



# The Day We Went Tae Rothesay-Oh



Track 12

This song about a holiday trip on a steamer down the River Clyde to the island of Bute is full of jokes, and references to how people lived and had fun over 100 years ago.

Slowly

Wan Hog-man-ay at the Glas-gow Fair, there was me ma-sel and sev-eral mair, We  
 aa went off tae hae a tear and spend the day in Rothe-say-oh. We wan-dered doon the  
 Broo-mie-law, through wind and rain and sleet and snaw, And at for-ty mee-nits aif-ter twa we  
 got the length o Rothe-say-oh. Dur-rum a doo a dur-rum a day, dur-rum a doo a  
 dad-dy oh, Dur-rum a doo a dur-rum a day, the day we went tae Rothe-say-oh.

Chords: D, G, D, C, D, G, D, A, D, C, G, D, A7, D, G, D, C, A7, D

March Speed

1) Wan Hogmanay at the Glasgow Fair, there was me masel and several mair,  
 We aa went off tae hae a tear and spend the day in Rothesay-oh.  
 We wandered doon the Broomielaw, through wind and rain and sleet and snaw,  
 And at forty meenits aifter twa we got the length o Rothesay-oh.

CHORUS  
*Durrum a doo a durrum a day, durrum a doo a daddy oh,  
 Durrum a doo a durrum a day, the day we went tae Rothesay-oh.*

2) A sodger lad caed Ruglen Will, wha's regiment lies at Barrenhill,  
 Went off wi a tanner tae buy a gill at a public hoose in Rothesay-oh.  
 He said, 'By God, I'd like tae sing.' I said, 'Ye'll no dae sic a thing.'  
 He said, 'Clear the floor and mak a ring and ah'll fecht yez aa in Rothesay-oh.'

3) In search o lodgins we did slide, tae find a place where we could bide,  
 There was eighty fowr o us inside a single end in Rothesay-oh.  
 We aa lay doon tae tak oor ease, when somebody happened for tae sneeze,  
 And he wakened a half a million fleas that et us alive in Rothesay-oh.

4) Some were bees, and some were bugs, and some had feet like dyers' clugs,  
 And they sat on the bed and they cockit their lugs, and they cried, 'Hurrah for Rothesay-oh.'  
 Ah said, 'Ah think we should elope.' So we went and jined the Band of Hope,  
 Ah, but the polis wouldny let us stop anither oor in Rothesay-oh.

Hogmanay is the 31st December, but the Glasgow Fair happens in the last two weeks of July. A 'tear' is a good time, a 'tanner' is sixpence in 'old' money and a gill is a very large glass of whisky. A 'single end' is a flat with only one room. 'Dyers clugs' are wooden clogs worn by workers who dyed cloth. To join the Band of Hope, a temperance organisation, you had to swear you would never drink alcohol any more.

The pleasure steamers carried people to Rothesay from the Broomielaw in the middle of Glasgow. They went down the River Clyde to Rothesay and other places, and this was called going 'doon the watter'.

Like *Fitba Crazy*, this song would have been sung in 'music halls'. These started off as rooms in public houses where people could go and hear old and new songs. Later, music halls were built in the cities and towns of Scotland. In these, audiences could enjoy not just singers and musicians but also other types of performances like recitations and dancing.