

The Wombles



by
Elisabeth Beresford
and
Mike Batt

Vorwort

Als ich Ende Oktober 1998 zu Hause meinen Internet-Zugang erhielt, gab es noch sehr viele offene Fragen und noch mehr „ungeschriebene Seiten“ in diesem großen weltverbindenden Netz der Netze.

Aufgrund meiner recht umfangreichen Musiksammlung von den Beatles angefangen, über Cat Stevens bis hin zu Mike Batt, zu denen natürlich auch Textsammlungen und zahlreiche andere Aufzeichnungen gehören, machte ich mich schon ein Jahr später ans Werk, meine dazumals im Netz nur sehr spärlich vertretenen Lieblingsmusiker auf meiner eigenen Homepage zu präsentieren. So begann ich beinahe zeitgleich über Cat Stevens (heute „Yusuf“ Islam) und Mike Batt eine Internetseite anzulegen. Neben einer kurzen Biographie gab es eine so gut wie vollständige Discographie und die Anfänge einer Lyrics-Sammlung

Nachdem sich schon bald ähnlich geartete deutsche und österreichische Seiten über Cat Stevens im Internet einstellten, habe ich Cat Stevens aus meinem „Internet-Repertoire“ genommen und mich dafür intensiver dem scheinbar unbekanntem englischen Musiker Mike Batt gewidmet.

Anders als die meisten „Wombefans“ in England und Deutschland, welche die sympathischen Müllsammler und Wiederverwerter bereits seit dem Anfang der 1970er kennen, lernte ich sie erst Mitte der 1980er durch eine, einer Presseausendung beigelegte Künstlerbiographie kennen.

Im Gegensatz zu heute, wo man sich per Internet beinahe alles von überall auf der Welt bestellen kann, erstand ich erst bei einem London-Urlaub im Jahre 1988 - mehr durch Zufall - meine erste VHS-Kassette mit Wombles TV-Fernsehfolgen. Heute ein gut gehüteter Schatz in meiner Sammlung.

Waren auch die Wombles Mike Batts Sprungbrett für seine Karriere als Musiker, so wollte der mittlerweile zum seriösen Komponisten, Arrangeur und Dirigent großer internationaler Orchester etablierte Künstler lange Zeit nichts von der „Kindermusik mit hohem Niveau“ der Wombles hören, lesen oder wissen, geschweige denn, mit ihnen in Verbindung gebracht zu werden.

Erst mit der Gründung seines eigenen Plattenlabels „Dramatico“ im Jahre 2000, scheint er mit seinen Jugendwerken Frieden geschlossen zu haben. So veröffentlicht Mike Batt als erstes Werk in seinem Label „The Wombles Collection“ - eine Doppel-CD mit 34 Liedern und 2 Videos.

Durch Zufall stieß ich vor wenigen Tagen auf Mike Batts sehr persönlichen Nachruf auf die am Hl. Abend 2010 verstorbene „Erfinderin“ der Wombles, Elisabeth Beresford.

Anlässlich Ihres 5. Todestages habe ich nun ein paar Artikel zur Geschichte der Wombles, zu Beresfords Kinderbüchern und zu Mike Batts Musik, in einem kleinen pdf-Band vereint.

Viel Spaß beim Lesen,
und auf „[YouTube](#)“ gibt es eine Menge an Filme zu sehen und an Musik zu hören.

Bernhardthal, am 24. Dezember 2015

Dieter Friedl

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L-R Great Uncle Bulgaria, Bungo and Stepney (plus unknown in picture on wall), in one of the rooms in the burrow.
Photo taken at National Media Museum, Bradford, UK. / https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles

Elisabeth Beresford – Eine Frau, die mein Leben veränderte

Mike Batt, Komponist, Arrangeur und Entdecker von Katie Melua verdankt seinem Ruhm einer kurzen Zeit von zwei Jahren, in denen er Womblesongs komponierte und mit der Popgruppe „The Wombles“ zahlreiche Hits produzierte. Hätte er nicht den Auftrag zum Komponieren der Titelmelodie erhalten, wäre sein Leben anders verlaufen. Der Tod der Wombles-Schöpferin Elisabeth Beresford veranlasste ihn einen Nachruf zu schreiben.

Nachruf auf Elisabeth Beresford, geschrieben von Mike Batt am 31. Dezember 2010:

Elisabeth Beresford, Autorin, Moderatorin und Erfinderin der Wombles, starb am Heiligen Abend 2010 im Alter von 84 Jahren.

Mit meiner Entschuldigung für meine beiden Frauen (überwiegend meine aktuelle! ¹), die mein Leben in ihrer Weise geformt haben, kann ich nicht bestreiten, dass Elisabeth mein Leben dramatisch und unumstößlich verändert hat. In den späten Sechzigern, lange bevor ich sie kannte, erträumte sie sich die Wombles während sie mit ihren Kindern Marcus und Kate über die Gemeindewiese „Wimbledon Common“ spazieren ging. Eines der Kinder sprach das Wort „Wimbledon Common“ falsch aus und nannte die Wiese „Wimbledon Common“.

Als sie nachhause kamen, listete Liza (wie wir sie immer nannten) alle Womble-Charaktere auf, die alle die Züge von Mitgliedern der Familie bekamen. In ihrer Vorstellung hatten sie keine spitzen Nasen und graues Fell. Das kam erst später als der fantastische Puppenanimator Ivor Wood (bekannt für „Magic Roundabout“, „Paddington Bär“ und „Postman Pat“) den Look für die BBC TV-Serie festlegte. Damals waren sie einfach nur ... Wombles. Sie sollten im Untergrund leben und nur dann rauskommen, wenn es nicht sehr wahrscheinlich war, von Menschen gesehen zu werden. Und sie sollten all den Müll, den die Menschen hinterließen, in nützliche Dinge ihres täglichen Lebens verwandeln.

Das erste Buch „Die Wombles“ erzeugte eine Welle von Interesse und wurde in einem TV-Programm namens „Jackonary“ vorgestellt. Daraufhin bestellte die BBC eine Serie von fünfminütigen Wombles-Episoden, die sich an Vorschulkinder richteten, jedoch sehr davon profitierten, dass Bernard Cribbins die Geschichten erzählte und dass die Folgen direkt vor den Sechsuhrnachrichten gesendet wurden, einem Zeitpunkt, an dem normalerweise die ganze Familie vor dem Fernseher hockte.

Ivor Wood musste die Wombles umgestalten, da sie in den ersten Buchillustrationen als einfache Teddybären dargestellt wurden. So bekamen sie also ihre bekannten spitzen Nasen, Hüte und Schals um die einzelnen Figuren zu unterscheiden wie Bungo, Orinoco, Wellington, Tobermory, Großonkel Bulgaria, Madame Cholet und Tomsk. Ivor hatte richtig erkannt, dass sieben Figuren für die Vorschulkinder ausreichten.

Ich wurde ins Spiel gebracht um die Musik zu schreiben. Ich wurde von Ivor Wood und Grahame Clutterbuck, dem Managing Director von Filmfair Ltd, den Produzenten, gefragt, ob ich nicht eine Titelmelodie schreiben könne. Ich schlug vor, dass ein richtiger Song besser sei, da man dort bereits den Begriff Womble einführen konnte und es so einprägsamer machen konnte. So lieferte ich also „The Wombling Song“ ab (und wurde nebenbei noch der Erfinder des Verbes „wombling“, welches im ersten Buch nicht vorkam). Die Firma mochte es und bot mir eine Vergütung an. Ich sagte, dass ich es vorziehen würde, wenn man mir die Figurenrechte für Promotionauftritte und Plattenaufnahmen übertragen würde. Sie dachten, dass dies fair sei und dass nichts dabei sei.

So nahm ich also ein Album auf und hatte größte Schwierigkeiten dieses an eine Plattenfirma zu verkaufen. Es ist eine lange Geschichte, über die ich schon oft an anderer Stelle geschrieben habe. Aber es führte dazu, dass ich die Wombles Popgruppe gründete und damit so viele Hits hatte, dass wir, nach Music Week Magazine, die Gruppe mit den meisten Singleverkäufen in 1975 wurden, mit mir als Orinoco, dem Hauptsänger und den Anderen, die ebenfalls in Kostümen steckten, die meine Mutter gemacht hatte.

Auch wenn die Wombles nur zwei Jahre in meiner bis dato 42jährigen Karriere einnahmen, so werde ich immer noch als der „Mann hinter den Wombles“ titulierte. Ein Fakt, von dem ich mir vorstellen kann, dass es Liza ziemlich irritiert haben musste, so wie es mich auch mehr oder weniger befremdet hat (sie hat es nie gezeigt). Ich sah mich immer als der Mann VOR den Wombles, als der Sänger und Songwriter.

¹ Wendy Batt und Julianne White.

Es gab in den ersten Tagen des Womble-Erfolgs viele Gespräche und Diskussionen zwischen Lizas Firma „Wombles Ltd.“ und mir. Die kombinierte Kraft der Bücher, der TV-Serie und der Popgruppe hatte die Wombles in die Herzen der Leute katapultiert und machten sie zu einem nationalen Phänomen.

Ich war nicht immer einverstanden mit den Entscheidungen von „Wombles Ltd.“. Es waren nicht Lizas Entscheidungen sondern die von zwei Geschäftsleuten, die „Wombles Ltd.“ mit Lizas Ehemann Max Robertson leiteten. Mit ihnen habe ich sehr oft die Klängen gekreuzt.

Ich habe meine Haare vor Frustration ausgerissen als sie, auf der Höhe des Erfolges der Popgruppe, NEUN Weihnachtsbühnenshows inszenierten. Alle waren von niedriger Qualität und fanden überall in England statt. Da ich der „Womble Mann“ war, war ich ziemlich sauer mir vorzustellen, dass die Leute mich für die Shows verantwortlich machen würden. Und das taten sie auch. Es war schrecklich: billige Auftritte, schlecht dirigiert und mit einem Minimalbudget finanziert. Doch am schlimmsten war, dass sie die Vorstellung der Leute zerstörten, dass es sich um eine ganz spezielle Popgruppe handelte. Es gab neun Orinocos, neun Wellingtons, neun Bulgarias. Oh mein, Gott!

Uns erschien es (obwohl vielleicht auch nur UNS), als hätte man neun John Lennons und neun Paul McCartneys auf die Bühnen geschickt. Das Besondere, einer speziellen Popgruppe, war verfliegen. Als Konsequenz, am Tag als die Berichte über die Shows in den Zeitungen erschienen (und es waren Titelseiten!) begannen wir das Rennen um die „#1 Weihnachtssingle“ mit „Wombling Merry Christmas“ zu verlieren. Unsere täglichen Verkaufszahlen halbierten sich und die Scheibe, die ständig auf Platz Zwei war, „Lonely This Christmas“ von Mud, überholte uns plötzlich und schnappte sich den Platz eins der Hitparade. In diesem Moment begann ich jegliches Interesse daran zu verlieren jemals wieder in meinem Leben ein Womble zu sein. Ich war eine Figur in einer Band namens „The Wombles“. Ich war „deren“ Hauptsänger. Würde ich dem je entkommen können? Wahrscheinlich nicht. So hörte ich also auf es zu sein und die Wombles verschwanden von den Bildschirmen und gleichzeitig kam der Verkauf von Merchandising Artikeln zum Erliegen.

Trotz all diesem hin und hers hatte ich weiterhin immer nur schöne Gespräche mit Elisabeth. Sie zog nach Alderney. Als ihre Kinder erwachsen waren trennte sie sich von ihrem sehr dominanten Ehemann Max und lebte bis zum Ende ihres Lebens auf der Insel.

Sie nannte mich immer „mein Liebling“, in einer Art wie man es wohl in einer Agathe Christie-Geschichte getan hätte. Ich war mir aber sicher, dass das nichts Besonderes war. Ich glaube, dass für Liza jeder „mein Liebling“ war. Ähnlich wie manche Leute andere ständig „Darling“ nennen. Sie selbst war auf jeden Fall ein Darling. Ab und zu schrieb sie mir. Sie hatte eine Menge Geld verloren – durch ihren Ehemann – dank eines Bankenszenarios mit der Lloyd Bank. Sie musste einige Jahre in ziemlicher Armut leben.

Einmal besuchte ich sie auf Alderney, begleitet von ihrem Sohn Marcus, der ungefähr 13 war, als die Wombles in den Siebzigern „passierten“. Inzwischen war er erwachsen, hatte eine Frau und einen jungen Sohn namens Charlie, die uns begleiteten. Charlies Großmutter Liza war charmant wie immer, sehr mütterlich und wir verbrachten einige Tage miteinander und dachten über die bevorstehende, neue Wombles-Serie nach, die diesmal von ITV produziert wurde.

Vor kurzem sprach ich mit den voll erwachsenen Marcus und Kate, den beiden Kindern, die damals mit Liza an dem schicksalhaften Tag über die Wiese gingen. Jenem Tag, der deren Leben, das ihrer Mutter und auch meines veränderte. Wir sprachen über eine Neuauflage der Wombles. Niemand von uns war besonders begeistert über die Qualität des Remakes der kanadischen Firma vor ein paar Jahren und wir sprachen darüber, dass es etwas ganz Besonderes sein müsse. Etwas, worauf auch Liza stolz wäre. Liza war damals schon sehr krank, konnte jedoch unsere Diskussionen verfolgen. Ich weiß, dass es Marcus gefallen hätte, wenn seine Mutter die neue, hochwertige Inkarnation der Wombles gesehen und den Spaß miterlebte hätte.

Leider kommt es nun nicht mehr dazu. Aber ich denke, dass Marcus und Kate ihre Mutter Elisabeth über unsere Fortschritte informiert hätten. Und nun, umso mehr, sehe ich es als meine Pflicht an, die Wombles wieder zu erwecken. In Gedenken an eine sehr spezielle Frau, die die Wombles erschaffen hat.

<http://www.stintfangwomble.de/elisabeth-beresford-eine-frau-die-mein-leben-veranderte/>
von Stintfang Womble (Robert Madsen), Nov 28, 2011; abgerufen am 22. Dezember 2015

Elisabeth Beresford – A Lady who changed my life

Published on April 10th, 2011

Elisabeth Beresford, – writer, broadcaster and creator of the Wombles, died on Christmas Eve, 2010, aged 84.

With apologies to both my wives (mainly the current one!) who have each shaped my life in their own way – it can't be denied that Elisabeth changed my life dramatically and irrevocably when in the late sixties, long before I knew her – she dreamed up the Wombles while walking on Wimbledon Common with her children Marcus and Kate. One of the kids mis-pronounced “Wimbledon Common and called it “Womble-don Common”. When they got back home, Liza (as we always called her) made a list of Wombles characters based on members of her family. In her mind, they didn't yet have pointy noses and grey fur. That would come later, when the great stop-frame animator, Ivor Wood – he of Magic Roundabout and subsequently Paddington and Postman Pat fame, would design the “look” of them for the first BBC TV series) They were just...Wombles. They lived underground and came up at times when they were unlikely too be spotted by humans, and would convert all the old rubbish left behind by us, into useful items to use in their daily life.

The first book “The Wombles” that appeared caused quite a ripple of interest and was featured on the TV programme Jackanory. After that the BBC commissioned a series of 5 minutes Wombles episodes which were aimed at a pre-school audience but which had the good fortune to be narrated by Bernard Cribbins and also to be broadcast just before the six o'clock news, – a peak crossover spot when the whole family would be watching. Ivor Wood had redesigned them from the book illustrations, in which they were really nothing more than Teddy Bears, – so that now they had the familiar pointy noses and hats and scarves to distinguish between the characters of Bungo, Orinoco, Wellington, Tobermory, Great Uncle Bulgaria, Madame Cholet and Tomsk. Ivor had correctly worked out that seven characters were plenty for a pre-school audience to get to know.

I was brought in to write the music. I was asked by Ivor Wood , and producer Grahame Clutterbuck Managing Director of FilmFair Ltd, the producers, , if I could come up with a signature tune. I suggested that a song might be better, because I could sprinkle it with Womble names and make it sound intriguing. So I came up with “The Wombling Song” (thus becoming the inventor of the word “Wombling” as a verb, which did not exist in the first book). The company liked it, and offered me a fee. I said I would prefer to have the character rights for promotional entertainment and recording purposes instead. They thought that was fair enough, as they were worth nothing to them. So I made a record, which I then had great difficulty selling to a record company. It's a long story, which I've written about on many occasions, but it led to my forming the Wombles pop group and having so many hits that we became the biggest selling singles group of 1975 according to Music Week Magazine, with me as Orinoco, the lead singer, and all of us wearing costumes made by my mother.

Even though the Wombles took up only two years of my 42 year career to date, even to this day I am still referred to as “The Man Behind The Wombles” a fact which I would imagine must have irritated Liza as much or more than it irritated me (although she never showed it).. I guess I was the man in front of the Wombles, being the singer and songwriter.

There was quite a lot of contact and discussion between Liza's company “Wombles Ltd” and myself in those first days of Wombles' success. The combined force of the books, the TV show and the pop group had launched the Wombles into a special place in people's hearts and they had become a national phenomenon.

I did not always agree with decisions made by Wombles Ltd. It wasn't Liza herself, but the two businessmen who ran Wombles Ltd together with Liza's husband Max Robertson with whom I often crossed swords. I pulled my hair out with frustration when, at the height of the Wombles pop group's success, they mounted NINE Christmas stage shows – of very poor quality – all over the UK. Because I was “The Womble Man:” I was deeply embarrassed to think that people would blame me for the shows, – and they did. They were horrible, scruffy shows, badly directed and produced on a shoestring budget. More importantly, they destroyed , in people's minds the idea of the pop group being unique. There were nine Orinocos, Nine Wellingtons, Nine Uncle Bulgarias . Good grief!

To us (although probably ONLY to us) it seemed like having nine John Lennons and Nine Paul McCartneys. The specialness of “a pop group” had gone. Consequently, on the day the story of the shows hit the press (and it was front page stuff), we began to lose the race for “Christmas Number One” with “Womb-ling Merry Christmas”. Our daily sales figures halved, and the record which was heading steadily for number two “Lonely This Christmas” by the group Mud – overtook us and snatched the number one spot. That was when I lost interest in being a Womble for any more of my life. I was A CHARACTER in a band called The Wombles. I was “their” lead singer! Would I ever escape that? Probably not.

So I stopped doing it. And the Wombles disappeared from TV screens and the spin-off merchandising activity ground to a halt.

Through all of these ups and downs, Elisabeth and I had nothing but good conversations. She moved to Alderney, and when the children were grown up, she was divorced from her rather domineering husband, Max, and lived on the island until the end of her life. She always called me “Dear Heart” in the way characters in an Agatha Christie novel might. But I am absolutely sure it was nothing special; I’m sure everyone was “Dear Heart” to Liza, – rather like some people call everyone “Darling”. But she herself was a darling. She would write to me occasionally. She lost a lot of money – as did her husband – in the “Lloyds Name” scenario, and lived for many years in relative poverty.

I visited her once on Alderney, with her son, Marcus – who had been about thirteen when the Wombles had happened, in the seventies. He was by then grown up and had his wife and his own young son, Charlie, with him. Charlie’s Grandmother, Liza, was her usual charming, maternal self and we had a very pleasant couple of days thinking about the impending remake of some Wombles material, this time by ITV.

Recently, I’ve been talking to the even more grown up Marcus and Kate – the two children who had been walking on the Common with Liza on that fateful day, – the day that changed their lives, their mother’s life, and mine. We’ve been talking about the possibility of a Wombles revival. None of us was particularly enamoured by the quality of a remake by a Canadian company about twenty years ago, and we have been talking about making something special. Something Liza would be proud of. Liza had been ill for some time, but aware of our discussions. I know Marcus and Kate would particularly have liked their Mum to have seen the new, high quality incarnation of the Wombles, and to have shared in the fun.

Alas, that is not, now, to be. But I do think Marcus and Kate will have kept Elisabeth up to date with our progress, and now, all the more, I feel a duty to help to bring about a new awakening for the Wombles – in memory of the very special woman who created them.

<http://madhouserag.com/postmanbatt/elisabeth-beresford-a-lady-who-changed-my-life/>

Published on April 10th, 2011 by Mike Batt; accessed on December 23rd, 2015.

Elisabeth Beresford

* 6 August 1926, Paris, France, † Died 24 December 2010 (aged 84), Alderney, Channel Islands,
Occupation: Author / Genre: Children's books, novels
Spouse: Max Robertson (1949–1984) / Children: Marcus Robertson, Kate Robertson

Elisabeth "Liza" Beresford, MBE (6 August 1926 – 24 December 2010) was a British author of children's books, best known for creating *The Wombles*. Born into a family with many literary connections, she worked as a journalist but struggled for success until she created the *Wombles* in the late 1960s. The strong theme of recycling was particularly notable, and the *Wombles* became very popular with children across the world. While Beresford produced many other literary works, the *Wombles* remained her best known creation.

Early life and career

Beresford was born on 6 August 1926 in Paris, France. Her father was writer J. D. Beresford, a successful novelist who also worked as a book reviewer for several newspapers. Her godparents included author Walter de la Mare (who dedicated several poems to her), poet Cecil Day-Lewis, and children's writer Eleanor Farjeon. Beresford enjoyed many literary connections; her parents' friends included H. G. Wells, George Bernard Shaw, John Galsworthy, Hugh Walpole, W. Somerset Maugham, and D. H. Lawrence. Beresford attended Brighton and Hove High School.

After 18 months' service as a Wren, Beresford started work as a ghostwriter specialising in writing speeches. She began training as a journalist and was soon writing radio, film and television columns, and working for the BBC as a radio reporter. Beresford married BBC tennis commentator and broadcaster Max Robertson in 1949. The couple had one son and one daughter. Trips to Australia, South Africa, and the West Indies with Robertson led to children's books. *The Television Mystery* (1957), her first, was among several "conventional adventure stories and thrillers", and two television series: *Seven Days to Sydney* and *Come to the Caribbean*. *Awkward Magic* (1964) was the first of several fantasies in the manner of E. Nesbit.

During the 1960s, Beresford was a struggling children's author and freelance journalist. This would, however, change with her creation of the *Wombles*.

The Wombles

'The *Wombles* of Wimbledon Common' were inspired by her daughter Kate's mispronunciation of 'Wimbledon',² when Beresford took her children to Wimbledon Common for a Boxing Day stroll. That same day, Beresford made out a list of Womble names. Many characters were based on her family: Great Uncle Bulgaria her father-in-law, Tobermory her brother (a skilled inventor), Orinoco her son, and Madame Cholet her mother. The *Wombles'* names came from sources as varied as the town where Beresford's daughter went on a French exchange and the name of the college attended by a nephew. The first *Wombles* book was published in 1968. After it was broadcast on *Jackanory*, the BBC decided to make an animated series.

The *Wombles'* motto, 'Make Good Use of Bad Rubbish', and their passion for recycling was far ahead of its time, and captured the imagination of children, who began to organise 'Womble Clearing Up Groups.' Thirty-five five-minute films were broadcast on BBC 1 accompanied by Mike Batt's music and 'The *Wombles'* theme song, *Underground Overground, Wombling Free*. Characterised by actor Bernard Cribbins's voices and the work of animators Ivor Wood and (later) Barry Leith, the popularity of 'The *Wombles'* grew. Beresford took part in live phone-ins with children in Australia, and in South Africa she enchanted a hundred Zulus with Womble stories. Back in England, she made countless public appearances with 'The *Wombles'* across the country.

Within 10 years, Beresford wrote more than 20 *Wombles* books (translated into more than 40 languages), another 30 television films, and a *Wombles* stage show, one version of which ran in the West End. A range of *Wombles* products began to appear, including soap, T-shirts, mugs, washing-up cloths, and soft toys.

² Wimbledon Common.

Later life

Beresford and her family moved to Alderney in the Channel Islands in the mid-1970s. She and her husband Max Robertson divorced in 1984. As well as writing 20 Wombles books, Beresford wrote a variety of adventure and mystery books for children, many based on the small island of Alderney, where she lived in a 300-year-old cottage in St Anne's. Beresford was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to children's literature in the 1998 New Year Honours.

Beresford died at 10:30 PM on 24 December 2010 in the Mignot Memorial Hospital on Alderney. According to her son, Marcus Robertson, the cause of death was heart failure.

Her son Marcus Robertson (Orinoco), is a huge aficionado of steam trains. His tour company operates The Cathedral Express service

American actor James Newman is her great-nephew.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabeth_Beresford
accessed on December 23rd, 2015

Wombles' creator Elisabeth Beresford dies



Before writing the Wombles Elisabeth was a Wren during World War II

Elisabeth Beresford, the creator of The Wombles, has died, her family have announced.

Born in 1926, she passed away on Christmas Eve in the Mignot Memorial Hospital, in Alderney in the Channel Islands, according to her son.

Her creations featured in a series of books as well as a TV series. Many of the characters in the stories stemmed from her family.

In 1998 she was made an MBE, remarking: "The Queen's a mad Womble fan."

She served as a Wren during World War II before finding work as a ghost writer on BBC Radio's Woman's Hour.

In her spare time she wrote fiction, starting with romantic stories for women's magazines.

The Wombles books were inspired by a comment made by her daughter during a Boxing Day walk on Wimbledon Common.

In a November 2010 interview with BBC Guernsey, she described the moment: "Over Christmas I had to keep the children quiet as their grandparents were visiting, so on Boxing Day, after the grandparents left, we got in my car and went to Wimbledon Common.

"The three of us ran backwards and forwards screaming at the top of our voices and it was my daughter who said to me 'oh ma, isn't it great on Wombledon Common?' and I said 'That's where the Wombles live.'"

This idea led to a series of books.

Her association with the BBC led to Woman's Hour producer Monica Simms suggesting she take her idea to television company FilmFair who produced television for the BBC and, with the help of Ivor Wood puppet versions of the Wombles were made and Film Fair produced the series with Bernard Cribbins providing the voices.

The theme tune for the show was written by Mike Batt and Elisabeth said "it was Mike Batt who invented recycling [for the Wombles]", but she added: "I'm all for recycling."

Many of the characters in the stories stemmed from Elisabeth's family: "Great Uncle Bulgaria was my father-in-law, Madame Cholet was from my daughter Kate... my brother had two children and John was a very clever boy who went to Wellington College, which is where Wellington came from... and Orinoco I just picked off a map."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-12079067>; published 25 December 2010; accessed on December 23rd, 2015



Elisabeth Beresford at her home on Alderney, in the Channel Islands, in 1998, with Great Uncle Bulgaria, one of the most popular Wombles characters. (Photograph: Nick Skinner/Daily Mail/Rex Features)

[http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2010/dec/26/elisabeth-beresford-obituary;](http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2010/dec/26/elisabeth-beresford-obituary)
accessed on December 23rd, 2015

Die Wombles

Die Wombles sind literarische Charaktere der britischen Autorin Elisabeth Beresford in einer Reihe von gleichnamigen Kinderbüchern (The Wombles), die ab 1968 in England erschienen.

Kinderbücher

Bei den Wombles handelt es sich um spitznasige, pelzige und Teddybär-ähnliche Höhlenbewohner im Londoner Stadtteil Wimbledon. In den ursprünglichen Kindererzählungen setzen sie sich durch Einfallsreichtum und Erfindungsgeist für die Reinhaltung der Umwelt ein und sollen auf diese Weise ökologisches Bewusstsein fördern. Der Name „Womble“ geht angeblich auf einen Versprecher eines der Kinder der Autorin zurück, das „Wimbledon“ fälschlicherweise „Wombledon“ ausgesprochen haben soll.

Insgesamt entstanden fünf Kinderbücher in englischer Sprache: The Wombles (1968), The Wandering Wombles (1970), The Wombles at Work (1973), The Wombles to the Rescue (1974) und The Wombles Go Round the World (1976). Die zentralen Womble-Charaktere sind dabei: Großonkel Bulgarien (Great Uncle Bulgaria), Trinidad (Tobermory), Orinoco, Bungo, Wellington, Madame Cholet, Kiew (Tomsk), Alderney, Miss Adelaide und Stepney.

TV-Serie und Spielfilm

Zwischen 1973 und 1975 entstand durch die britische Produktionsfirma FilmFair eine Fernsehadaptation der Wombles für die BBC. Die etwa sechzig 5-minütigen Puppentrickfilme wurden mittels der Stop-Motion-Technik hergestellt. Im englischsprachigen Original verlieh Bernard Cribbins allen Wombles seine Stimme, in der deutschen Fassung Dieter Hallervorden. Für die deutsche Erstausstrahlung 1977 im ZDF-Vorabendprogramm wurde eine alternative Synchronfassung mit verteilten Sprecherrollen hergestellt, in der unter anderem Arnold Marquis Onkel Bulgaria sprach, und bei der im Vorspann die deutsche Fassung des Titelliedes gesungen wurde. Der Text lautete:

Umwelt fängt an vor der eigenen Tür,
Wombles sind Wesen, die tun was dafür!
Leise und freundlich und sauber sind sie,
jeder muss wombeln, denn sonst klappt das nie!

Die von Mike Batt geschriebene Originalfassung des Titelliedes, der Wombling Song, konnte sich 1974 - neben drei weiteren Auskoppelungen - als Single in den englischen Charts platzieren. Anschließend konzipierte Batt vier Alben (Wombling Songs, Remember you're a Womble, Keep on Wombling und Superwomble). Ferner wurde 1977 mit Wombling free ein Live-Action-Spielfilm mit Schauspielern in Kostümen als Wombles produziert. Batt lieferte für diesen Kinderfilm ebenfalls den Soundtrack. 1998 gab es eine Neuauflage der Wombles als Puppentrickserie, die von der kanadischen Firma Cinar Films produziert wurde. Dezember 2007 ist eine DVD mit den ersten 15 Folgen und neuer Synchronisation auf dem deutschen Markt erschienen.

Sonstiges

Die Wombles traten europaweit im Rahmen des von der BBC produzierten Eurovision Song Contest 1974 als Interval Act während der Abstimmung auf, in dem sie - untermalt von einem Mix ihrer Lieder The Wombling Song und Remember you're a Womble - in einem Einspielfilm Stadtbilder aus dem Austragungsort Brighton präsentierten.

Das Maskottchen des Fußballclubs AFC Wimbledon ist ein Womble namens "Haydon". Der Name wurde nach einem Namensgebungswettbewerb von Elisabeth Beresford persönlich ausgesucht und bezieht sich auf den Bahnhof Haydons Road, der dem alten Stadion des FC Wimbledon, der Plough Lane, am nächsten lag.

Von Wikipedia, der freien Enzyklopädie, https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die_Wombles;
abgerufen am 23. Dezember 2015

The Wombles

Author: Elisabeth Beresford / Illustrator: Margaret Gordon (initial book illustrations)

Country: United Kingdom / Language: English / Genre: Children's literature

Publisher: Puffin Books / Published: 1968 – 1976

Media type: Print (hardcover and paperback) Audiobook / No. of books: 6

The Wombles are fictional pointy-nosed, furry creatures created by author Elisabeth Beresford, originally appeared in a series of children's novels from 1968. They live in burrows, where they aim to help the environment by collecting and recycling rubbish in creative ways. Although Wombles supposedly live in every country in the world, Beresford's stories are concerned with the lives of the inhabitants of the burrow on Wimbledon Common in London, England.

The characters gained a higher national profile in the UK in the mid-1970s as a result of a BBC commissioned children's television show which used stop motion animation. A number of spin-off novelty songs also became hits in the British music charts. The Wombles pop group was the idea of British singer and composer Mike Batt.

The Womble motto is "Make Good Use of Bad Rubbish". This environmentally friendly message was a reflection of the growing environmental movement of the 1970s.

Background

In 1968, Elisabeth Beresford took her young children for a Boxing Day walk on Wimbledon Common, where her daughter Kate mispronounced it as "Wombledon Common", sparking the idea of the Wombles in her mother's mind. On getting home, Beresford wrote down the idea and started developing the characters and storylines. She developed most of her Womble characters around members of her family, and named them after places the family had associations with.

Physical characteristics

Wombles are essentially burrowing animals. They have retractable claws (like cats), but as they mostly live in long-established burrows, they rarely use these even for digging. Their size and physical appearance has changed somewhat over the years: in the original editions of the books, Wombles are pictured as bear-like and between 4 and 5 feet (about 1.5 metres) in height, making them only slightly smaller than adult humans. This changed with the TV series where they were portrayed as being about knee-high to humans, with pointy snouts like those of raccoons. In the book and movie *Wombling Free* they are described as "short, fat, and furry", roughly between three or four feet (about 1 metre) in height.

Wombles are herbivores and are very fond of mushrooms. They eat a variety of plants, fungi, and tree products that human beings cannot (or will not) eat, so daisy buns, acorn juice, fir-cone soufflé, elm bark casserole and grassbread sandwiches are part of the Womble menu - augmented by any food left behind on the Common by human beings. All Wombles are strong swimmers and can even survive for long periods in ice-cold water. Several sub-species of Womble are revealed throughout the books: the Loch Ness Monster is actually part of a clan of water Wombles and the yeti of the Himalayas are giant snow-white Wombles. Wombles have a sixth sense which allows them to sense green spaces and wildlife; this is first mentioned in the *Wandering Wombles* but developed to a keen long range telepathic sense by Dalai Gartok Womble in *The Wombles Go Round The World*.

Wombles are extremely long-lived. For example, in *The Wombles Great Uncle Bulgaria* recalls being "a young Womble" at the time of Queen Victoria's coronation in 1837 suggesting that he is somewhat - but not very much - older than 140. However the song *Minuetto Allegretto* begins with the words "Back in 1780 when Bulgaria was a Lad", indicating that he is at least 200. (However, as this was written by Mike Batt and not by Beresford it could be considered less canonical.) Other sources indicate the life expectancy of a Womble is over 200 years, with some reaching 300. In the feature-length special *World Wide Womble Day* Great Uncle Bulgaria's 300th birthday is celebrated - again probably not canonical, as the novels frequently feature Great Uncle Bulgaria complaining that he will never understand humans even if he lives to be three hundred, implying that this age is not common amongst Wombles.

Culture and society

Though it is stated that Wombles live all around the world, Beresford's collection of stories, as well as the television series and the music, focus on a group living in Wimbledon Common in London, England, with the sole exception of *The Wombles Go Round The World*. Some of the Womble customs described below might therefore be local to the Wimbledon community.

Wombles care for and educate their young at a communal level. Like human children, immature Wombles are taught reading, writing and athletic skills, which they learn by playing a game called "Wombles and Ladders". (Some older Wombles play this game too, though most regard it as childish.) Below a certain (unspecified) age all Wombles are nameless; upon being deemed to be of working age, a Womble chooses his or her name by looking through Great Uncle Bulgaria's large atlas until they find a name that suits them. Some (Bungo for example) "merely shut their eyes tight and point and hope for the best." They then leave Miss Adelaide's "Womblegarten" and join in the communal work of the burrow, which is mostly clearing up and recycling human refuse.

Wombles are very careful to keep their existence secret from human beings - at least in the books and TV series - fearing that discovery of their existence will lead to the Great Womble Hunt. For the most part, adult Human Beings rarely take notice of them, or fail to distinguish them from Human Beings. In the movie *Wombling Free* this is reversed as the Wombles seek to get Human Beings to listen to their "make good use of bad rubbish" pleas. Otherwise secrecy is the rule, though there have been a few exceptions, such as Mr. Smith, a lonely senior citizen who is invited inside the Wombles' burrow on Christmas Eve. When Bungo inquires about the possibility of Mr. Smith alerting others to their existence, Tobermory replies that nobody will believe him.

Wombles generally have a low opinion of other animal species, though they are never unkind to them. They have a poor opinion of human beings in general, though there are exceptions; royalty for example, especially the Queen. They also have a respect for human literature; the Wimbledon Wombles maintain a large library of books left by humans on the Common, and Great Uncle Bulgaria is fond of reading *The Times*.

Wombles are extremely tidy, polite, and honest creatures. On the rare occasions they are forced to take things from humans without permission, they always leave money to cover the cost, but anything left behind on the Common is gathered up and taken to the burrow for recycling. They dislike lies and deception, though on occasion they are known to stretch the truth or to omit important details.

Known Wombles

Great Uncle Bulgaria – the oldest and wisest of the Wimbledon Wombles and their leader. He is based on Beresford's father-in-law and named after the country. He terrifies the younger Wombles with his stern manner (and particularly his habit of glaring at them through two pairs of spectacles) but is actually very kind.

Tobermory – an engineer, based on Beresford's brother, a skilled inventor, and named after the capital of the Isle of Mull, in the Scottish Inner Hebrides islands. He has a gruff and surly manner but like Bulgaria (with whom he has been friends for many years) he has a very kindly heart. In the first edition of *The Wombles* his name is spelled Tobermoray.

Orinoco – a shirker who loves sleep and food, styled on Beresford's teenage son and named after the River Orinoco in South America. Though slothful by nature, Orinoco is capable of some surprising acts of moral and physical courage.

Bungo – over-enthusiastic and bossy, named after Bungo Province in Japan. He is Orinoco's best friend and based on Beresford's daughter.

Tomsk – an athletic Womble with a rather low IQ, named after Tomsk in Russia. He is extremely keen on golf, and plays on the London Scottish Golf Club course situated on the common.

Wellington – scientifically inclined, but very insecure and absent-minded. Named after Beresford's nephew's school: Wellington School, Somerset.

Madame Cholet – a prim and proper female Womble. The Womble cook, styled on Beresford's mother and named after the town of Cholet in France. She affects a French accent, though she actually no more French than any other Wimbledon womble.

Miss Adelaide – schoolmistress, named after the city of Adelaide in Australia.

Alderney – Madame Cholet's assistant, named after Alderney in the Channel Islands where Beresford lived towards the end of her life. She appeared in the early books, but did not make it into the first TV series. Her character was revived in the second TV series, when many viewers wrongly assumed she was a new character.

Later character names for the film *Wombling Free* and second *Wombles* TV series developed in the same manner:

Cousin Cairngorm McWomble the Terrible – named after the Cairngorms, a mountain range in Scotland. He was introduced in the second book (*The Wandering Wombles*) as a Highland Womble clan chief. He appeared in the TV series when he visited the Wimbledon burrow. He was usually known simply as McWomble.

Shansi – often paired with Alderney, as Bungo was with Orinoco, named after a Shanxi province in China.

Stepney – East Ender with dreadlocks, who got his name from the Stepney area in London's East End where he came from.

Obidos – named after Óbidos, Pará in Brazil.

In the first book, Bungo is the youngest and least experienced of the team, and the story is mostly viewed through his eyes. Later Wellington (who was not introduced until the second book) took over the role of "new boy". Alderney and Miss Adelaide appeared in the earlier books but were not included in the original 1970s TV series. Alderney was re-introduced in the later TV shows produced in the 1990s (the Channel Island of Alderney was actually Elisabeth Beresford's home at the time), along with Stepney (who appeared in none of the earlier versions).

Children's novels - There were six novels:

The Wombles (1968)

The Wandering Wombles (1970)

The Invisible Womble (1973)

The Wombles at Work (1973)

The Wombles to the Rescue (1974)

The Wombles Go Round the World (1976)

All of these were out of print for many years, but through 2010 and 2011 they were re-issued (along with the 1973 short-story collection *The Invisible Womble*) by Bloomsbury with all-new illustrations by Nick Price. The last two books are less well known than the original four, perhaps because they appeared after the successful television series began. In *The Wandering Wombles*, the setting moved from Wimbledon Common to Hyde Park in central London. However *The Wombles to the Rescue* saw them return to Wimbledon Common.

Four of the books were illustrated by Margaret Gordon. *The Wombles at Work* (1973) was illustrated by Barry Leith, who worked on set design for the original *FilmFair* series. The appearance of the Wombles in the books followed the design of the Ivor Wood TV puppets, with the exception of original editions of *The Wombles* (1968) and first printings of *The Wandering Wombles* which preceded the TV series and depicted the Wombles as teddy bear-like creatures. When the 1973 animated *Wombles* series was in pre-production, a decision was made to change the design of the characters so that they did not resemble teddy bears, as it was felt that there were too many children's shows with teddy bear characters. There is a reference in the first book to dark brown being the colour of their fur (with the exception of the oldest Wombles whose fur turns white) but this was changed to silvery grey, save for the neck, which is black. Some of the toys and book illustrations do not show the black fur on the neck.

There is an audiobook of *The Wombles*, narrated by Bernard Cribbins.

Wombles appearing in the books included:

Great Uncle Bulgaria, Tobermory, Madame Cholet, Miss Adelaide, Tomsk, Bungo, Orinoco, Wellington, Alderney and Shansi

Additional Wombles included:

Cousin Yellowstone, Cairngorm the MacWomble, Omsk, Culvain, Ness and her many sons (water Wombles), Cousin Botany, Speyer and Heilbronn, Frau Heidelberg, Habsburg Von Hohenzollern Womble, Ms Atlanta, Idaho, Dalai Gartok, Nanking, Cairns and Perth, Great-Great Aunt M. Murrumbidgee, Eucula, Uncle Dunedin, Cousin Tokyo and Hirado

Beresford also wrote a collection of short stories entitled *The Invisible Womble and Other Stories* (1973), in which the original Wimbledon Common setting was restored. Although based on episodes from the TV series, these stories occasionally refer to events in the novels.

In addition to these books, a great many annuals, picture-books and children's early readers have been published over the years, some of which were also written by Beresford.

Television

Main articles: [The Wombles \(TV series\)](#), [The Wombles \(1996 TV series\)](#) and [The Wombles \(2015 TV series\)](#)

A stop motion animated series of five-minute episodes was made between 1973 and 1975. There were also two half hour specials. Narration and all Womble voices for this series and the two half hour specials were provided by Bernard Cribbins. Further animated episodes using new animation models and sets were made by Cinar/Filfair in 1998-1999. These were ten minutes in length and had several Canadian actors provide the voices. Background music adapted from the Wombles' records along with new compositions were also featured.

Music / Main article: [The Wombles \(band\)](#)

Songwriter and producer Mike Batt wrote the series' theme tune, but negotiated the musical rights to the characters in place of the traditional composer's fee. In an effort to promote the Wombles' first single, he had his mother make him a Womble costume, which he wore for most of the working week. After the Wombles' first chart hit, he went on to perform and produce a number of successful novelty singles as The Wombles in the 1970s. They amassed eight Top 40 singles in the UK and reached No. 55 in the US Billboard Hot 100 chart. They were awarded the Music Week Award for Top Singles Band of 1974. Reissues of the Wombles' music in the late 1990s and early 2000s also charted, extending their number of UK chart hits to thirteen.

Merchandise

The Wombles were successfully merchandised in the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. Stuffed toys, ranging in quality from poor to excellent were produced, along with stationery, stickers, small figurines, bath soap, night lights, lamp shades, chocolate bars, gelatin pudding kits, posters, games, shirts, badges (buttons), cloth patches, and other items. The revival of the series in the late 1990s brought with it another wave of merchandise which included lunch boxes, umbrellas, flannels (face cloths), hot water bottle covers, slippers, an expensive Steiff doll, and a set of postage stamps for Alderney, a Channel Island that served as the name for one of the Wombles and the home of Beresford until her death. More recently, the Wombles were part of a set of UK postage stamps honouring classic British children's TV programs.

A 1974 Christmas pantomime featuring the Wombles - or rather actors in costumes similar to those used by Mike Batt for the Wombles band - was not well received by the audiences and was blown up into a scandal in the UK tabloids. The uproar coincided with the rise of the Wombles' "Wombling Merry Christmas" up the charts and caused sales of the single to slump. (The single still managed to achieve a No. 2 UK chart position.)

In 2013, Mike Batt and Elisabeth Beresford's two children consolidated the merchandising copyrights to the Wombles in a new company, Wombles Copyright Holdings, in which Batt became the principal shareholder with creative control held by Beresford's heirs. This included the purchase of the Wombles TV series from DHX Media, who had acquired it with their purchase of Cookie Jar Entertainment, who had acquired it as part of the assets of Cinar following Cinar's production scandal, subsequent to Cinar's acquisition of Film-Fair. A new TV series, with CGI animation, is in production with Serious Lunch, along with a movie.

Series Production and Merchandising of Children's TV programming in the wake of the Wombles

Stop motion animation is an expensive means of making a program, due to the amount time required. Animation production houses, such as FilmFair, used to count on international sales of the series to cover the costs of production and, perhaps, make a small profit. Spin off merchandising was considered a welcome bonus to the success of the series. Rising labour and production costs have led to a situation where merchandising is now a required and expected consideration in creating a new program. The Wombles TV series had been commissioned because of the popularity of the stories on UK children's TV program Jackanory, with little thought given to merchandising. After the success of the Wombles, whose merchandising was conducted in a haphazard way, and, more significantly, the overwhelming success of merchandising for the Star Wars franchise, whose merchandise had a preconceived marketing plan, merchandising became the prime driver of and precursor to new productions. Whereas, prior to Star Wars, the story had come first and its popularity led to the commissioning of a TV series, the situation had now reversed itself and the design of the toy came first, with production and story subjugated to being a vehicle to drive the sales of merchandise. Lack of regulation in the USA with regard to advertising to children led to a glut of programming and accompanying ads whose sole purpose was to drive the sales of merchandise related to the program. Demand for Wombles merchandise in the UK was a side effect of the popularity of the TV program and books but there were restrictions on toy advertising in the UK that kept TV merchandising in check.

Film / Main article: [Wombling Free](#)

A feature-length live-action movie *Wombling Free* was released in 1977, starring The Wombles, David Tomlinson, Frances de la Tour and introducing Bonnie Langford. A soundtrack album was released in 1978. A region 2 DVD of the film was released by Network DVD in 2006, containing the film in its theatrical aspect ratio, the original theatrical trailer, and archive interviews with Bonnie Langford, David Tomlinson and writer/director Lionel Jeffries.

Other appearances

The Wombles starred in a number of British comics including *Teddy Bear* (1973), *Jack and Jill* (1973–81), a number of holiday specials, and as the interval act at the Eurovision Song Contest 1974.

A pack of Wombles appeared in The Goodies episode *The Goodies Rule - O.K.?*. Their appearance was a sly nod to the chart rivalry between The Goodies and Mike Batt's Wombles singles.

The Wombles were exported to American audiences in the mid to late 1970s when they made occasional appearances on CBS' *Captain Kangaroo*. The series also ran on TV Ontario (UHF Channel 19) in the mid 1980s in the gaps between programs due to the non-commercial policy of the station.

The Wombles are popular in the MUD world, particularly on Discworld MUD.

In 2009 The Wombles featured in "The Official BBC Children in Need Medley" which reached No.1 in the UK singles charts.

In 2011 The Wombles performed live at Glastonbury.

The Wombles and sport

"Haydon" the mascot of AFC Wimbledon.

Due to the Wombles' association with the area, some local sporting teams representing Wimbledon are sometimes affectionately dubbed "the Wombles". These teams include the Ladies side of Wimbledon RFC (whose mascot is Alderney), Wimbledon Volleyball Club and the Wombles Netball Club.

From 2000 to June 2003, Wimbledon F.C. used a Womble named "Wandle" as a club mascot after the local River Wandle. However, in light of the controversy over the moving of the club to Milton Keynes, the licence to use the character was not renewed. In 2006 the club's spiritual successor AFC Wimbledon agreed a licensing deal, and launched its own Womble mascot. After a naming competition in which the final name was chosen by Elisabeth Beresford herself, the club announced that the new Womble would be known as "Haydon," after Haydons Road, the nearest railway station to Wimbledon's original home ground, Plough Lane.

Beresford also gave permission for a team of Wombles to run the London Marathon every year raising money for Jesuit Missions UK.

In a special episode of the BBC's A Question of Sport themed around the Wimbledon tennis championships, Sue Barker mentioned having asked then team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott to name their Wimbledon heroes. The replies were "Vinnie Jones" and "Uncle Bulgaria."

References to The Wombles

Barrington Womble MBE (played by John Halsey) is the drummer of the fictional band The Rutles, a spoof of The Beatles drummer Ringo Starr.

Various allusions and puns are made in reference to the Wombles in the Warhammer 40,000 book series Ciaphas Cain by author Sandy Mitchell, being referenced in the form of the "Reclaimers" chapter of the Space Marines. In addition, Space Marines models with a particular type of cone-like faceplate are referred to by hobbyists as Womble Marines.

The 2005 film *Breakfast on Pluto* features the Wombles.

In the Bottom episode "s Out", the main characters Eddie and Richie camp out on Wimbledon common and try hunting Wombles to get a meal. They fail. Eddie refers to a hedgehog (whom he mistakenly believes to be a Womble) as Great Uncle Bulgaria, and he also refers to Orinoco.

The British comedy *The Vicar of Dibley* has referenced the Wombles on multiple occasions. For instance, Dawn French's character Geraldine Granger once said, "I once tried to go on Mastermind, but they didn't like my special subject. Apparently there just aren't enough questions about the Wombles."

The Wombles are vitriolically parodied in *The Borrible Trilogy* by Michael de Larrabeiti as the Rumbles, the upper-class, rodent-like enemies of the working-class scavenger main characters.

The term "womble" is sometimes used in British slang to describe a person who is well-meaning but absent-minded or ineffectual. For example, Jeremy Clarkson often used to refer to Highways Agency Traffic Officers as "traffic wombles" on *Top Gear*.

In the fifth season of *The Ricky Gervais Show*, Stephen Merchant compared Ricky Gervais to a Womble while discussing Ricky's experiences as an unemployed artist in the 1980s.

During the London Riots of 2011 people used the Twitter Hashtag #riotwombles to gather people over social media to help clean up the streets affected by the riots.

On 19 December 2011, the Wombles were featured on an episode of *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*.

Wombles are mentioned in a MUD inspired by the Discworld books written by Terry Pratchett called *Discworld MUD*. This game can be found on discworld.starturtle.net/lpc/

Wombles are referenced in *A Darkling Plain*, remembered by Wren Natsworthy as the "scavenger ghosts of London"

Wombles are referenced in the title and first track of Alabama 3's 2013 album, "The Men from W.O.M.B.L.E."

Electronic musician/prog rocker Nash The Slash wrote and recorded an instrumental song titled "Womble" as a track on one of his records, based on his impressions of the characters in the TV series.

A book "We Could Have Been The Wombles" by Tom Bromley provides the stories behind many novelty or "one hit wonder" UK chart singles. It features the Wombles on the cover, but not in the text. The title is a parody of the musician's/group's lament "We could have been the Beatles!"

The Wombles are referenced in Marianne Taylor's book "Watching Wildlife In London" in regards to the sighting of feral Sugar Gliders (squirrel-like marsupials imported as exotic pets from Australia) on Wimbledon Common.

In the BBC sitcom *Fifteen Storeys High*, the Wombles feature in a flashback to a traumatic incident from the childhood of the main character, Vince.

In the "Johannesburg" episode of the BBC Radio 4 sitcom *Cabin Pressure*, Douglas describes a method of creating hot water in an old wine bottle that causes Carolyn to note he'd "discovered his inner Womble."

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles
accessed on December 23rd, 2015

The Wombles (band)

Origin: Wimbledon Common, London, England / *Genres:* Novelty Pop / *Years active:* 1973-Present
Labels: CBS Records³

Members: Mike Batt, Chris Spedding, Simon Chandler-Honnor, Clem Cattini, Ray Cooper, Rex Morris, Eddie Mordue and Jack Rothstein

The Wombles are a British novelty pop group, featuring musicians dressed as the characters from children's TV show *The Wombles*, which in turn was based on the children's book series by Elisabeth Beresford. Songwriter and record producer, Mike Batt, wrote the series' theme tune, and went on to perform and produce a number of successful albums and singles as 'The Wombles'. *British Hit Singles & Albums* jokingly referred to them as the "furryest (and possibly the tidiest) act... are natives of Wimbledon Common, London". In 2011, the band played at The Glastonbury Festival.

History

Filmfair acquired the television rights to *The Wombles* and commissioned Batt to write the theme song. He waived the flat fee for writing a single song, and secured the character rights for musical production to write songs under the name 'The Wombles'. To help him get into character, Batt's mother made him a Womble suit, which he wore for a week prior to writing the first songs.

The band released several albums and singles. All four studio albums went gold[citation needed] and four of the singles reached the Top 10 in the UK Singles Chart. The Wombles were the most successful act of 1974, with albums in the UK charts for more weeks than any other act.

A single called "Wombling U.S.A.", written to break into the American market, was recorded in 1974 but was not released.⁴

Several of the songs were included in the soundtrack of the 1977 film, *Wombling Free*.

Live performances

In January 1974, Mike Batt appeared on an edition of Cilla Black's television series as Orinoco, having been led onstage by guest Bernard Cribbins, to plug "The Wombling Song". Consequently, when the single charted, the "band" was invited to perform on *Top of the Pops*. Additional Womble suits were hastily made for the live performance.

When appearing as a band, the Wombles were always played by experienced musicians in full costume. Batt continued to perform as Orinoco, regularly accompanied by drummer Clem Cattini as Bungo and guitarist Chris Spedding as Wellington (complete with Spedding's trademark white Gibson Flying V)--both of whom had previously recorded with Batt. On one edition of *Top of the Pops*, the costumes were filled by members of *Steeleye Span*.

Tim and Andy Renton, who had worked with Batt in the latter incarnation of *Hapshash and the Coloured Coat* also donned the costumes, along with Robin LeMesurier, who also had a Gibson Flying V, but was kicked out of the band following an arrest for possession of marijuana.

The band was the interval act at the Eurovision Song Contest 1974.

Wellington's Solo Career

In 1976, Wellington left the band and released the solo single, "Rainmaker".

Legacy

Batt remains sensitive about the legacy of the band. In a 2008 interview he said "It is hard to be taken seriously with the Wombles hanging around my neck like a furry anvil." More recently (in a programme with Aled Jones on the BBC in 2010) Batt pointed out that, in balance, the Wombles also served as a "furry balloon" as it gave him his first chart success.[citation needed]

³ and later at Mike Batt's Label Dramatico.

⁴ first released 1974 only in the USA as a cassette B-side.

Glastonbury Festival

In April 2011, Batt announced that The Wombles would play at The Glastonbury Festival in June. Michael Eavis, the founder of the Glastonbury Festival, said that booking the Wombles was "a bit of a mistake". Batt quipped that Uncle Bulgaria had been offended by Eavis' comments and had withdrawn an offer to tidy up the site after the festival. The band pulled a huge crowd on the Glastonbury Avalon stage- bigger than the audience for the main Pyramid stage on the same afternoon, so Mr Eavis' Avalon stage booker was exonerated.

The Wombles personnel

Orinoco Womble - vocals (Mike Batt)

Wellington Womble - lead guitar (Chris Spedding)

Tomsk Womble - bass (Les Hurdle)

Bungo Womble - drums, percussion (Ray Cooper/Clem Cattini)

Tobermory Womble - piano, keyboards (Simon Chandler-Honnor)

Madame Cholet - saxophone (Eddie Mordue/Rex Morris)

Great Uncle Bulgaria - violin, musical director (Jack Rothstein)

Additional personnel

Eric Bulger - keyboards, saxophone, vocals

Amy Adkins - percussion, violin, vocals

Richard Kingston - keyboards, percussion, vocals

Parodies

The BBC Four comedy program Don't Watch That, Watch This showed a dubbed footage of The Wombles from TOTP2, of the Wombles purportedly performing "Anarchy in the U.K." live in June 1988. The scrolling caption during the song read "During the early eighties the Wombles reformed as a funk soul fusion. But the project soon failed and the group disbanded, only to come together again as the Dixie Minstrel Wombles. In 1988 the original line up were reunited for the third time to record their version of this Sex Pistols classic.... for a Pot Noodle commercial. Later released as a single it reached 57 on the charts".

The film The Rutles featured a Ringo Starr-inspired character named Barrington Womble who "shortened his name to save time...he simply became Barry Wom."

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_\(band\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_(band))
accessed on December 23rd, 2015

Wombling Free

was a 1977 film adaption of the children's television series *The Wombles*.

Directed by: Lionel Jeffries / *Produced by:* Ian Shand / *Written by:* Lionel Jeffries

Starring: David Tomlinson, Frances de la Tour, Bonnie Langford

Narrated by: Lionel Jeffries / *Music by:* Mike Batt / *Cinematography:* Alan Hume

Edited by: Peter Tanner / *Distributed by:* Cinar, Granada Ventures, Network Company

Release date: 1977 / *Running time:* 96 min, 17 Seconds / *Country:* United Kingdom / *Language:* English

Plot

Based on the popular BBC children's series, this film charts the adventures of the Wombles, a colony of small litter-picking creatures who live on Wimbledon Common. The film begins with Great Uncle Bulgaria Womble telling the story of how Wombles have always been cleaning up after human from the very beginning with Adam and Eve, and how Wombles continue to clean up after humans for generations up to the present day all around the world, including the United States, Russia, and India. Only seen by those who believe in them, their work goes largely unnoticed until a young girl, Kim, spots them and their worthwhile purpose. As she invites them to her birthday party, her mother is forced to believe as she comes face to face with Orinoco, Tobermory and the rest. A public meeting is set to prove to the local population that the Wombles do exist and should be aided in their anti-rubbish campaign. But on the day in question, a storm breaks out over the Common.

Cast

Humans: David Tomlinson as Roland Frogmorton, Frances de la Tour as Julia Frogmorton,

Bonnie Langford as Felicity 'Kim' Frogmorton, Bernard Spear as Arnold Takahashi,

Yasuko Nagazumi as Doris Takahashi, John Junkin as County Surveyor, Reg Lye as Assistant Surveyor

Wombles

The Womble characters were portrayed by dwarf actors Kenny Baker, Eileen Baker, Sadie Corre, Tony Friel, John Lummiss, Jack Purvis, Albert Wilkinson and Marcus Powell. Womble voices were provided by David Jason, Janet Brown, Jon Pertwee, John Graham and Lionel Jeffries.

Songs

The songs and incidental music were composed by Mike Batt. Some of the songs had previously been released by Batt's novelty band *The Wombles*, several becoming Top 10 hits.

1. "The Creation Of The World " / 2. "The Womble Burrow " / 3. "Magic Cricket (Part 1) "
4. "Mr Roland Frogmorton's Music " / 5. "Miss Felicity Kim Frogmorton's Music "
6. "Exercise Is Good For You " / 7. "Magic Cricket (Part 2) " / 8. "Minuetto Allegretto "
9. "Magic Cricket (Part 3) " / 10. "Miss Felicity Kim Frogmorton's Music "
11. "Great Uncle Bulgaria's March " / 12. "Edinburgh Rock " / 13. "The Underground Garden (Part 1) "
14. "Miss Felicity Kim Frogmorton's Music " / 15. "The Queen " / 16. "The March Of The Machines "
17. "Madame Cholet " / 18. "The Underground Garden (Part 2) " / 19. "Magic Cricket (Part 4) "
20. "Under The Hills And Not Far Away " / 21. "Great Uncle Bulgaria's March (Reprise)
22. "Wombling White Tie And Tails " / 23. "Under The Hills And Not Far Away (Reprise 1) "
24. "Edinburgh Rock (Reprise) " / 25. "Under The Hills And Not Far Away (Reprise 2) "
26. "Count Down And Lift-Off" / 27. "Womble Of The Universe"
28. "Frogmorton's Theme (schmaltzy high fidelity background) "
29. "Exercise Is Good For You Laziness Is Not (reprise)" / 30. "The Wombling Song "

A soundtrack album was released in 1978.

Scenes

"The Wombles Of Wimbledon" - 5:43 / "Off To Work" - 6:10 / "Talking To A Human Being" - 5:22
"You And Your Imaginary Friend" - 10:41 / "The Wrong Common" - 6:17 /
"Blooming And Growing" - 7:49 / "Thanks For Tea" - 8:36 / "What A Splendid Car" - 11:47
"Wombling Overland Airways" - 9:49 (13:30 in full film) / "A Meeting And A Party" - 10:45
"Keep Britain Tidy" - 5:03 / "Wombling Free" - 4:24

All scenes were released on CD in 1995.

Production / Locations

Most exterior shots were filmed in Black Park in Wexham and Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wombling_Free
accessed on December 23rd, 2015

The Wombles (1973 TV series)

Created by: Elisabeth Beresford / *Written by:* Elisabeth Beresford / *Directed by:* Ivor Wood
Voices of: Bernard Cribbins / *Theme music composer:* Mike Batt / *Country of origin:* United Kingdom
Original language: English / *No. of seasons:* 2 / *No. of episodes:* 60

Production

Producer: Graham Clutterbuck / *Cinematography:* Barry Leith / *Running time:* 5 mins

Release

Original network: BBC1 / *First shown in:* 1973 / *Original release:* 5 February 1973 – 24 October 1975

The Wombles is a stop motion animated British television series made in 1973–1975. The Wombles are creatures that live underground, collecting and recycling human rubbish.

After the first Wombles book, published in 1968, was featured on the BBC1 children's television programme *Jackanory*, the BBC commissioned producer FilmFair to create a television series of the books. The series was produced by Graham Clutterbuck and directed by Ivor Wood using stop-motion. The characters were all voiced by actor Bernard Cribbins. Sets and model making were by Barry Leith. Two series of 30, five-minute episodes were produced, with the first series airing in 1973, animated by Ivor Wood, and the second in 1975, animated by Barry Leith. In all, 60 episodes were produced.

The original television series was regularly screened for many years. After FilmFair was acquired by the Canadian company Cinar Films in 1996, a new series of episodes was created, with three new Womble characters. In the UK, the series was purchased by ITV and was screened on their CITV brand.

In late August 2013 it was announced that the Wombles would return with a new television series. Richard Desmond snapped up the rights to the new TV series which will consist of 26 episodes each 11 minutes in length. The new series will be made using computer-generated imagery (CGI) and is due to air in 2015 on Channel 5.

Episode list

Series One (1973)

1. Orinoco & The Big Black Umbrella (5 February 1973): Orinoco goes for a spin on a windy day.
2. The Rocking Chair (6 February 1973): Great Uncle Bulgaria's rocking chair breaks and Orinoco gets stuck in a tyre.
3. A Sticky Ending (or A Sticky End) (7 February 1973)
4. Great Uncle Bulgaria's Keep Fit Lesson (9 February 1973): Great Uncle Bulgaria relives his younger years with a football.
5. A Safe Place (12 February 1973): Great Uncle Bulgaria needs somewhere to store an old history book.
6. Peep-Peep-Peep (13 February 1973): Wellington invents a telephone using cans and string.
7. The Purple Paw Mystery (14 February 1973): Tomsk makes a mess of making ink.
8. Bungo's Birthday Party (16 February 1973): Bungo thinks the others have forgotten his birthday.
9. The Invisible Womble (19 February 1973): Orinoco becomes convinced he's become invisible.
10. Orinoco Sees The Light (20 February 1973)
11. The Conkering Hero (21 February 1973): Wellington finds a new use for conkers.
12. One Pair Of Feet (23 February 1973): Wellington nearly gets spotted by a Human Being and is saved via a cardboard box.
13. Tobermory On Television (26 February 1973): Tobermory puts on his own TV show.
14. Crossed Lines (27 February 1973)
15. Blow The Womble Down (28 February 1973)
16. Madame Cholet Returns (2 March 1973)
17. Weighing In Time (18 June 1973): Orinoco is shamed into exercising by a new weighing machine.
18. Musical Wombles (19 June 1973)
19. Wombles And Ladders (20 June 1973)
20. Orinoco And The Ghost (21 June 1973): Orinoco is reluctant to go out at night after hearing a scary story.
21. A Game Of Golf (22 June 1973)
22. North, South, East, West (25 June 1973)

23. The Picnic (26 June 1973): Tomsk and Bungo foolishly trust Orinoco to carry their picnic basket.
24. Games In The Snow (27 June 1973)
25. The Snow Wombles (28 June 1973)
26. What's Cooking? (29 June 1973): The Burrow chimney is blocked
27. Spring Cleaning Time (2 July 1973)
28. Marrow Pie (4 July 1973): Orinoco grows a marrow.
29. The Cement Mixer (5 July 1973)
30. The Circus Comes To Wimbledon (6 July 1973): The young Wombles put on circus acts.

Series Two (1975)

1. Bungo Up A Tree (15 September 1975): Bungo gets stuck up a tree.
2. Time And Slow Motion (16 September 1975): Tobermory organises the young Wombles' tidying-up methods.
3. Tomsk In Trouble (17 September 1975)
4. The Largest Womble In The World (18 September 1975): Orinoco uses a coat and a pair of boots to trick Bungo and Tomsk.
5. Running Out Of Steam (19 September 1975): Wellington, Tomsk and Bungo make their own train.
6. Orinoco's Midnight Feast (22 September 1975): Orinoco's greed ruins a midnight feast.
7. Speak Up (23 September 1975): Tomsk accidentally joins the water pipe to the telephone pipe
8. The Vanishing Pancake (24 September 1975)
9. Madame Cholet & the Blackberries (25 September 1975): Nobody will pick any blackberries, and that makes Madame Cholet angry.
10. The Fruit Machine (26 September 1975): Orinoco and Wellington make a 'mid-morning snack machine'.
11. Portrait Of Great Uncle Bulgaria (29 September 1975): Great Uncle Bulgaria's portrait is ruined.
12. Very Behind The Times (30 September 1975)
13. Burrow Hot Line (1 October 1975)
14. Trunk Call (2 October 1975): Tomsk gets stuck in a hollow tree trunk.
15. MacWomble The Terrible (3 October 1975): A Scottish relative comes to stay.
16. A Single Piper (6 October 1975)
17. Porridge For Breakfast (7 October 1975)
18. Highland Games (8 October 1975)
19. Home Sickness (9 October 1975)
20. Goodbye MacWomble (10 October 1975)
21. Hiccups (13 October 1975): Tomsk and Bungo get hiccups after eating hot buttercup crumpets.
22. Film Show (14 October 1975): Wellington makes a film about the Wimbledon Burrow.
23. Pirate Gold (15 October 1975): Tomsk and Wellington hunt for pirate treasure.
24. Warm & Cosy (16 October 1975): The Wimbledon Burrow needs insulating.
25. Autumn Leaves (17 October 1975): Wellington, Orinoco and Tomsk invent a new way to collect fallen leaves.
26. The Wombles Times (20 October 1975): The young Wombles make their own newspaper.
27. Operation W.R.A.P. (21 October 1975): The young Wombles learn first aid.
28. The Secret Snorer (22 October 1975): Orinoco is tasked with guarding the Wombles' herb garden.
29. Womble Fool's Day (23 October 1975): The young Wombles play practical jokes.
30. Womble Summer Party (24 October 1975): The young Wombles perform magic tricks.

Specials

World Womble Day (1990 - 25 mins special for CITV): The Wimbledon Wombles plan a surprise party for Great Uncle Bulgaria's 300th birthday.

The Wandering Wombles (1991 - 25 mins special for CITV)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_\(1973_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_(1973_TV_series))
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_The_Wombles_episodes; accessed on December 24th, 2015

The Wombles (1996 TV series)

Created by: Elisabeth Beresford

Written by: Kath Yelland, John Ellis, Joseph Mallozzi, Adrian Besley, Peter Hynes, Stan Cullimore, Alastair Swinnerton, Andy Ellis, Julie Middleton, Jennifer Lupinacci, Mark Torrender, Brian Jordan and Paul Brophy

Directed by: John Ellis

Voices of: Victor Knight, Sonja Ball, Daniel Brochu, Julie Burroughs, Julian Casey, Gregory Calpakis, Emma Campbell, Luis de Cespedes, Michael Hancock, Nancy Helms, Rick Jones, Michael Lamport, Simon Peacock, Terrence Scammell,

Theme music composer: Mike Batt

Country of origin: United Kingdom / *Original language:* English / *No. of series:* 3 / *No. of episodes:* 52

Production

Executive producers: Micheline Charest, Ronald A. Weinberg, David Ferguson, Dan Maddicott

Producer: Cassandra Schafhausen

Editor: Andi Sloss

Cinematography: Mark Bond

Running time: 10 minutes

Release

Original network: ITV Network (CITV) / *Original release:* 5 March 1997 – 10 November 1998

Chronology

Preceded by: The Wombles

The Wombles is a second animated series for children based on the characters created by Elisabeth Beresford transmitted in 1997 and 1998. The Wombles had remained popular with children into the 1980s. After FilmFair was acquired by the Canadian company Cinar Films in 1996, a new series of episodes was made, with three new Womble characters. In the UK, the series was purchased by ITV.

In late August 2013 it was announced that the Wombles would return with a new television series. Richard Desmond snapped up the rights to the new TV series which will consist of 26 episodes each 11 minutes in length. The new series will be made using computer-generated imagery (CGI) and is due to air in 2015 on Channel 5.

Episode list

Series One (1997)

No. Title, Original air date

- 01 "The Ghost of Wimbledon Common", 5 March 1997, Bungo and Tomsk think they've seen a ghost.
- 02 "Orinoco the Magnificent", 12 March 1997, Orinoco becomes convinced he can do magic when a new arrival turns up.
- 03 "Tomsk to the Rescue", 19 March 1997, Tomsk saves Shansi Tarzan-style.
- 04 "Madame Cholet's Day Off", 26 March 1997, Madame Cholet is driven out of the Burrow after a bad day.
- 05 "Shansi's Surprise", 2 April 1997, A surprise party is planned for Shansi.
- 06 "Beautiful Boating Weather", 9 April 1997, The young Wombles go boating, but Stepney is scared of water.
- 07 "Camping and Cloudberries", 16 April 1997, Bungo believes there's a dragon on the prowl when the young Wombles go camping.
- 08 "Any Womble for Tennis?", 23 April 1997, Orinoco, Alderney and Shansi accidentally cause a scene at Wimbledon.

- 09 "Out of This Earth", 30 April 1997, After hearing the story of the Womble pirate One-Eyed Jamaica, Stepney goes treasure-hunting.
- 10 "MacWomble Is Coming", 7 May 1997, Cairngorm MacWomble the Terrible visits the Wimbledon Burrow.
- 11 "Spring into Action", 14 May 1997
- 12 "Hola Obidos", 26 May 1997
- 13 "Welcome Back Bungo", 28 May 1997

Series Two (1998)

- | No. | Title, Original air date |
|-----|--|
| 01 | "Car Trouble", 6 January 1998 |
| 02 | "Deep Space Wombles", 13 January 1998 |
| 03 | "Orinoco's Sick Day", 20 January 1998 |
| 04 | "Wild News Chase", 29 January 1998 |
| 05 | "MacWomble the Charming", 10 February 1998 |
| 06 | "Rainy Daze", 17 February 1998 |
| 07 | "Great Cake Mystery", 23 February 1998 |
| 08 | "Bigfoot Womble", 3 March 1998 |
| 09 | "Chaos on the Common", 10 March 1998 |
| 10 | "Weather Or Not", 17 March 1998 |
| 11 | "Trouble at the Thames", 24 March 1998 |
| 12 | "Great Womble Explorer", 31 March 1998 |
| 13 | "Womble Winterland", 7 April 1998 |

Series Three (1998)

- | No. | Title, Original air date |
|-----|---|
| 01 | "New Year! New You!", 6 October 1998 |
| 02 | "Alderney's Big Break", 7 October 1998 |
| 03 | "The Thingumawotsit", 8 October 1998 |
| 04 | "The Sleep Womble", 9 October 1998 |
| 05 | "A Life in the Day Of Madame Cholet", 12 October 1998 |
| 06 | "Wom-TV", 13 October 1998 |
| 07 | "Star Struck", 14 October 1998 |
| 08 | "Practically Joking", 15 October 1998 |
| 09 | "Tomsk's Pen Pal", 16 October 1998 |
| 10 | "What's a Womble", 19 October 1998 |
| 11 | "Queen for a Day", 20 October 1998 |
| 12 | "The Womble Races", 21 October 1998 |
| 13 | "The Womble Times", 22 October 1998 |
| 14 | "Fancy! Fancy Dress", 23 October 1998 |
| 15 | "Time Travelling Tomsk", 26 October 1998 |
| 16 | "Bungo Bingo", 27 October 1998 |

- 17 "The Thames Burrow Adventure", 28 October 1998
- 18 "The Wombles of Our Discontent", 29 October 1998
- 19 "Riddle Me This", 30 October 1998
- 20 "Unlucky Me", 2 November 1998
- 21 "Nanny Alexandria Comes to Stay", 3 November 1998
- 22 "The Unwelcome Womble", 4 November 1998
- 23 "Shansi's Spider", 5 November 1998
- 24 "Anchors Aweigh", 6 November 1998
- 25 "Womble Inventor of the Year", 9 November 1998
- 26 "A Visit to the Highland Burrow", 10 November 1998

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_\(1996_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wombles_(1996_TV_series));
accessed on December 24th, 2015

Wombling Songs (Nov. 1973)

Studio album by The Wombles, *Released:* November 1973 /

Recorded: CBS Studios and Wessex Studios, August 1973 / *Genre:* Bubblegum pop

Label: CBS / *Producer:* Mike Batt

Wombling Songs is the first album released by The Wombles. The songs were recorded by Mike Batt (vocals) with session musicians Chris Spedding (guitars), Les Hurdle (bass), Clem Cattini (drums), Ray Cooper (percussion), Rex Morris (piano), Eddie Mordue (sax) and Jack Rothstein (violin). The vocals were credited to "the younger Wombles, assisted by Mike Batt".

According to Batt, the album was really just character songs and background music for the television series." However the album spent 17 weeks in the UK album charts, peaking at number 19 on 2 March 1974.

Track listing

Side One

- 1 - The Wombling Song (Television Version) (the theme to "The Wombles") (1:48)
2. - Wombles Everywhere (in which the sight of other Wombles is noted) (3:32)
3. - Exercise Is Good For You (Laziness Is Not) (in which we all take an exercise programme) (2:33)
4. - The Wombles' Warning (in which the Wombles warn humans of nettle beds) (3:32)
5. - Tobermory (in which Tobermory is introduced) (3:45)
6. - Dreaming In The Sun (Orinoco's Song) (in which we explore the imagination of sunlight) (4:14)

Side Two

1. - Madame Cholet (in which Madame Cholet is introduced) (3:51)
2. - Great Uncle Bulgaria's March (in which the Wombles play for Great Uncle Bulgaria) (3:38)
3. - Wellington Womble (in which we meet Wellington Womble) (3:59)
4. - Bungo's Birthday (in which the Wombles sing "Happy Birthday Bungo") (2:39)
5. - Wombling Along (segment from Wellington Womble) (0:57)
6. - The Wombling Song (Full Version) (in which we are introduced to the Wombles) (2:28)

Singles

The Wombling Song was released as a single.

The Wombling Song, Exercise Is Good For You and Madam Cholet were used in the 1977 film Wombling Free.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wombling_Songs;
accessed on December 25th, 2015

Remember You're a Womble (July 1974)

Studio album by The Wombles / *Released:* July 1974 / *Recorded:* Wessex Sound Studios

Genre: Bubblegum pop, classical, surf rock, boogie, country, calypso / *Label:* CBS / *Producer:* Mike Batt

Remember You're a Womble was the second album released by The Wombles. The songs were recorded by Mike Batt (vocals/keyboards) with session musicians Chris Spedding (guitars), Les Hurdle (bass), Clem Cattini (drums), Ray Cooper (percussion), Rex Morris (saxophone), Eddie Mordue (saxophone) and Jack Rothstein (violin).

After the success of the first album, *Wombling Songs*, Batt experimented with more character-based songs in a variety of musical styles. He described it as "really the first proper album for The Wombles as a group". The styles included pop, rock, classical (the music of "Minuetto Allegretto" was based on Mozart's Symphony No.41) and surf rock in the style of the Beach Boys.

The songs also developed the Womble characters further, for example "Wellington Goes To Waterloo" described Wellington Womble taking a rare day off and visiting London Waterloo station for a bit of train spotting.

This was the first album with a cover showing the full-size Womble costumes, worn by Batt and the session musicians. The album spent 31 weeks in the UK album chart, peaking at number 18 on 13 July 1974.

Track listing

Side One

1. - Remember You're a Womble (Who could forget?) (3:11)
2. - Minuetto Allegretto (In which the story is told of Great Uncle Bulgaria's minuetting childhood) (3:38)
3. - Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party (In which we meet the Surfing Wombles: Los Angeles Burrow) (4:03)
4. - Wombling in the Rain (In which NOBODY CARES) (3:58)
5. - Womble Burrow Boogie (In which EVERYBODY BOOGIES) (2:57)

Side Two

1. - Wellington Goes to Waterloo (In which young Wellington goes train-spotting) (3:36)
2. - The Return of Cousin Yellowstone (In which Yellowstone returns for one of his visits and the story of his fortune-seeking youth is told) (3:08)
3. - The Womble Square Dance ("You'll square dance the whole night through when Cousin Yellowstone stays with you") (3:14)
4. - Wimbledon Sunset (Interlude) (In which nothing in particular happens) (1:51)
5. - Banana Rock (In which the West Indian Wombles really Rock On!) (3:05)

Cassette track listing

Side One

1. - Remember You're a Womble (3:08)
2. - Minuetto Allegretto (3:38)
3. - Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party (4:02)
4. - Wombling in the Rain (3:58)
5. - Wimbledon Sunset (1:50)

Side Two

1. - Wellington Goes to Waterloo (3:36)
2. - The Return of Cousin Yellowstone (3:12)
3. - The Womble Square Dance (3:14)
4. - Banana Rock (3:05)
5. - Womble Burrow Boogie (2:57)

1999 remaster (+ Bonus tracks)

Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party (3:18)
Wimbledon Sunset (1:46)
The Wombling Song (2:26)
Remember You're a Womble (3:09)
Exercise is Good for You (2:34)
Dreaming In the Sun (Orinoco's Song) (4:05)
Banana Rock (3:06)
Wellington Womble (3:30)
Minuetto Allegretto (3:14)
The Womble Square Dance (3:06)
The Return of Cousin Yellowstone (3:06)

Bonus tracks

Wombling in the Rain (3:52)
Ricorda Siamo Wombles (3:11)
Wellington Goes to Waterloo (3:36)

Singles

Four tracks were released as singles:

"Remember You're a Womble"- peaked at No. 3

"Banana Rock" - peaked at No. 9

"Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party" - did not chart

"Minuetto Allegretto" - peaked at No. 16

"Minuetto Allegretto" was used in the 1977 film Wombling Free.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remember_You're_a_Womble;
accessed on December 25th, 2015

Keep On Wombling (Dec. 1974)

Studio album by The Wombles / *Released:* December 1974 / *Recorded:* Wessex Studios / *Label:* CBS
Producer: Mike Batt

Keep On Wombling was the third album released by The Wombles. The songs were recorded by Mike Batt (vocals/keyboards) with session musicians Chris Spedding (guitars), Les Hurdle (bass), Clem Cattini (drums), Ray Cooper (percussion), Rex Morris (sax), Eddie Mordue (sax) and Jack Rothstein (violin).

This was a marked departure from the first two albums, being concept album with the entire first side following singer Orinoco Womble through a series of dreams. The styles included pop, rock and classical (Hall Of The Mountain Womble is an arrangement of In the Hall of the Mountain King by Edvard Grieg).

The album spent 6 weeks in the UK album charts, peaking at number 17.

Track listing

Side One

Tracks 1-6 Are 6 Songs From The Film "Orinoco's Dream (Fantasies of a sleeping Womble)"

1. - Womble Of The Universe (in which Orinoco dreams he is an ASTRONAUT) (3:41)
2. - The Orinoco Kid (in which Orinoco dreams he is a COWBOY) (3:17)
3. - The Jungle Is Jumping (in which Orinoco dreams he is a JUNGLE EXPLORER)(3:21)
4. - Underground Overture (in which Orinoco dreams he is the CONDUCTOR) (2:39)
5. - The Hall Of The Mountain Womble (in which Orinoco's imaginary orchestra does a little turn) (1:44)
6. - Look Out For The Giant (in which Orinoco imagines a litter-crunching giant, GIANT POLU) (2:24)

Side Two

1. - The Wombling Twist (at the Womble Club down in West LA) (3:00)
2. - Tobermory's Music Machine (in which the NEEDLE STICKS) (2:18)
3. - Wipe Those Womble Tears From Your Eyes (a country-Womble ballad)(Of Look Out For The Giant) (3:42)
4. - Invitation To The Ping-Pong Ball (in which we meet the Chinese Wombles, Shanghai burrow) (3:49)
5. - Wombling Merry Christmas (with virtuoso sleigh bell performance by Great Uncle Bulgaria) (3:22)

Singles

Wombling Merry Christmas was released as single. The Orinoco Kid was later released on the B side of Superwomble and The Wombling Twist was later released on the B side of Wombling White Tie And Tails .

Womble Of The Universe was used in the soundtrack of the 1977 film Wombling Free.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep_On_Wombling;
accessed on December 25th, 2015

Superwombling (Sept. 1975)

Studio album by The Wombles / *Released:* September 1975 / *Recorded:* Wessex Studios, Olympic Studios
Label: CBS / *Producer:* Mike Batt

Superwombling was the fourth and final album (apart from compilations) released by The Wombles. The songs were recorded by Mike Batt (vocals/keyboards) with session musicians Chris Spedding (guitars), Les Hurdle (bass), Clem Cattini (drums), Ray Cooper (percussion), Rex Morris (sax), Eddie Mordue (sax) and Jack Rothstein (violin).

The musical styles included rock, pop, blues, reggae, barbershop harmony, James Bond themes.

The Myths and Legends of King Merton Womble and His Journey to the Centre of the Earth is a parody of two contemporary concept albums – The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and Journey to the Centre of the Earth – both by Rick Wakeman.

Despite having several successful singles, the album did not chart but did eventually go gold.

Track listing

Side One

1. - The Womble Shuffle (in which everybody shuffles) (2:43)
2. - The Myths and Legends of King Merton Womble and His Journey to the Centre of the Earth (in which Wellington imagines the round knights of the table) (5:28)
3. - Down At The Barber Shop (in which we meet the Wombling barber shop quartet) (2:11)
4. - The Empty Tidy-Bag Blues (in which Orinoco reveals his taste for underground music) (3:59)
5. - Wombling White Tie And Tails (in which Orinoco fancies himself as a film star) (3:37)

Side Two

1. - Superwomble (in which Orinoco dreams about the mighty Superwomble) (3:26)
2. - Miss Adelaide (she's got a lot of knowledge) (in which we meet Miss Adelaide, the school teacher and mistress of The Womblegarten) (3:59)
3. - 08 - Wombles On Parade (in which The Wombles follow the band) (3:42)
4. - To Wimbledon With Love (in which Wellington fancies himself as a secret agent) (3:52)
5. - Nashville Wombles (in which we meet the guitar pickin' Wombles from Nashville, Tennessee) (4:56)

Bonus Tracks (2010 USA Re-issue)

- 11 - Let's Womble To The Party Tonight (in which everybody enjoys themselves) (3:38)

Singles

Wombling White Tie And Tails, Superwomble and The Womble Shuffle were released as singles. Down At The Barber Shop was later released on the B side of Let's Womble To The Party Tonight.

Wombling White Tie And Tails was used in the soundtrack of the 1977 film Wombling Free.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superwombling>;
accessed on December 25th, 2015

The Wombles - Wombling U.S.A. (1974)

Release #1: USA, 1974 as a ,CBS‘ music-cassette B-side;

Release #2: Europe, 2000 as a ,Dramatico‘ music-cassette B-side

The Wombles - Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Remember you're a Womble) (1974)

Released: Germany, 1974; *Written by:* Mike Batt / German lyrics by Michael Kunze

The Wombles - Ricorda siamo Wombles (Remember you're a Womble) (1974)

Released: Italy, 1974; *Written by:* Mike Batt / Italian lyrics by ???

Dave - Mon coeur est malade (Banana Rock) (1975)

Released: France, 1975; *Vocal:* Dave (= Wouter Otto Levenbach);

Written by: Mike Batt / French lyrics by Patrick Loiseau

Wellington Womble – Rainmaker (1976)

Released: as single-A-side 1976; Side B: The Wombles - „Wombling in the rain“

Enrique y Ana - La cancion de los Wombles (The Wombling song) (1977)

Released: Spain, 1977; *Vocal:* Enrique y Ana

Written by: Mike Batt / Spanish lyrics by O. Gómez)

The Wombles with Roy Wood - I wish it could be a Wombling merry Christmas every day (2000)

Released: on „The Wombles Collection“, 11th November 2000; *Written by:* Mike Batt and Roy Wood;
A combination of Mike Batt’s „Wombling Merry Christmas“ (1974) and RoyWood’s „I Wish it Could Be
Christmas Everyday“ (1973).

Womble Lyrics

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Übersicht:

- Banana rock

Remember you're a Womble #10-1974 & The Wombles Christmas Party #8-1975 & The best of the Wombles #18-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #10-1983 & The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #18-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.16-2000

- Bungo's birthday

Wombling songs #10-1973 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975

- Countdown and lift off (instr.)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #15-1978

- Down at the barber shop (Singing in harmony)

Superwombling #3-1975 & The best of the Wombles #14-1975 & The Wombles Christmas Party #11-1975 & The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #7-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.07-2000

- Dreaming in the sun (Orinoco's song)

Wombling songs #6-1973 & °The Wombles Christmas Party #4-1975

- Edinburgh rock (rocking instr.) - Wombling free (soundtrack) #3-1978

Exercise is good for you (laziness is not) - Wombling songs #3-1973 & The Wombles Collection #2.10-2000

- Exercise is good for you (film version)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #13-1978

- Frogmorton's theme (instr.)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #11-1978

- God save the Queen (instr.)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #17-1978

- Great Uncle Bulgaria's march (instr.)

Wombling songs #8-1973 & The Wombles Christmas Party #10-1975

- I wish it could be a Wombling merry Christmas every day

By Mike Batt and Roy Wood; A combination of Mike Batt's „Wombling Merry Christmas“ (1974) and Roy Wood's „I Wish it Could Be Christmas Everyday“ (1973).

The Wombles Collection #1.18-2000

- Invitation to the Ping-Pong Ball

Keep on Wombling #10-1974 & The best of the Wombles #4-1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #4-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #11-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.11-2000

- Introduction from 'Minuetto allegretto' (Mozart's 'Jupiter'-symphony, instr.)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #4-1978

- Introduction to the 'Womble burrow' (instr.)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #5-1978

- Let's Womble to the party tonight

The best of the Wombles #11-1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #14-1983 & The Wombles Collection #2.04-2000

- Look out for the giant

Keep on wombling #6-1974 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Collection #2.12-2000

- Madame Cholet

Wombling songs #7-1973 & The Wombles Collection #2.11-2000

- Madame Cholet (film version)

Wombling free (soundtrack) #8-1978

- Minuetto allegretto
from the "Jupiter-Symphony" No 41, C-major, KV 551 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, adapted by Mike Batt
Remember you're a Womble #2-1974 & The best of the Wombles #10-1975 & The Wombles Christmas party #7-1978
& The Wombles Christmas album #6-1983 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 &
The Wombles collection #2.01-2000 & The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #13-2009
- Miss Adelaide (She's got a lot of knowledge)
Superwombling #7-1975 & The best of the Wombles #7-1975 & The Wombles collection #2.03-2000
- Miss Felicity Kim Frogmorton's music (instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #10-1978
- Mr. Roland Frogmorton's music (instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #9-1978
- Nashville Wombles
Superwombling #10-1975 & The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #10-1998 & The Wombles collection #1.10-2000 &
The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #9-2009
- Non-Stop Wombling summer party
Remember you're a Womble #3-1974 & The best of the Wombles #17-1975 &
The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 &
The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #12-1998 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 &
The Wombles collection #1.12-2000
- Rainmaker
Wellington Womble: Rainmaker #A-1976 & The Wombles collection #2.05-2000
- Remember you're a Womble
Remember you're a Womble #1-1974 & The best of the Wombles #1-1975 & The Wombles Christmas party #3-1974 &
The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #3-1983 &
The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #2-1998 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 &
The Wombles collection #1.02-2000 & Brotherhood of Man / The Seventies Story - 2002
- Superwomble
Superwombling #6-1975 & The best of the Wombles #20-1975 & The Wombles Christmas Party #12-1975 &
The Wombles Christmas album #13-1983 & The Wombles Collection #2.02-2000
- The creation of the world (instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #2-1978
- The empty tidy bag blues
Superwombling #4-1975 & The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #8-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.08-2000 &
The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #14-2009
- The hall of the Mountain Womble (instr.)
from the "Peer Gynt Suite Nr. 1" Op. 46 'In the hall of the mountain king' by Edvard Grieg, adapted by Mike Batt
Keep on Wombling #5-1974 & The best of the Wombles #8-1975 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #15-1998
& The Wombles Collection #1.15-2000
- The jungle is jumping
Keep on Wombling #3-1974 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 &
The Wombles Collection #2.13-2000
- The march of the machines (instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #12-1978
- The myths and legends of King Merton Womble and his journey to the centre of the earth (instr.)
Superwombling #2-1975 & The best Wombles album so far/Vol.1 #14-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.14-2000
& The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #8-2009
- The Orinoco kid
Keep on Wombling #2-1974 & The best of the Wombles #16-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The
Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #7-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #4-1998 &
The Wombles Collection #1.04-2000 & The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #12-2009
- The return of cousin Yellowstone
Remember you're a Womble #7-1974

- The underground garden (instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #14-1978
- The Womble shuffle
Superwombling #1-1975 & The Wombles Collection #2.15-2000
- The Womble square dance
Remember you're a Womble #8-1974 & The Wombles Christmas Party #5-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 & The Wombles Collection #2.08-2000
- The Wombles warning
Wombling songs #4/1973
- The Wombling song - TV-Version
- The Wombling song
Wombling songs #1+12/1973 & The best of the Wombles #3-1975 & The Wombles Christmas Party #6-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #5-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #1-1998 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.01-2000
- The Wombling song (film version from end titles)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #1-1978
- The Wombling song (instr.)
John Walker / Unchained melodies – 1994
- The Wombling twist
Keep on Wombling #7-1974 & The Wombles Christmas Party #2-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #12-1983 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 & The Wombles Collection #2.09-2000
- To Wimbledon with love
Superwombling #9-1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #8-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #5-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.05-2000 & The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #10-2009
- Tobermory
Wombling songs #5/1973 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998
- Tobermory's music machine
Keep on Wombling #8-1974 & The best of the Wombles #15-1975 & The Wombles Collection #2.07-2000
- Underground overture
Keep on Wombling #4-1974 & The Wombles Christmas album #9-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #13-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.13-2000
- Under the hills and far away (folksy instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #7-1978
- Wellington goes to Waterloo
Remember you're a Womble #6-1974 & The best of the Wombles #5-1975 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #9-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.09-2000
- Wellington Womble
Wombling songs #9/1973 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998
- Wimbledon sunset (instr.)
Remember you're a Womble #9-1974 & The Wombles Collection #2.14-2000
- Wipe those womble tears from your eyes
Keep on Wombling #9-1974 & The best of the Wombles #13-1975 & The Wombles Collection #2.16-2000
- Womble burrow boogie
Remember you're a Womble #5-1974 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975

- Womble of the universe
Keep on Wombling #1-1974 & The best of the Wombles #19-1975 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #17-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.17-2000
- Womble of the universe (remixed! - not in movie, instr.)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #16-1978
- Wombles everywhere
Wombling songs #2/1973 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998
- Wombles on parade
Superwombling #8-1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #11-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #6-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.06-2000
- Wombling U.S.A.
(released in the U.S.A.) #A-1974 - I wish it could be a wombling merry Christmas every day (MC) #B-2000
- Wombling along (link piece)
Wombling songs #11/1973
- Wombling in the rain
Remember you're a Womble #4-1974 & The best of the Wombles #6-1975 & The Wombles Collection #2.06-2000
- Wombling merry Christmas
Keep on Wombling #11-1974 & The best of the Wombles #12-1975 & The Wombles Christmas Party #1-1975 & The Mike Sammes Singers sing hits of The Wombles, 1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #1-1983 & Kidz Wombles - sung by children, for children, 1998 & The Wombles Collection #2.17-2000
- Wombling white tie and tails (Foxtrot)
Superwombling #5-1975 & The best of the Wombles #2-1975 & The Wombles Christmas Party #9-1975 & The Wombles Christmas album #2-1983 & The best Wombles album so far / Vol.1 #3-1998 & The Wombles Collection #1.03-2000 & The Orinoco Kid ("Mike Batt Archive Series") #11-2009
- Wombling white tie and tails (film version)
Wombling free (soundtrack) #6-1978

International:

- Mon coeur est malade (Banana Rock)
(Mike Batt / French lyrics by P. Loiseau) sung by Dave (= Wouter Otto Levenbach) - 1975 [France]
- Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Remember you're a Womble)
(Mike Batt / German lyrics by Michael Kunze) - 1974 [Germany]
- Ricorda siamo Wombles (Remember you're a Womble)
(Mike Batt / Italian lyrics by ???) sung by ??? - 1974 [Italy]
- La cancion de los Wombles
(The Wombling song) (Mike Batt / Spanish lyrics by O. Gómez) sung by Enrique y Ana - 1977 [Spain]

- B -

Banana rock

Refrain:

Oh, la la la, hey banana,
Don't you slip on the skin,
Oh, la la la la, hey banana,
Womble up the rubbish and put it in the bin!

We have the solution of the pollution,
I think it is easy to guess,
It is so amazing, instead of just lazing,
We certainly sweep up and clean the mess.

[Refrain]

Bungo plays the guitar now, he thinks he's a star now,
He sings to the coconut tree,
Whenever we feel glum, we play the steel drum
We certainly sing the night away.

Bungo's birthday

Get out of the way of Madame Cholet,
She's baking and there's not much time:
The slightest delay will ruin the day,
There's only one thing on her mind.

Refrain:

And it's going to be the greatest occasion,
The evening of the Womble Year!
And it's going to be a big sensation;
Everybody will be here!

Roll back the carpet 'cause it Bungo's Birthday,
A little older and a bit more wise,
And there's going to be a big celebration,
And there's going to be a big surprise.

A feeling of fun will soon overcome
The members of the Womble Crowd.
For old and for young, the work is all done,
The music will be ever so loud.

[Refrain]

[Repeat verse 2 - 2 times]

- D -

Die Wombles sind im Kommen

(Mike Batt: Remember you're a Womble / german lyrics: Michael Kunze)

Alle Kinder der Erde, sie fanden heraus,
Es gibt überall Wombles, sie breiten sich aus.
Diese seltsamen Wesen erobern die Welt.

Refrain:

Sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen,
Sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen;
Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Die Wombles sind im Kommen)
Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Die Wombles sind im Kommen)
Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Die Wombles sind im Kommen)
Die Wombles sind im Kommen (Die Wombles sind im Kommen)
Und jeder, jeder, jeder, wird schon bald ein Womble, Womble, Womble sein!

Alle Wombles haben Tüten und sie sammeln den Müll,
Weil der Womble von Natur aus keinen Dreck haben will.
Das ist wie eine Krankheit, sie steckt alle an!
Sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen,
Sie kommen, sie kommen, sie kommen;

[Refrain]

Down at the barber shop (Singing in harmony)

Down at the barber shop, Wimbledon is jumping to the harmony razzle-ma-tazz.
It may be a dream on a Hollywood theme, but I'm really getting into the jazz.

It's so appreciably undeniably enjoyable when you're
Wombling to the real thing down at the Wimbledon barber shop,
Singing in harmony.

Voices are flying through the cool summer atmosphere, we're standing on the corner of the street.
Always good to be vibrant by the old fire hydrant, while the sun is providing the heat.

Sing high, sing low, gives you the impression
That the whole darn world is a paradise when you
Womble to the real thing down at the Wimbledon barber shop,
Singing in Harmony.

Singing for you.

Dreaming in the sun (Orinoco's song)

There are people on the common,
There is tennis on the lawn,
When you're wombling in the sunshine
You can get a little warm.

Refrain:

Hey, hey, and I'm dreaming in the sun;
Give me forty winks,
Let me wake up when the work is done.

When they say I'm slightly portly,
They're not trying to insult,
But I have to womble harder
To achieve the same result.
So I need some consolation
In the middle of the day,
And after forty winks I know that's everything's OK.

[Refrain]

And I'm sitting on the common
With my tidy bag at hand,
And though Great Uncle Bulgaria will never understand...

[Refrain]

- E -

Exercise is good for you (laziness is not)

Standing on your tiptoes, running on the spot,
Exercise is good for you, Laziness is not!
One, two, three, four, bouncing on your feet,
Where is Orinoco? -- Probably asleep!

Up in the morning for a five mile run,
Down to the river for a swim:
Biceps a-bulging, it's all good fun,
Chest out and keep your tummy in!

Jumping in your gym shoes, skipping with a rope,
If you haven't got the energy you haven't got a hope.
Running in the morning, (good for the thighs)
Running in the evening, (good for the eyes).

Physical exertion makes you strong,
Keeps you alert and slim:
Just keep skipping and you can't go wrong,
You'll be sound in mind and limb.

Left, right, left, right, up down, stop!
Is anybody tired yet? -- Tomsk is not!
Puffing like a steam train, running like a horse,
Is anyone for tennis now? -- Tomsk of course!

Poetry in motion, legs in line,
Pressing up and pressing down, four-four time.

Exercise is good for you (Film Version)

Standing on your tiptoes, running on the spot,
Exercise is good for you, Laziness is not!
One, two, three, four, bouncing on your feet,
Where is Orinoco? -- Probably asleep!

Up in the morning for a five mile run,
Down to the river for a swim:
Biceps a-bulging, it's all good fun,
Chest out and keep your tummy in!

Jumping in your gym shoes, skipping with a rope,
If you haven't got the energy you haven't got a hope.
Running in the morning, (good for the thighs)
Running in the evening, (good for the eyes).

Physical exertion makes you strong,
Keeps you alert and slim:
Just keep skipping and you can't go wrong,
You'll be sound in mind and limb.

Left, right, left, right, up down, stop!
Is anybody tired yet? -- Tomsk is not!
Puffing like a steam train, running like a horse,
Is anyone for tennis now? -- Tomsk of course!

Poetry in motion, legs in line,
Pressing up and pressing down, four-four time.
Poetry in motion, legs in line,
Pressing up and pressing down, three-four time.

Standing on your tiptoes, running on the spot,
Exercise is good for you, Laziness is not!
Standing on your tiptoes, running on the spot,
Exercise is good for you, Laziness is not
Standing on your tiptoes, running on the spot,
Exercise is good for you, Laziness is not!

- I -

I wish it could be a Wombling merry Christmas every day

(By Mike Batt and Roy Wood; A combination of Mike Batt's „Wombling Merry Christmas“ (1974) and RoyWood's „I Wish it Could Be Christmas Everyday“ (1973)).

Let the bells ring out for a Wombling Merry Christmas.

When the snowman brings the snow,
Well you just might like to know,
There will be stars shining for you.
Sleepers awake, it's getting late, snow is falling,
Don't you lock the doors, you know that sweet Santa Claus is on the way.

Well I wish it could be a Wombling Merry Christmas every day.
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play.
All day long we will be wombling in the snow,
So let the bells ring out for a Wombling Merry Christmas.

When we're skating in the park,
If the stormcloud makes it dark,
The lights are low the fire is bright.
Under the ground there is the sound of a symphony,
So we lie by the fire 'til the suite simply blasts them all away,

2 x
Well I wish it could be a Wombling Merry Christmas every day.
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play.
All day long we will be laughing as we go,
So let the bells ring out for a Wombling Merry Christmas.

Let the bells ring out for a Wombling Merry Christmas.

Invitation to the Ping-Pong Ball

In the Alleyways of Peking and the streets of old Shanghai,
The restaurants do good business and the Rickshaws rattle by,
The Oriental Wombles fill the Chinese litter bins
With nuts and bolts and boiling rice and old chop suey tins.

Refrain:

You're invited to the Ping-Pong Ball
In the Chinese Wombling Ping-Pong-Ball Hall.
You're invited to the Ping-Pong Ball
In the Chinese Wombling Ping-Pong-Ball Hall...

From the Yangtse Kyang Basin to the Shantung Mountain Hills
They exercise their Oriental litter-picking skills.
There's an ancient Womble Proverb which they sing to the Yellow Seas;
"He who cleans the countryside deserves to be Chinese."

[Refrain]

All the harbour lights are shining and the band begins to play
The chopsticks hit the drums so hard that you jump out of the way,
Chinatown is moving to the Koto and the flute,
And the sound of Shanghai Wombles eating crunchy bamboo shoots.

- L -

Let's Womble to the party tonight

The band is playing really tight to the bar
Great Uncle Bulgaria is parking the car

Refrain:

Hey hey, let's womble to the party
Hey hey, let's womble to the party
If you wanna rock 'n' roll you can womble to the party tonight

The Wombles at the party start a-lickin' their lips
Madame Cholet is serving conkers and chips

[Refrain]

Let's womble to the party
Let's womble to the party
Let's womble to the party
Let's womble to the party
If you wanna Rock'n' Roll you can womble to the party tonight

Tobermory's teaching everybody to jive
While we're waiting for the lemonade to arrive

[Refrain]

Somebody is practising the saxophone break
And even Orinoco is remaining awake

[Refrain]

Practising the saxophone break
Practising the saxophone break
Practising the saxophone break
Practising the saxophone break
Saxophone
Practising the saxophone break

Well it's really started happening in Wimbledon Lane
Jumpin' and a jivin' to the sound of the band

[Refrain]

Look out for the giant

(Orinoco imagines a litter-crunching giant, Giant Polu)

Refrain:

Look out for the giant, he's looking for you.

Look out for the giant, Polu.

Look out for the giant whatever you do,

Look out for the giant, Polu.

You can hear the crunching of his merciless feet,
He's even breathing smoky fumes all over the street,
There isn't any way you can escape from his grip,
He looks just like a giant walking, talking rubbish tip.

[Refrain]

I saw him on the common with his big red eyes,
He trundled up behind me and he took me by surprise,
I knew I must be dreaming as we stood there in the mist,
And even though I knew he didn't really exist,
I said...

[Refrain]

Madame Cholet

(To an accompaniment of strings and accordions)

When we're feeling hungry and we want to eat in style,
There's a certain little Womble Lady Fair.
Popping toadstool toppings in the the oven for a while,
The sweet aroma fills the twilight air.

Refrain:

Madame Cholet,
What's cooking with you today?
We think you're a real cool pie.
Madame Cholet,
As sweet as cafe au lait
From the tips of your toes to the twinkling in your eye.
Madame Cholet,
Don't go away, s'il vous plait,
We couldn't survive without you, that's no lie.
When we womble home in the evening
You'll be there by the kitchen door,
We'd like to say "Merci", Madame Cholet.

When we get up in the morning and we join the breakfast queue,
We try to make the minimum of fuss.
For even though she shouts at us and she tells us what to do,
We know this little lady is for us.

Madame Cholet (Film version)

When we're feeling hungry and we want to eat in style,
There's a certain little Womble Lady Fair.
Popping toadstool toppings in the the oven for a while,
The sweet aroma fills the twilight air.

Refrain:

Madame Cholet,
What's cooking with you today?
We think you're a real cool pie.
Madame Cholet,
As sweet as cafe au lait
From the tips of your toes to the twinkling in your eye.
Madame Cholet,
Don't go away, s'il vous plait,
We couldn't survive without you, that's no lie.
When we womble home in the evening
You'll be there by the kitchen door,
We'd like to say "Merci", Madame Cholet.

Great dancing event ...

Minuetto allegretto

(Mike Batt / Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)

Back in 1780, when Bulgaria was a lad,
There was minuetting in the morning and the evening, they were Minuetting Mad!
Mister Minuetting Mozart was the talk of the town,
And forgetting to be minuetting was letting the other minuettters down.

Refrain:

Oh, Womble to your partners, young Wombles were told,
If you you Minuetto Allegretto, you will live to be old.

Young Womble Bulgaria was listening with glee;
"If I Minuetto Allegretto, a very old wise Womble I shall be,"
Minuetting minutes later he was Wombling away,
'Though he used to Womble Allegretto, now it's Adante Cantabile!

[Refrain]

When the other Wombles were asleep at the dead of night,
He'd become a better minuetter by practising in the candlelight.
Wimbledon was aware there was none that could beat
This incredible and amazing young Womble with Minuetting Feet!

Miss Adelaide (She's got a lot of knowledge)

(In which we meet Miss Adelaide, the school teacher and mistress of the Womblegarden)

Miss Adelaide, she's got a Lot of Knowledge you know (we know)
Miss Adelaide graduated from college you know (we know)
She's got a million GCE's,
She's got a thing from a University,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now.

Miss Adelaide she can multiply 6 by 9 (we know)
She can sing 'White Tie & Tails' in 11-8 time (we know)
She's going in for a 3rd degree
She can teach anything to you or me,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, we've got a lot of knowledge now.
She came around in the afternoon to teach me to play the piano, (to play the piano).

Miss Adelaide knows blue and yellow make green (we know)
Miss Adelaide she's an educational queen (we know)
She can speak French, Japanese and Greek
Her blackboard writing is oh so neat,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, we've got a lot of knowledge now.

Miss Adelaide has certificates by the ton (we know)
Miss Adelaide she can navigate by the sun (we know)
She's got a million GCE's
She's got a thing from a University.
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now.
She came around in the afternoon to teach me to play the slide trombone.

She came around in the afternoon to teach me to sing like an opera star.
She's got a million GCE's
She's got a thing from a University,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now.
She's going in for a 3rd degree
She can teach anything to you or me,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now,
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she's got a lot of knowledge now.

Mon coeur est malade

(Mike Batt: Banana Rock, French Lyrics: Patrick Loiseau)

Refrain:

Oh! Laura, mon coeur est malade
Toi seule peut me guérir
Oh! Laura, mon coeur est malade
Si tu veux me soigner tu n'as qu'un mot à dire

La fille incendiaire
Que l'on dit légère
Connue sous le nom de Laura
A mis dans mon âme
Le feu et la flamme
Le pire de l'histoire c'est qu'elle ne l'éteint pas

[Refrain]

Et si la ville entière
Lui jetait la pierre
Si l'on disait du mal de Laura
Je saurai la défendre,
Je saurai l'attendre
Et s'il n'en restait qu'un je serai celui là

[Refrain] 3 times

Oh! Laura, mon coeur est malade
Toi seule peut me guérir
Oh! Laura, mon coeur est malade

[Refrain] 2 times

- N -

Nashville Wombles

Kentucky may be famous for its rivers,
And Boston may be famous for its tea.
But there's none quite as famous for that south country music
As the Wombles down in Nashville, Tennessee.

And when banjo-picking Wombles start a-playing,
Anyone will find it hard to disagree,
There's no sound in the world like the sound of the music
From the Wombles down in Nashville, Tennessee.

Refrain:

Nashville Wombles play guitar real fine,
They sit beside the trashcans all in a line.
Even when it's raining and the sun don't shine,
Nashville's Wombles play guitar real fine.

If you want to try your hand at country music,
And you have no time for books and poetry,
You will have yourself a fine finger-licking picking time
With the Wombles down in Nashville, Tennessee.

[Refrain]

Nashville, it's all happening in Nashville,
Nashville, it's all happening in Nashville now.
If you ever get the chance to go to Nashville,
Don't you throw away the opportunity,
Take your guitar in the car and you might become a star
Like the Wombles down in Nashville Tennessee.

Non-stop Wombling summer party

Down in California where the Wombling days are long,
And the sun shines high in the afternoon and they sing the Wombling song,
Where they Womble on the beaches and the surfing Wombles play,
It's a Surfside Wombling City as they take the litter away.

Refrain:

Let's go down to the Summer Party,
Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party,
We're going to have some fun so now's your chance,
Let's go down to the Summer Party,
Non-Stop Wombling Summer Party,
Come on down to the Summer Party and dance, dance, dance.

The candy stalls are pretty, it's an All-American Dream,
But the hardest job in the U.S.A. is to keep the beaches clean.
Well, Wombles may be furry, but they sure know how to sweep,
Just look at the Womble Lifeguard as he flexes his physique.

[Refrain]

The blue refreshing waters cool the sleepy L.A. shores,
And you feel so free with Californian sand beneath your paws.
At night go down to the Womble Club, it's really worth the trip,
Just a half a mile or so along the Sunset Strip.

- R -

Rainmaker

Rainmaker - let it rain, let it rain, let it rain ... rain
Rainmaker
Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain, let it rain, let it rain

It seems whenever you want it to be dry and warm
There's a storm
And then whenever you want it to rain on the lawn
It's too warm

I got a rainmachine to deal with the hydration
To irrigation it will lubricate the nation

Refrain:

Rainmaker
Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain,
Rainmaker
Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain, let it rain, let it rain ... rain

[Interlude]

I got a rainmachine to deal with the hydration
To irrigation it will lubricate the nation

[3x *Refrain*]

[fade out]

Remember you're a Womble

When the sun doesn't shine and it's cloudy and grey,
And it's only the beginning of the Wombling day,
And you've got to do the washing-up for Madame Cholet.

Refrain:

Remember, remember, remember, remember,
Remember, remember, remember;
Remember you're a Womble (Remember you're a Womble)
Remember you're a Womble (Remember you're a Womble)
Remember you're a Womble (Remember you're a Womble)
Remember you're a Womble (Remember you're a Womble)
Remember, member, member, what a Womble, Womble, Womble you are!

When it's foggy on the common and you just can't see
And I wobble into you and you wobble into me
Just remember we're so lucky to be Wombling Free!

[Refrain]

- S -

Superwomble

In the middle of Manhattan, when the whole town sleeps:
There stands a lonely figure, he's the guardian of the streets.
If he flies in through the window when you're trying to get some rest,
You'll know it's Superwomble 'cause his name is on his vest.
He can fly, He can swim, He's a Hero, He's got X-ray sight:

Superwomble, Superwomble, Superwomble Womble, Superwomble Womble
Superwomble, Superwomble, Superwomble Womble, Superwomble Womble

His muscles make you envy him, his speed is superquick,
He's so good looking that he really makes you sick
There's no rubbish on the roof-tops when he flies through the night,
Cleaning up the Universe in his Superwomble tights.
He can fly, He can swim, He's Hero, He's got X-ray sight.

Superwomble, Superwomble, Superwomble Womble, Superwomble Womble
Superwomble, Superwomble, Superwomble Womble, Superwomble Womble

- T -

The empty tidy bag blues

Woke up this morning feeling pretty good,
Bolted down my breakfast and went out into the woods.

I couldn't see any paper lying around the place,
Six o'clock this evening I was really in disgrace.

Refrain:

Oh yeah, I've got the Empty Tidy Bag Blues.
Oh yeah, I've got the Empty Tidy Bag Blues.
Well I've been sleeping on the job,
And I wish I had a better excuse.

Well, went down to the windmill to find myself a seat,
To shut my eyes and the weight from off my feet,
I looking forward to working all the day,
I hate to think what Great Uncle Bulgaria would say.

[Refrain]

I wrote myself a letter, I put it in the post,
It said "Dear Orinoco, you are lazier than most."
I opened up the letter, I knew that it was true,
So I went back to sleep again, it seemed the thing to do.

The jungle is jumping

Orinoco dreams he is a jungle explorer

Drums in the jungle, they make the monkeys come,
Tell the animals in the undergrowth the Wombling has begun!
So come one... Oh come on... Oh come on... Oh come on...

Refrain:

The jungle is jumping
Jungle drums are thumping,
The jungle's really jumping tonight.

Don't drop the packet from your Coconut Delight,
Please keep your pomegranite pips out of site.
But come on, Oh come on... Oh come on... Oh come on...

The Orinoco kid

Orinoco dreams he is a cowboy

When I got to Kansas City, there were people in the road,
They knew the town was dirty but they didn't think it showed.
I wombled down the main street, there was silence all around,
Nobody tried to stop me as I cleaned up the town.

Refrain:

I was bold, I was brave, I was fearless,
I was famous for the things that I did.
I was quick on the draw as I tidied up the floor,
So they called me the Orinoco Kid.

Well, they sent someone to meet me name of Big John Womble Wayne,
He threw his cigar on the ground as he stepped down from the train.
I stood up on my tiptoes and I looked him in the chin,
I said "Please pick that litter up and put it in the bin."

[Refrain]

The mountains rose around me for as far as I could see,
My tidy bag was full and I was really wombling free.
I was riding down to Denver on the Colorado sands,
I knew I was the wildest wooly Womble in the land.

The return of cousin Yellowstone

In which Cousin Yellowstone returns for one of his visits and the story of his fortune-seeking youth is told. At the end of the song an American-style square dance is held to celebrate his visit. This takes the form on an additional song THE WOMBLE SQUARE DANCE which leads straight on from the Yellowstone Song.

Refrain:

Oh, Cousin Yellowstone is returning from his busy business life down Boston way,
Oh, Cousin Yellowstone knows the fires are burning bright,
And we're glad to have him back from the U.S. of A.

When he was just a child, he left England for the Wilds,
He blazed out a trail in the West, he worked his fingers to the bone
And he built himself a home as he started his journey on the road to success.

[Refrain]

Nobody could tell it would all work out so well,
But he soon took the world by surprise,
He's a Womble of the West and he always comes out best
You can tell by the way he looks you in the eyes.

The Womble shuffle

Spring is here and so are we
The grass is high and the air is free my friends.
Sun is shining into my eyes,
Things are taking me by surprise again
There's nothing like a shuffle you can do it with me:

Any time you want to you can do the Womble shuffle,
You can do your shopping bopping to the Womble shuffle;
Shuffle, shuffle to the Womble shuffle.

Judges do it with the Magistrates
Teachers do it in their coffee breaks you know.
D.J.'s do it on the radio,
Postmen do it for the G.P.O.
If you feel like a shuffle you can do it with me.

Any time you want to you can do the Womble shuffle,
You can do your shopping bopping to the Womble shuffle;
Shuffle, shuffle to the Womble shuffle.

Any time you want to you can do the Womble shuffle,
You can do your shopping bopping to the Womble shuffle,
Miners do their digging jiggling to the Womble shuffle,
Sailors in the rigging do it to the Womble shuffle
Dockers do their docking rocking to the Womble shuffle.

The Womble square dance

Swing your partners Womble-Style, Dosey-doe with a Womble-Smile,
Step to the left, step to the right, I wish we could square-dance every night!

Knees a-pumping, elbows high, Soon we'll serve some Womble Pie.
The fiddler's working well for you, we might square-dance the whole night through!

Honour your partner, turn around
Lift you partner off the ground
Form a square so nice and neat,
Swing those furry Womble feet!

Old Bulgaria, take your time,
Keep On Wombling, keep in line,
Cross the room, turn round and then
Take your partners once again.

Womble fast and Womble slow,
That's the way the music goes:
Up and down and round and round
Underground and Overground!

The Wombles warning

Don't you go wombling in the nettlebeds, my friends,
No wombling in the nettlebeds.
Don't you go wombling in the nettlebeds, my friends,
No wombling in the nettlebeds.
It can be a foolish and painful experience,
It can be a rash thing for anyone to contemplate.
Don't you go wombling in the nettlebeds, my friends,
No wombling in the nettlebeds.

Don't you be tempted to the nettlebeds, my friends,
By bits of ironmongery:
If there are mushrooms in the nettlebeds, my friends,
It's better to go hungry.
Listen to the words of the Wombles' wise warning,
Wellington and Bungo and Orinoco, don't you go.
Don't you go wombling in the nettlebeds, my friends,
No wombling in the nettlebeds.

Oh, there are many places you can go, my friends,
To gather litter every day.
And you can find a lot of string and paper in the ordinary Womble way.
Stinging nettles make you so sad and so miserable,
Heed the Wombles' warning and take a piece of good advice.
[2 times]
Don't you go wombling in the nettlebeds, my friends,
No wombling in the nettlebeds.

The Wombling song (TV Version)

Underground, Overground, Wombling Free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we.
Making good use of the things that we find,
Things that the everyday folks leave behind.

The Wombling song (Full Version)

Underground, Overground, Wombling Free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we.
Making good use of the things that we find,
Things that the everyday folks leave behind.

Uncle Bulgaria,
He can remember the days when he wasn't behind The Times,
With his map of the World.
Pick up the papers and take them to Tobermory!

Wombles are organized, work as a team.
Wombles are tidy and Wombles are clean.
Underground, Overground, wombling free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we!

People don't notice us, they never see,
Under their noses a Womble may be.
We wamble by night and we wamble by day,
Looking for litter to trundle away.

We're so incredibly, utterly devious
Making the most of everything.
Even bottles and tins.
Pick up the pieces and make them into something new,
Is what we do!

The Wombling song (Film Version)

Underground, Overground, Wombling Free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we.
Making good use of the things that we find,
Things that the everyday folks leave behind.

Uncle Bulgaria,
He can remember the days when he wasn't behind The Times,
With his map of the World.
Pick up the papers and take them to Tobermory!

Underground, Overground, Wombling Free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we.
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Making the most of everything.
Even bottles and tins.
Pick up the pieces and make them into something new,
Is what we do!

Wombles are organized, work as a team.
Wombles are tidy and Wombles are clean.
Underground, Overground, wombling free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we!

People don't notice us, they never see,
Under their noses a Womble may be.
Underground, Overground, Wombling Free,
The Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we.

Uncle Bulgaria,
He can remember the days when he wasn't behind The Times,
With his map of the World.
Pick up the papers and take them to Tobermory!

Underground, Overground
Underground, Overground
Underground...

The Wombling twist

I'm going to teach you a dance that you can't resist,
I've decided to call it "The Wombling Twist".
When you learn to do it we can dance all day,
We can Wombling Twist every night away.

Refrain:

Let's twist (Twist, twist, do the Wombling Twist)
Let's twist (Twist, twist, do the Wombling Twist)
Let's twist (Twist, twist, do the Wombling Twist)
Let's twist (Twist, twist, do the Wombling Twist)

At the Womble Club down in West L.A.,
The music plays and they twist all day,
There's a light in the corner where the jukebox stands
It was made by a Womble out of old tin cans.

[Refrain]

When you get to the door you can ring the bell
'Cause the gang's all here and we're Wombling Well,
Leave your tidy bag by the Womble door
When you Womble out to the dancing floor.

Tobermory

Who is the Womble with hammer and nails?
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
Inventor of genius, mender of pails.
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
Knows all the physical laws
There are to know,
So very good with his paws is he.

Carpenter, plumber and screwdriver of screws,
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
Making a candle or mending a fuse.
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
His ingenuity shows in everything.
When he goes to it he knows the way.

Master of every mechanical thing.
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
Mixer of ink and electrical king!
(Tobermory, Tobermory)

Down in the workshop for most of the day,
(Tobermory, Tobermory)
Making a saucepan for Madame Cholet.
(Tobermory, Tobermory).

Tobermory's music machine

Apart from the grommet cog adjacent to the jack,
And the left-handed mangle-wheel protruding from the back,
If you bought it in a shop it would be cheap at half the price,
For a phonographic, gramophonic, record-playing, Womble-sonic, Sound-bearing contrivance or device.

When he turned on the power, there was music everywhere,
It came out of the funnel and it flew through the air:
As the record turned around, we were captured by the sound,
'Til the needle stuck
'Til the needle stuck
'Til the needle stuck
'Til the needle stuck
'Til the needle stuck

If Tobermory hadn't been so clever with his paws,
He could never have invented it or fitted it with drawers.
It was put together carefully and painted red and green,
This phonographic, gramophonic, record-playing, Womble-sonic, Sound-bearing contrivance or machine.

When he turned on the power, there was music everywhere,
It came out of the funnel and it flew through the air:
As the record turned around, we were captured by the sound,
'Til the music started getting slower and slower
And slower and slower
And faster and faster and faster and faster...

He was proud of all his efforts and his audio-techniques,
He'd studied books and everything for days or even weeks,
The sprocket-laden inner spring had only broken twice,
Which was good for a gramophonic, record-playing, Womble-sonic, Sound-bearing contrivance or device.

When he turned on the power, there was music everywhere,
It came out of the funnel and it flew through the air:
As the record turned around, we were captured by the sound,
'Til the spring broke...

To Wimbledon with love

I read a book two days ago which made me start to dream
That I was a secret agent for Her Majesty the Queen.
As I flew out of Paris into San Fransisco Bay,
I kept my golden tidy bag beside me all the way.

To Wimbledon with love, I'll climb to you.
This is secret agent 00W,
I've got the information, now I'll be going home.
Meet me at the railway station,
To Wimbledon with love.

I built my reputation by risking my life each day,
When the country was threatened by danger,
I was never very far away.
And though I never carried no weapon,
I was safer than you might think,
With a false mustache and a magnifying glass,
And a bottle of invisible ink.

- U -

Underground overture

Orinoco dreams he is the conductor

And I dreamed I was the conductor, down at Madison Square.
I stood in front of the orchestra there were thousands of people there.
And the lights went down around me, and I opened up the score,
The room was filled with the magical thrill of the Underground Overture.

Underground Overture,
The room was filled with the magical thrill of the Underground Overture.

Well there was no orchestra finer than the one I dreamed was mine.
And we changed from Major to Minor all at the very same time.
As we came to the end of the coda, they were calling out for more,
So I stood my ground second time around, and gave a brief encore.

- W -

Wellington goes to Waterloo

It was early one morning, the fish were jumping high,
The policemen were in their uniforms, there were aeroplanes in the sky,
Young Wellington raised his glasses to the sky of ever-so-blue,
Saying "Let's collect some engine numbers down at Waterloo"

A day-off comes so seldom in a Womble's working year,
That they like to make the most of them whenever they appear,
So he put away his Tidy Bag and joined the breakfast queue,
Saying, "Soon I'll be London Town, down at Waterloo"

Refrain:

Ooh, Ticket Collector, ticket-collecting all day long,
If you let me look at the engines, I'll sing you a Wombling Song.

So he wandered on to Platform Six, his notebook in his paw,
He cleaned his glasses with a rag he found upon the floor,
Just then a mighty Pullman Train came rattling into Town,
So Wellington whipped his notebook out and got the number down.

[Refrain]

The trains pulled in and out again, 'til Wellington's book filled up,
So he poured his thermos flask of tea into his plastic cup,
He assessed the situation as he sipped the steaming brew,
"It's so nice collecting engine numbers, down at Waterloo."

Wellington Womble

Oh they call him Wellington Womble and he's ever-so-rather shy,
And he looks through great big spectacles at the ever-so-azure sky.
And he's ever-so-rather brainy, and he's ever-so-rather keen,
He's the ever-so-rathest, keenest, brainiest Womble you have seen.

He's respectful and obedient, and he does as he's always told;
His great big cap and muffling scarf protect him from the cold.
And he's ever-so-softly spoken, and he's ever-so-slightly small,
He's the ever-so-slightest, softest-spokenest Womble of them all.

Ooh, wombling along, wombling along.
Ooh, wombling along, wombling along...
Oh he's ever-so-conscientious, always wombling with a will;
The care he takes would probably make a lesser Womble ill.

Wipe those Womble tears from your eyes

Refrain:

Wipe those Womble-Tears from your eyes
Wipe those Womble-Tears from your eyes
If nobody wants to know you I'll be here to sympathise
Won't you wipe those Womble-Tears from your eyes.

If the worries of the world are on your shoulders,
And your Womble-feet keep dragging on the ground,
If the candles that you make won't fit the holders,
Or your jelly will not set, don't let it bring you down.

[Refrain]

If you can't keep your campfire burning,
And you don't remember where you left your hat,
Let your Womble-Wagon-wheels keep a-turning,
Pull yourself to-Womble-gether and remember where you're at.

Womble burrow boogie

All you litter-picking people, litter-picking in the sun,
Take a (rubbish) tip from us today;
Don't go thinking this proposal's wasting time at your disposal,
'Cause we're really gonna take it away!
We'll take the opportunity to clean up the Community together!

So do the Womble Burrow Boogie (Sweep Up, Sweep Up)
The Womble Burrow Boogie (Pick Up, Pick Up)
Do the Womble Burrow Boogie (Clean Up, Clean Up)
The Womble Burrow Boogie (Sweep Up, Sweep Up)
'Cause if you do the Womble Burrow Boogie
You'll be Wombling for the rest of your life!

Womble of the universe

Orinoco dreams he is an astronaut

Well I took off from the Space Station and I didn't know where I was bound,
I looked out the window at all of my friends, they were waving from down on the ground,
And nobody's going to make me come down:

Refrain:

I'm the Womble of the Universe, the stars are in my eyes
The Womble of the Universe, the Captain of the Skies,
The Captain of the Skies.

I was travelling faster than lightning through the middle of the Milky Way,
I was eating the cucumber sandwiches given to me by Madame Cholet.
Well I'm really flying high now, I'm miles now from the ground,
And nobody's going to make me come down.

[Refrain]

As I flew my clockwork rocket ship, I listened to the radio
And even though it was a clockwork rocket ship, they were speaking to me from below.
"Are you never coming down now?" I heard everyone say,
"If you want to come down, you know it's O.K."

Wombles everywhere

Well you may already know it
But we're saying it again,
We are not the only Wombles to be seen:
There are Wombles in America,
There are Wombles down in Spain,
There are Wombles from Australia to East Cheam:

Refrain:

We've got Wombles everywhere,
North, South, East and West,
Though personally we're from Wimbledon
'Cause Wimbledon is best.

And down among the icicles,
Where the polar bears hang out,
There is very little wombling to be done,
But some healthy Womble Eskimos,
Look hopefully about,
Although wombling's much more comfortable in the sun.

[Refrain]

In the hills of Bonnie Scotland,
Where the Loch Ness waters wash
Live the Wombles of the old McWomble Clan:
They eat porridge every morning
With a dram of orange squash
And a slice or two of steaming haggis flan.
(Och Aye!)

[Refrain]

Wombles on parade

Drill

Can be a thrill,

If you've got the inclination

To conform to regulations you'll be there.

Cleaning kit

Can keep you fit,

It's a feeling of elation

To be moving in formation on the square.

Oh, they say that the discipline is good for the soul,

It's a thousand miles away from Rock and Roll.

Refrain:

The massed band is convening on the corner,

The music is waiting to be played,

Come on along get your feet moving,

The Wombles are on parade.

The top brass are saluting to the colours,

The ladies are reclining in the shade,

Come on along, get your boots on,

The Wombles are on parade!

Please

Stand at ease,

For nothing quite relaxes

Like the flutes and tenor saxes of the band:

The sound

Is all around,

And it's nonsense to suggest

That Alexander's was the best band in the land.

When you hear the euphonium you can't forget,

That it's just like dancing if you keep in step.

[Refrain]

Oh, they say that the discipline is good for the soul,

It's a thousand miles away from Rock and Roll.

[Refrain]

Wombling along (link piece)

Oo wombling along, wombling along

Oo wombling along, wombling along

Oo wombling along, wombling along

Wombling in the rain

Some people follow the sun, some people cry when it rains,
But we like a shower, 'cause it clears the air,
And we just don't care 'cause we've got an umbrella:

Refrain:

Wombling in the Rain makes you feel so good,
You really should be inside,
Wombling in the Rain makes you feel so fine,
I feel like Wombling in the Rain

Snow in the middle of June,
Ice in the middle of May,
Lightning is lovely if you let it be,
It's like poetry,
As you blunder through the thunder.

[Refrain]

Meteorologically speaking, we hardly ever grumble or groan,
And even when our Tidy Bags are leaking, we laugh about it all the way home.

Wombling merry Christmas

Open your eyes, look to the skies when you're lonely,
There will be stars shining for you.
Sleepers awake, it's getting late, snow is falling.
The whole wide world is wombling too.

Refrain:

All day long we will be wombling in the snow,
We wish you a Wombling Merry Christmas.
All day long we will be laughing as we go.
We wish you a Wombling Merry Christmas.

Under the ground there is the sound of a symphony.
The lights are low, the fire is bright.
Wombling through, I'll tune into you, you tune into me.
We'll send a message into the night.

Wombling U.S.A.

Female voice, announcing (as on an airport):

„Will Mister Wellington Womble,
travelling on Trans-Womble-Airlines, flight no. TWA636 to New York,
please go to the departure lounge.“

Well I came to the States on a jumbo jet
'cause I didn't want to get my bathing suit wet
I said I feel so fine and I'm wombling USA.
When they picked me up in a big Rolls Royce
I put on my best Brian Wilson voice
I said I feel so fine and I'm wombling USA.
Let's go wombling USA, let's go wombling USA
Down to Chicago, that's okay,
Denver, Colorado, gonna get there some day,
Wombling USA.

Well I left my home back in Wimbledon Town,
Gonna lie on the beach, let the sun beat down,
Well I feel so fine when I'm wombling USA.
Let's go wombling USA.
Well you know I got a thing about Fred Astaire,
Tapping like a telegraph and dancing on air,
You know I feel like him when I'm wombling USA.
Sing, sing, sing like a Womble, dance, dance, dance.

I may be furry and I may be fat,
But I look real heavy in a cowboy hat
Well I feel so fine when I'm wombling USA
Let's go wombling USA
Gonna take me a drive down Nashville way,
To hear them Nashville Wombles play,
Well it sounds so good when you're wombling USA
Let's go wombling USA

Well I dreamed there was a conductor
Down at Madison Square,
And if felt so good, I was wombling USA,
Yes I was wombling, wombling USA, wombling USA,
I was wombling USA...

Wombling white tie and tails

I've always had a thing about Fred Astaire,
Tapping like a telegraph and dancing on air,
He told me all you needed was a little bit of syncopation.

I let my imagination take me away,
Ginger Womble Rogers is Madame Cholet,
And with my cast of thousands I'll womble across the screen.

Refrain:

Sing, sing, sing like a womble,
Dance, dance, dance like a womble.
You're an entertainer from the head down,
To your wombling white tie and tails.

From the Hollywood set to the Broadway stage,
Everybody tells me that I'm good for my age,
I may be fat but I'm gonna be big someday.

So give me a star on my dressing room door,
My tapping technique will be hard to ignore,
Dance to the rhythm! Dance to the rhythm!

[Refrain]

Woo! Woo! Woo!
The Hollywood train's on time,
When you hear that whistle blowing,
Womble up and see me sometime.

Wombling white tie and tails (Film Version)

I've always had a thing about Fred Astaire,
Tapping like a telegraph and dancing on air,
He told me all you needed was a little bit of syncopation.

So let my imagination take me away,
Ginger Womble Rogers is Madame Cholet,
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They gave me a star on my dressing room door,
My tapping technique will be hard to ignore,
Dance to the rhythm! Dance to the rhythm!

[Refrain]

INTERLUDE with parodies of "Singing in the Rain" and "Sound of Music"

Woo! Woo! Woo!
The Hollywood train's on time,
When you hear that whistle blowing,
Womble up and see me sometime.

[Refrain]