WHE STOLE THE CUDDY?

This one is a shout-out to my wonderful friends from the North of England. Geordie Ridley was not the original Geordie, but a much revered one among these folks who love their music and their musicians. Blaydon is about 4 miles from Newcastle. And yes, interurban bus service (horse-drawn) did exist in England in 1862. Some of the events in the song are real, it seems. Coffy Johnny was an actual historical figure. Ridley sang this song at Balmbra's Music Hall on June 5, 1862. "Blaydon Races" has become an anthem for **Newcastle United**, and they sing it at all the games. Indeed, some call this song the unofficial Geordie anthem. This goes out to Helen, Steve, Chris, Michael and John – though Helen is the one actually from the town where they hung the monkey. You can hear this song **here.**

Capo III and play in D to play along with the recording.

BLAYDON RACES

By Geordie Ridley

D A D
Aa went to Blaydon Races, 'twas on the ninth of Joon,
G D E A
Eiteen hundred an' sixty-two, on a summer's efternoon;
D A D
Aa tyuk the 'bus frae Balmbra's, an' she wis heavy laden,
G D A D
Away we went 'lang Collin'wood Street, that's on the road to Blaydon.

Chorus:
Ah me lads, ye shudda seen us gannin',
We pass'd the foaks alang the road just as they wor stannin';
Thor wis lots o' lads an' lassies there, aal wi' smiling faces,
Gannin' alang the Scotswood Road, to see the Blaydon Races.

We flew past Airmstrang's factory, and up to the "Robin Adair",
Just gannin' doon te the railway bridge, the 'bus wheel flew off there.
The lassies lost their crinolines, an' the veils that hide their faces,
An' aw got two black eyes an' a broken nose gannin' te Blaydon Races.

(chorus)

When we gat the wheel put on away we went agyen,
But them that had their noses broke they cam back ower hyem;
Sum went to the Dispensary an' uthers to Doctor Gibbs,
An' sum sought out the Infirmary to mend their broken ribs.

(chorus)

Noo when we gat to Paradise thor wes bonny gam begun;
Thor was fower-an-twenty on the 'bus, man, hoo they danced an' sung;
They called on me to sing a sang, aa sung them "Paddy Fagan",
Aa danced a jig an' swung my twig that day aa went to Blaydon.

(chorus)

We flew across the Chain Bridge reet into Blaydon toon,
The bellman he was callin' there, they call him Jackie Broon;
Aa saw him talkin' to sum cheps, an' them he was pursuadin'
To gan an' see Geordy Ridley's concert in the Mechanics' Hall at Blaydon.

(chorus)

The rain it poor'd aall the day an' mayed the groons quite muddy,
Coffy Johnny had a white hat on – they war shootin' "Whe stole the cuddy."
There wis spice stalls an' munkey shows an' aud wives selling ciders,
An' a chep wiv a hapenny roond aboot, shootin' "Noo, me lads, for riders."

(chorus)