from kits that'll [G] r each you in bits
Or you might want to scull in a [G] fibre glass hull

There are [F] tillers and [C] rudders and [G] anchors and [C] cleats
And [F] ropes that are [C] sometimes re [D7]ferred to as [G7] sheets
With the [C] wind in your face there's [G] no finer place

There are [C] skippers and mates and [G] rowing club eights
There are pontoons and trots and [G] all sorts of knots

The [F] first thing you [C] learn is the [D7] right way to [G7] bail
In a [C] one-seat canoe, you're the [G] skipper and crew

There are [C] bridges and locks and [G] moorings and docks
When [F] messing a [G7]bout on the [C] river
There's a whirlpools and weir that you [G] mustn't go near

There are [F] backwater [C] places all [G] hidden from [C] view
So I'll [C] leave you right now, to [G] cast off your bow
To [F] messing a [G7]bout on the [C] river