

## THE BLAYDON RACES

### Geordie Ridley (1835 - 1864)

The Blaydon Races were held on an island in the middle of the Tyne at Blaydon. One year they were called off when a heavy storm made it impossible for the horses to plodge their way across. The storm is recorded in the last verse of the song. The last race was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1916.

1. Aw went to Blaydon Races,  
'twas on the ninth of Joon,  
Eiteen hundred an' sixty two, on a  
summer's efternoon,  
Aw tuek the 'bus frae Balmbr'a's,  
an' she wis heavy laden,  
Away we went alang Collingwood  
Street, that's on the road to  
Blaydon.

*Chorus*  
*O me lads, ye shud have seen us*  
*gannin, passing the folks upon*  
*the road*  
*Just as they wor stannin;*  
*All the lads an' lasses there, all wi'*  
*smiling faces,*  
*Gannin' alang the Scotswood*  
*Road, to see the Blaydon Races.*

**The Blaydon Races**

*Verse*

F C F B $\flat$  F G C

Aa went to Blay-don ra-ces, 'twas on the ninth of june. Eigh-teen hun-dred and six-ty two on a sum-mer's af-ter-noon. Aa

F C F B $\flat$  F C F

took the bus from Balm-br-a's, and she was hea-vy la-den. A-way we went a-lang Coll-ing-wood Street, that's on the road to Blay-don

*Chorus* F C F B $\flat$  F G C C $^7$

Oh me lads you should-a' seen us gan-nin, pass-in' the folks up-on the road just as they were sta-nin'

F C F B $\flat$  F C F

All the lads an' lass-es there, all wi' smi-lin' fa-ces. Gan-nin' a-lang the Scots-wood road to see the Blay-don Ra-ces.

2. We flew past Armstrong's factory, and up to the 'Robin Adair,'

Just gannin' doon te the railway bridge, the bus wheel flew off there.

The lasses lost their crinolines an' the veils that hid their faces.

Aw got two black eyes an' a broken nose in gannin' te Blaydon Races.

*Chorus*

3. When we gat the wheel put on away we went agyen,

But them that had their noses broke, they cam' back over hyem.

Sum went to the dispensary, an' sum to Doctor Gibb's.

An' sum to the Infirmary to mend their broken ribs.

*Chorus*

4. Noo when we gat to Paradise thor was bonny gam begun, Thor was fower-and-twenty on the 'bus, man, hoo they danced an' sung;

They called me up to sing a sang, aw sung them "Paddy Fagan."

Aw danced a jig an' swung my twig that day aw went to Blaydon.

*Chorus*

5. We flew across the Chain Bridge reet into Blaydon toon,

The bellman he was callin there - they called him Jackey Brown,

Aw saw him talking to sum cheps, an' them he was persuadin',

To gan an' see Geordie Ridley's show in the Mechanics' Hall at Blaydon.

*Chorus*

6. The rain poor 'd doon all the day, an' myed the ground quite muddy,

Coffy Johnny had a white hat on - they war shootin' "Whe stole the cuddy."

There wes spice stalls an' munkey shows, an' aud wives selling ciders,

An' a chep wiv a happeny roond about shootin' "Now, me lads, for riders."

*Chorus*

