

THE PLAY O THE WATHER

By

John Heywood

Translated and adapted by Edwin Stiven

Performance Script for Nutshell Theatre Company

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John Heywood and "The Play of the Weather"

Translator's Note

John Heywood was connected with the court of Henry VIII and his morality tale, "The Play of the Weather" was first performed as an "interlude" for the entertainment of the King and his court in 1527.

It is one of a number of such morality plays which he wrote, and staged, with his own small company of boy actors. His work was very popular - popular enough to be published for general consumption - and from today's perspective, what is most interesting about it is that it provides a link between Medieval Folk Dramas and Modern Theatre.

Heywood's main contribution to this evolution is probably in the development of character on the stage. In this he was undoubtedly influenced by Chaucer, and he also shares Chaucer's bawdy wit and love of satire. His characterisation certainly makes a huge leap forward from that of the early Morality Plays, and he completely eschews the moral didacticism of these and the Mystery Plays.

In fact, the only moral lesson which I can discern in the original play is that of the importance of seeking wise counsel - perhaps a message to the headstrong and impetuous King Henry.

But for me, the real attraction in translating and updating the play was its apparent similarity to what little we know of Scots Pre-Reformation drama, and therefore to attempt to recreate that style of drama in a Scottish context.

The most obvious way of doing this is in the use of Scots language - which incidentally is almost entirely modern rather than old or medieval Scots - and by adapting Heywood's original to emphasise the anarchic style of Scots drama of that date. Thus Heywood's "Merry Report" becomes "Merry Courant", a Scots term for a "revel", and his role is one of "Master of the Revels" in the genre of characters such as "The Abbot of Bon Accord" who led the Scottish Folk Dramas of the period.

An added attraction is that the weather, and our management of the earth's climate is actually now an intensely moral issue, in a way that would have astonished Heywood and his contemporaries. But at the end of the day, this play has little to say to us about morality. It may however have a lot to say about immorality.

Eddie Stiven

Players

Wather Girl

Jupiter.....a God

Merry Courant.....Master of the Revels

Laird

Merchant

Keeper

Water-Miller

Wind-Miller

Dame

Launder

Boy

Sandy the Soond Man (non-speaking)

1 *LX. Bright*
 2 Wather Girl Hallo there! Well we really huv been haein some wather
 3 Goin by yer calls, some of yese are in a richt lather
 4 The gentlemen in particular are seemin tae get het up
 5 As lang as this lovely sunshine disnae want tae let up
 6 And no, for thaim that e-mailed and texted,
 7 I really think it's quite rude
 8 Tae spier¹ that I could dae the wather
 9 staunin here in the nude
 10 Onywey ower here in Rossy² the day
 11 it's really been a brammer
 12 We've been on the beach aa day,
 13 me and Wullie ahent the camera
 14 Wullie wis haein a rare auld time
 15 playin wi his frisbee
 16 And gin his girlfriend is watchin
 17 she'll agree he haunles it nicely
 18 Top temp'ature the day, a blisterin twinty nine
 19 That's ower eichty for youse auld yins
 20 I howp ye're haein a richt guid time
 21 Especially Jimmy Michie wha phoned in frae Newmilns
 22 Wha said he liked yisterday's sun-frock
 23 and the doacter hud gied him new pills
 24 I wis niver oot the bikini the day,
 25 until we were camin on air
 26 Sandy the Soond-man helped me wi that,
 27 he's doublin wi Wardrobe, Make-up and Hair

¹ Spier/ask

² Rossy/Rothesay

1 Sae here is the prospect fur this evenin and the morn
 2 Mair sun tae cam, it'll gang on het and warm
 3 Exceptin fur Shetland whaur ye'll see a wee bittie rain
 4 And in the Western Isles it'll be muckle³ the same
 5 Frae Thurso tae Berwick will be covert wi haar
 6 And there micht be some thunner roon aboot Braemar
 7 For youse yins in the Borders it'll be a bit fresher
 8 They'll be some mornin mist in Skye
 9 and drachie⁴ ower in Ross-shire
 10 The midgie coont in Achiltibuie is gonnie be quite fearfu
 11 And there's a fair bit o pollen roon aboot Fife
 12 that'll mak the sneeshers⁵ quite tearfu
 13 The nicht aa you Patrick Moores kin gie yer telescopes a
 14 twiddlin
 15 For there's an unco⁶ byordinar⁷ arrangement up in the
 16 heivens
 17 Aa the planets wull be gaithered roon Saturn in a huddlin
 18 And Jupiter's in as close as he's been
 19 syne⁸ fifteen twinty seiven⁹
 20 The astronomers are tellin me that's mibby the reason
 21 That aa o oor wather his been getting oot o season
 22 The morn we'll be bringin yer wather
 23 frae the ferry pier in Brodick
 24 Wullie and Sandy wull be luikin efter me again
 25 brocht tae ye by CalMac and Anita Roddick

³ muckle/much

⁴ damp

⁵ sneeshers/sneezers

⁶ unfamiliar

⁷ unusual

⁸ since

1 *LX. Dark*
 2 *TX. Thunder roll & sound of heavy rain.*
 3 Omnes Yestreen I saw a watergaw
 4 No yin, but three, all in a raw
 5 They rase frae the hills in a shimmerin licht
 6 And in that circumference it shone unco bricht
 7 A bleeze-fire o howp, that made me jalouse
 8 That man micht yet hae the wather he chuse
 9 And as I watched I lost aa ma fears
 10 And I thoch tae masell, it's the daunce o the spheres.
 11 *Enter Jupiter*
 12 Jupiter Owre lang nou, in truith we maun declare
 13 The auncient realm whaurin our ain self hes reigned
 14 Whatna honours and praises, gien tae us, nae mair
 15 Nor we deserve, whatna glories gained
 16 Aff ilka cratur that hes peyed its dues unstrained
 17 For abune aa gods, sinsyne¹⁰ oor noble faither's faa
 18 We Jupiter wis aey foremaist mang them aa.
 19 And gin¹¹ as that's the case, as shairly it is
 20 Mair honoured than in ony ither case
 21 Wha wad disclaim or hae the neck tae deny
 22 That oor regality is regairdit in ony ither wey?
 23 For syne the day that heiven and yird¹² were thrown
 24 Stuid we ne'er in sic triumphal renown
 25 As we dae nou, e'en tho we say it wursell.
 26 Frae whilk heich¹³ vantage, in truith tae tell

⁹ The date of the original performance of Heywood's play

¹⁰ sinsyne/since

¹¹ gin/if

¹² earth

1 We maun frae time tae time mak oor wey doon
 2 Tae see hou ilka body fares amang the warld's room;
 3 A test tae mak, and we the spierin alchemist
 4 That we in lordship will be pruived the first
 5 And ye, oor subjects, will honour us ilk¹⁴ day
 6 Upon yer bendit knees, for that's the wey ye pray.
 7 And nou tae this maitter tak tent that we micht see
 8 Afore oor presence here in oor ain pairlament
 9 Baith gods and goddesses of ilka degree
 10 Hae gaithered aroon us by common consent
 11 For the pitten tae richts o certain complaints
 12 That fester amang them withoot restraint
 13 And fearfu miscaain wi curses personal
 14 Tae wit, we nummerate in these maist special:
 15 Oor foresaid faither Saturn, and Phoebus the sun
 16 Eolus the wind-god and Pheobe, the moon,
 17 There's ither yins tae, but thon fower by name
 18 Hae set tae ilk ither wi sic flytin¹⁵ and sweirin
 19 Aa guid fowks wad gan reid at the wards they declaim
 20 And the mair they gan at it, the mair we are fearin
 21 That oot their gyres they'll be birlin their wulkies¹⁶
 22 Tae the sair alarum o baith men and monkies.
 23 Sic a tulzie¹⁷ as this wis amang us aa
 24 The first tae steir wis the auld yin, faither Saturn
 25 His broo wi cranreuch¹⁸ rimed, his beard as white as snaa

¹³ heich/high

¹⁴ ilk/ilka/each

¹⁵ flytin/scolding

¹⁶ turning summersaults

¹⁷ struggle

¹⁸ hoar frost

1 He raisit up his neive¹⁹, and gied his throne a batterin,
 2 “Whaur wad ye be without the frost!?” he hootit
 3 “Naither air nor land wad fare lang without it!
 4 And baith man and beast wad shin fin theirsells hoastin²⁰,
 5 Gin it werena for me gien the yird a gid frostin!”
 6 But then Pheobus, ye could haurdly say without warnin,
 7 Meltit aa o his wark wi his beams ilka mornin
 8 And his wee sister Pheobe made mair o a commotion
 9 By warmin the shores wi the tides o the ocean
 10 Whereupon Eolus, no wantin left oot o the fun
 11 Said there was nane could owrecam aathing better than him
 12 For when he wis mindit tae let his blasts blaw
 13 He wad dree²¹ naither sunshine, mune-glaumerie²² or snaw
 14 Settin ilk at ilk ither and himsel at aa three
 15 That’s whey there’s nae wey these fower kin agree
 16 Argiein the toss wi ilk ither, backlins and fore
 17 Ragin and rammyin in a helluva splore²³
 18 That wis the wey o’t, a richt tirrivee²⁴
 19 And aa that could be dune wis tae fin a referee
 20 That’s whaur we cam in at their invitation
 21 Tae see whit could be dune in the wey o arbitration
 22 Atweill then the ootcam at the feenish up wis this
 23 That we wad be chairged fur tae mak a hale list
 24 O the wather that wis wantit on heiven and yird -
 25 Wi a proper recompense for expenses incurred -

¹⁹ fist

²⁰ coughing

²¹ suffer

²² moon magic

²³ quarrel

²⁴ rage

1 And we wad cam doon tae tak a guid soondin
 2 Tae see gin the wather is properly tuned in
 3 Tae the needs o ilk mortal; poor yin or rich yin
 4 And tak tent o thaim that are never dune bitchin
 5 For we ken that the wather isna aey tae yer pleasin –
 6 It's ower wet or ower dry, it's het or it's freezin -
 7 And sae whit we need is tae canvas the opeenions
 8 O ilka lad and lassie in the hale o oor dominions
 9 That we, up in heiven, will ken then whit's best
 10 And the airgiein atween us will be settled at last
 11 Richt then. Wha 'mang ye aa kin mak this declaration
 12 Gangin roon abody in the hale o the nation
 13 That Jupiter will hear yer needs fur yer wathers
 14 Whether it be honest or jist a load o blathers?
 15 Wha in this gaitherin then wull be oor toon-crier?
 16 Merry Courant Brither haud up yer licht a wee tad higher
 17 Ma lord, I beseech ye, luik ower tae me furst
 18 And I wat that yer lordship winna fin me the warst.
 19 Jupiter Whitna gaen-aboot-body²⁵ is this that I see?
 20 Merry The guidman that ye seek, yer lordship, it's me
 21 Jupiter A guidman! I wadna gie the name tae sic a fellae
 22 Fur yer duds²⁶ are gey creashie²⁷ and yer bunnet's aa skelly.
 23 Whit name dae they cry ye and whit is it ye want?
 24 Merry I'll start aff wi ma name sire, they cry me Merry Courant²⁸.
 25 Jup Ye are haurdly a man that kin bring us sober reason,
 26 Yer garb is o a fule, nor is yer mainner pleasin.

²⁵ itinerant beggar

²⁶ clothes

²⁷ greasy

²⁸ A Revel

1 Merry Whit wey kin yer lordship no like ma mainner,
 2 Ma fine style in claes, nor ma name naither?
 3 Jup It's no hard at aa. In fact it's a daudle.
 4 Merry This is the time for yaisin yer noddle!
 5 Atweil then, as wyce as ye mak yersel oot tae be
 6 And yet ye kin see nae wyceness²⁹ in me
 7 But seein as ye haud me in sic muckle scorn
 8 I howp ye'll aloo me tae blaw ma ain horn
 9 And tae stert aff wi, I sall first attend
 10 Tae tell ye whit I wis up tae afore I cam ben
 11 For I jalouse³⁰ wi ma mainner ye took a wee scunner
 12 Tho whit wey should ye? It still maks me wunner
 13 As nae ither buddy pit in fur yer joab that I could see
 14 Sae ye kin haurdly be picky I think ye'll agree
 15 But e'en as it is, and the darg³¹ is wather-devinin
 16 Whit maitter tho I weir sackclaiths or fine linnen?
 17 Whit's needit fur the joab is the wit o a clairvoyant
 18 And for that ye maunna luik past yer guid sairvant.
 19 And as for ma name, let me tell ye o this instance
 20 A fine spree that happened tae me this very day by chance
 21 A merry courant, a revel atween me and a guid dame
 22 A widow she wis, and merry at that, the very same
 23 Wha's guidman depairted frae her withoot ony warnin
 24 Sae lusty wis he tae the last baith even and mornin
 25 That she, at ma ingaen, wis sae pleased wi ma stature
 26 And gied her sic a steir as is ma naiture
 27 That when I gaed oot again, abin aathing else

²⁹ wisdom

³⁰ suspect/figure

1 She thankit me hertily for ringin her bells
 2 And gin that I hadna gien them a guid skelpin
 3 She wadna be spierin fur a saicent helpin
 4 But in sic mainner I boarded and manned her
 5 That I left her mair blythe than ever I fand her
 6 Whatna chiel is sae thochtie, whatna knicht sae gallant
 7 That staunds match for me, Maister Merry Courant?
 8 And for yer design let me nou impress
 9 For aa yer wathers I couldna care less
 10 They dinna bother me, ye'll ne'er hear me moanin,
 11 Sunlicht, munelicht, staurlicht or gloamin
 12 Cauld or het, wat or dry, fire-flauch³² or thunner
 13 I'm oot in them aa, nae bield³³ am I unner
 14 Spates³⁴, sumps³⁵ and blatterns³⁶, cranreuch or haar
 15 I tak as I fin them, nae better nor waur
 16 Temperate or distemperate, whate'er it micht be
 17 I promise yer lordship, it's aa wan tae me
 18 Jupiter Ach weel, son, considerin ye arena wan tae faff
 19 No tae mention yer ability tae bring the best tidins
 20 We mak ye oor sairvant and wull tell ye stracht aff
 21 That ye maun deliver tae ilka toon these mindins:
 22 Oor pleisure is that we wad ken whit wey the wather is
 23 The whilk thing done, no maitter whit the blather is
 24 Bring back ilk suitor here, ane o ilk persuasion
 25 As sic ye judge yersel as micht occasion

³¹ task

³² lightning

³³ shelter

³⁴ floods

³⁵ downpours

³⁶ storms

1 A canty back-an-fore, withooten ony argy-bargyins;
 2 Tak tent ye dinna birl ma lugs wi screichin harridans;
 3 As for the lave³⁷, thaim that arena warth bringin,
 4 Jist gie me an accoont o whilk wey they're hingin.
 5 Merry Deed will I, ma lord, I'll be the saul o discretion
 6 Ye'll get nae mair diplomacy frae the United Nations
 7 Richt then, staun aside! Let yer First Meenister thru
 8 That's me fairly cam up in the warld nou
 9 I better get aff and pit the ward doon tae Tony's
 10 And see gin I kin wangle some joabs fur ma cronies.
 11 Jupiter Atweil that's aathing tentie nou we trust
 12 The first sall be last and the last sall be first
 13 And we kin blythely get aff tae wir chair
 14 Tae see whit we may see, and hear whit we may hear
 15 *He moves off up stage or up high to a place of observation*
 16 *Exit Merry*
 17 *(MX. Song 1: "40 Different Wards fur Rain")*
 18 *Enter Merry wearing something ridiculous as a badge of office*
 19 Merry Nou! Guid folks! Tak tent³⁸ for that's me back oan
 20 Mak wey will ye please till I set at this throne
 21 And dinna ony think me begger mair, for I've been elevated
 22 No quite tae the regal state sae dinna be ower nervy
 23 I'm jist takkin nae snash, I'd like that first tae be stated
 24 Or ye'll fin yersel banished tae Troon, or even Kinlochbervie.
 25 Ye dinna hae tae bou! It's no that necessary
 26 A wee bit nod o the heid will dae, and the ladies they kin
 27 curtsy

³⁷ remainder

³⁸ pay attention

1 Sir ye be walcome, I'm a fan o the hunts
 2 Tho there's mony that think ye a richt bunch o
 3 culinary mendicants
 4 Laird Jolly good, ma dear chap, delighted tae hear it
 5 Hoist up the flag and let us aa cheer it
 6 Lat me discoorse on whit is the maitter
 7 I'm here to share the hunters' quaich with the noble Jupiter
 8 To appraise him of oor met'rological needs anent oor
 9 recreation
 10 As hithertae requestit in his recent proclamation.
 11 Merry That's whit wis spiered for, ye hae it in truth
 12 Tho I'd unnerstaun ye better without the bools in yer mooth.
 13 Laird Topping! Topping! Then lead the way onward
 14 I shall follow you efter, a little to windward.
 15 Merry That's no possible sir, I'm afraid we canna risk it
 16 And dinna cry ma a toppin, I'm no sittin on a biscuit.
 17 Laird Whit wey then, sirrah, hou are we tae proceed?
 18 Merry Tell yer suit tae me, sir, and I sall tak guid heed
 19 Laird It is the God I wish to see, he's mair of ma rank.
 20 Merry Gin I wis tae tak ye I widna be thanked
 21 And naither wad ye e'en tho ye're a toff
 22 He's no keen on rankers, ye'll be tellt tae piss off.
 23 Laird Then let that be the ootcam, gin that it is
 24 Tak me intae the God's chamber and we'll see whit he says
 25 Merry There's ainlie yin here that gans intae his rooms
 26 Sae jist you bide here and play wi yer thoomb.
 27 Ma lord, we huv a laird ootby, a richt fancy talker
 28 Gin I'm no mistak, they cry him Johnny Walker

1 Born eichteen twinty but he still seems quite able
 2 And as ye will see he's weirin a reid label.
 3 Jupiter Tell me his mind then, whit is his crack?
 4 Tho we maun say, speakin personal, we'd prefer him in
 5 black.
 6 Merry It's haurd tae say, sire, his heid's fu o mince
 7 And his mou's fu o marbles, he's makkin me wince.
 8 Jupiter Bring him in ben then, we'll see whit he's sayin
 9 Ye canna heed the dunkey till ye hear him brayin
 10 Merry The god says that he'll see ye then, but let me tell ye this
 11 He's no keen on horn-blawin, or takkin the piss.
 12 Laird Tis such a pity we hae tae thole the uncouth.
 13 Merry It's nae waur than the drivell that cams oot your mooth.
 14 Laird I dinna talk drivell, sir, no tae ma knowledge
 15 And I've been tutored in mainners, I went tae Fettes College.
 16 Merry That explains yer vowels then, and yer choice o claes.
 17 Laird Let me past, fitman⁴¹, I've nae mair time for delays
 18 Maist mighty prince and god of ilka nation
 19 May it please yer heeness tae tak tent o this suit
 20 On behauf o the gentry, as laid doon in yer proclamation
 21 That I, sir, am here tae tell ye braid oot
 22 And as we are the maist elevated of your subjects
 23 I am shair that yer due consideration will be nae object
 24 We are, as ye sall ken, frae auncient and frae noble stock
 25 That's whit pits us up abin the common flock
 26 No tae mention the maitter of oor priveleged schoolin
 27 Whilk is designed to mak shair oor class remains rulin
 28 Keepin Jock and Jenny Commoner firmly in their places

1 Helping us as we require in oor hoosehalds and oor chases
 2 Sae, ma guid god, this is whit we are ettlin
 3 That as we tak the stirrup-dram we're in a canty fettlin
 4 No weet, no cauld, no blawn aff the cuddy
 5 Ridin oot owre grun that isna owre muddy
 6 No rainin nor shooerin, be it smirrin or peltin
 7 The wind caum and still, but the sun's heat no meltin
 8 As we follow the wild deer oer mountain and burn
 9 The yelloch⁴² o the hounds and the cry o the horn.
 10 Jupiter Richt weel dae we hear yer spierin, guid laird
 11 And we kin tell ye for certes we are nou prepared
 12 Wi yer case, in the hale and in the particular
 13 Bethankit fur yer time, and bein sic a stickler
 14 Be shair that we'll be mindit o aa o yer tale
 15 Richt gled are we tae hear it in ilka detail
 16 Laird In heiven and in yird sire, honoured be thy name
 17 It is ma howp that ilka man be treated jist the same
 18 And sic as we that cam frae the aristocracy
 19 I trust that ye'll treat us wi equal democracy
 20 Keepin in mind of coorse that we keep muckle hooses
 21 That gie a rowth o labour tae the lower classes
 22 For he that is heid o his hoosehald it is said
 23 Is the yin that's wantin sleep maist at nicht in his bed.
 24 Merry Nou I beseech yer lairdship, wha's heid are ye?
 25 Laird Wha's heid am I? I am heid o ye and heid o aa I see
 26 Merry Naw I think it true eneuch sae God help me

⁴¹ footman

⁴² yell/battle cry

1 That's the wey it's aey been syne the auldwife⁴³ did whelp
2 me.
3 A donnert⁴⁴ lad they said, inclined tae fits
4 The sma'est thing kin set him aff and pit him oot his wits
5 Even as it is I fin masell in yin or twa minds
6 And that's jist yin owre mony gin ye've ainlie goat wan heid
7 Doactors hae a ward for it I think ye'll find
8 But e'en wi aa their doactorin I affen wiss masell deid
9 But nou, sinsyne this ither heid's appeared
10 Things arena as sair as I hud previously feared
11 For nou I've a match for the contortionist's skill
12 And kin pu aff a trick that the audience will thrill.
13 Laird Whit's that?
14 Merry By God sir, syne ye cam hither
15 I kin fankle ma heid and ma erse up thegither!
16 This heid will sauve siller, by Saint Mary
17 Frae this time forrit I'll need nae Pothecary
18 And ilka time nou when ma twa minds are flytin
19 Ma new heid sall gie ma erse a guid bitin
20 And efter aa this ma heid sall reverse
21 Like a bald man wha's beardie and speaks oot his erse
22 Laird Swappin yer heid for yer erse is an interestin game
23 But yin thing I kin tell ye, ye'll luik muckle the same.
24 Merry Weel said sir, ye arena lackin wit or mense
25 Let me pit ma heids thegither and lowp doon aff this fence.
26 Laird Lowp doon whaur ye will, aa I wish tae ken is
27 Are ye speakin for us, or are ye speakin agin us?

⁴³ midwife

⁴⁴ witless

1 Merry Hae nae doots sir that I'll be stickin up for the gentry
2 Foreside or backside, I'm shair tae fin an entry.

3 *Exit Laird*

4 *Enter Merchant*

5 Merry Here's the meenister nou, weel met and walcome by ma life,
6 I pray ye hou fares ma mistress, yer wife?

7 Merchant Sir, for the meenistry and wife that ye spier
8 Ye're mistaken on baith coonts, I hertily fear
9 But I'll let that gang owre tho naethin be stupider
10 Gin ye bring me gin ye can, an audience wi Jupiter

11 Merry Deed can I, yer reverance, or whitever ye be
12 Bide here gin ye will and we'll see whit we'll see.
13 Noble lord, a meenit, gin it please yer grace,
14 I hae a kind o man here wad meet ye face tae face,
15 A suit o claes he weirs, the finest that ye've seen
16 A meenister I wad say, or a hawker in velveteen.
17 Wan thing I kin tell ye, he's no short o a groat.

18 Jup Bring him owre then, son, and tak aff his coat.

19 Merry I'm naethin but a skivvy, I'll be sweepin the flair nixt,
20 That's you then maister, yer interview's fixed!

21 Merch Maist mighty prince that shines wi sun and moon,
22 Richt humbly I offer the respeck and affection
23 Of aa the guid merchantmen the hale warld aroon
24 In the howp that ye may honour us wi your devine
25 protection
26 Agin the daily dangers dreed by oor guid's and gear
27 No tae mention oor lives and limbs that are aftimes pit in
28 fear

1 Weyed up agin the coontless benefits oor labours bring
 2 The walth we gender, for baith commoner and king
 3 For it is by oor thochtiness, there cams sic-like guid
 4 As spices and sugars that preserve aa oor foods
 5 As weel as makkin them intae sic mooth-waterin bakes
 6 Like yer Tunnock's Car'mel Wafers and famous Tea Cakes
 7 Gin it werena for the merchants, the warld wad be poorer
 8 Ilka journeyman wad be wantin a merket for his labour
 9 For houever else wad the wark o his hands
 10 Be sellt tae the buyers in faur distant lands
 11 And sae tae conclude, we beg ye tae dole oot
 12 The wather that's fav' rable oor ships fur tae sail oot
 13 Winds fine and steady frae windward tae leeward
 14 Sae we kin set courses frae landward tae seaward
 15 Storms in abeyance, caum wather by-ordinar⁴⁵
 16 For naither o these is canty for the mariner
 17 For this, sire, yer merchants will aa sing yer praise
 18 And gie thanks up tae Jupiter ilka day on the seas.
 19 Jupiter Richt weel hae ye said sae, bethankit for aa that
 20 Be shair that we'll tak time tae bite aff and chaw that
 21 We'll consider this suit, it seems tae huv merit
 22 Ye kin be shair o a judgement, but jist nou we'll defer it
 23 Merry Nou sir, I jalouse, ye canna howp fur better
 24 Ye couldnae dune mair than hud ye scribevit⁴⁶ a letter
 25 Yin thing I kin tell ye is ye've made a canty spierin⁴⁷
 26 Merchant I thank his grace for gien me this hearin.
 27 Merry Sir, whitna voyage dae ye intend nixt tae be on?

⁴⁵ unusual

⁴⁶ written

1 Merch I trust that by Candlemas I will be in the Aegean.
2 Merry The Aegean is it? Atweil better there than tied up in dock
3 Speakin personal I wad gan nae faurer nor the Bass Rock
4 [The Aegean is it? Atweil I doot I'll hae tae renege
5 Speakin personal I wad gan nae faurer nor the Ailsa Craig]
6 But were I tae gan wi ye ye could be of guid cheer
7 For ye could trust me in the Aegean jist as weel as here
8 And tho ye be a thoosan mile ower the ocean
9 I'll dae as muckle for ye here tae win yer promotion
10 As I had sailed wi ye in the bell-baggit breeks⁴⁸
11 Tae brave the wild tempest and troke⁴⁹ wi the Greeks.
12 Merch Gin there's tradin tae be dune, I'd raither ye were here
13 remainin
14 Tae troke wi the noble god, and me tae the Mediterranean
15 Jist ye keep mind o ma case and pit it for me brawly
16 And I'll bring ye a flagon o duty-free and a traditional
17 costume dolly.
18 Merry Ye canna say fairer nor that ma freen for then we'll baith be
19 happy
20 May yer ship be soond, the winds be fair, and the sea no
21 ower chappy.
22 *Enter Keeper*
23 Keeper The Guid Lord be wi aa here gaitthered in hope.
24 Merry Mair mercy upon us, I wat it's the Pope!
25 Keeper Ye flatter me sir, but no in this habit.
26 Merry Wha are ye then? Ye maun be an Abbot.
27 Keeper Naither Abbot nor Monk, I am nocht nor a Keeper

⁴⁷ questioning

⁴⁸ bell-bottomed trousers

1 Water Miller The Deil lauchs loodest for aa the warld's gaen gyte
 2 We cry oot for rain as the crops gizzen⁵⁸ and the mill-dams
 3 dry
 4 And we watter-millers kin ainlie watch and wait
 5 As oor mills staun idle and we staun idly by
 6 The winds blaw sae lang they crack the cogs and wheels
 7 We canna grind the baurley, we canna mak the meal
 8 For the fermer kin tak nae multure⁵⁹ frae his hairst
 9 Till the flooer frae the corn by the miller is grist
 10 And as ilka mither cries for breid for her bairns
 11 Wha is it but the millers that maun dree the fairins⁶⁰?
 12 At the end o the day we are nocht nor pair drudges
 13 No muckle mair nor beggars exceptin for oor toll⁶¹
 14 And tho it be sma there's still mony an ane grudges
 15 For the millin o a bushel, tae pey a parritch⁶² bowl.
 16 And yet it werena for the brak-douns we nicht dae unco⁶³
 17 weel
 18 The millstanes, the trinnle boards, the cogs on the wheel
 19 The floodgates, the hirstins, the trows and the happer,
 20 The ludger, the peckin tools, the harp and the clapper⁶⁴
 21 Millin wad be easy were it no sae hellish mechanical
 22 For the time ye spend fixin things ye nicht as weel be
 23 manacled
 24 And as ilk-ane for ilk-ither is aey luikin oot

⁵⁷ concern

⁵⁸ wither

⁵⁹ profit, actually a kind of percentage

⁶⁰ reward/punishment

⁶¹ percentage

⁶² porridge

⁶³ exceptionally/very

⁶⁴ various mechanical parts in a mill

1 Aa the watter-millers huv sent me doon at the toot
 2 In this alane tae spier fur, rain and mair rain
 3 Cauld rain or het rain, as lang as it's wet rain
 4 This sall I spier o Jupiter in person
 5 For I'm a richt dab haun at sic-like conversin
 6 Merry Sir, I'm shair I dinna doot yer abeelity
 7 But I hae tae tell ye we haena the facility
 8 For a gomeril⁶⁵ like ye tae gan intae the dookit⁶⁶ yet
 9 It's agin a the rules set doon in wir etiquette
 10 WaterM I wad tak tent when wards like gomeril ye're pickin
 11 For that's the kind o crack that'll get ye a guid kickin
 12 I'll hae ye ken that I am a maister o ma craft
 13 And it wull tak mair nor the likes o ye tae pit me aff
 14 I'm here for ma guild, for thegither we've bandit
 15 And I'm siccar I winna gan hame empty-haundit
 16 Frae morn tae nicht we millers slave, daein wir backs in
 17 It's no an easy darg ye ken, it's sair and it's raxin
 18 And whit wad ye ken onywey ya bowfin⁶⁷ auld cadger⁶⁸?
 19 Ye've as muckle mense o wark as a glaikit⁶⁹ geldin's tadger⁷⁰
 20 Merry By the saints did ye ever hear sic a tale o dule⁷¹!
 21 But aiblins⁷² kin the miller be takkin us fur a fool?
 22 Ye cam in here wi the dolefu face like a lang streak o misery
 23 Withoot as muckle as a by yer leave or ward o common
 24 curtesy

⁶⁵ fool

⁶⁶ dove-cot/booth

⁶⁷ smelly

⁶⁸ beggar

⁶⁹ foolish

⁷⁰ penis

⁷¹ sorrow

⁷² perhaps

1 It's sair wi this, it's sair wi that, it's sair tae be a miller
 2 But wan thing that I've noticed is, they're niver lackin siller
 3 And gin ye were wyce ye nicht jist jalouse
 4 That yer mainners are as coorse as a merket-day hoor's
 5 Ye cam breengin in here, unwanted, unbidden
 6 Crawin for aathing like the cock o the midden!
 7 Water M I took ye fur a cadger, but I see nou that's no yer bag
 8 Ye haena the guile for a cadger, ye're mair o a cadger's nag
 9 Merry Whate'er that I be, I'm the yin that is ridin
 10 It's a yin horse race, that disna aloo ony visitors
 11 I will dae the pleadin, the Big Yin dis the decidin
 12 That's hou the system warks, a closed shoap fur solicitors.
 13 WaterM I howp ye dinna chairge solicitors' rates
 14 Merry The service is free and there's nae lang waits
 15 WaterM That'll hae tae dae then, I howp ye ken yer brief
 16 Merry I jalouse ye wantit rain, that wis ma belief
 17 Ony kind o rain at aa as lang as it hud watter in't
 18 WaterM That'll dae us fine. I think ye've takken the hint
 19 But dinna forget as weel that we're no wantin wind
 20 Merry I wisna aware yese were bothert wi wind
 21 WaterM It dries oot the mill-dams, and raxes the gearin tae
 22 Merry I mind o it nou. That'll get a hearin tae.
 23 *Enter Wather Girl and Sandy*
 24 Wather Girl Hallo there. Well here we are in Brodick huvin anither jolly
 25 And this handsome man here is Sandy, haudin up ma broolly
 26 I'm afraid that we've lost Wullie the cameraman, he's
 27 awa hame
 28 His girlfriend wis huvin a crisis, it really is a shame

1 So we hope ye're getting it soarted, Wulliam, that goes fur
2 me and Sandy
3 We're getting on fine without ye, in fack we're getting on jist
4 dandy
5 Ahent the camera the day is Pete, he's a stringer we got ower
6 frae Loans
7 And he's daein a richt guid joab, he's a nice steady pair o
8 hauns
9 In fack he's a bit mair nacky, I jist thocht that I'd mak
10 mention
11 He dis the soond an aa ye see, he's got a haud o Sandy's
12 extension
13 Bit of a chyng in the wather the day, it's keepin us on the
14 keevee⁷³
15 Jist as well we're in a nice hotel, en-suite and a TV
16 It's because o a low pressure that we didnae spot, I guess
17 we werena luikin
18 It's pushin twa big fronts along and the first yin's gien us a
19 drookin
20 I'm sorry tae tell ye it'll be like this fur maist o the rest o the
21 weekend
22 Except fur youse yins in Shetland, Orkney, Caithness and
23 Sutherland
24 And it's likely tae feel much caulder as weel, because o the
25 wind that's blowin
26 Twinty five mile an oor in Kintyre and no much sign o it
27 slowin
28 Thanks tae aa the men who called in, askin about ma bikini

1 That yin wis a blue yin if ye must ken and ma ither yin is
 2 greeny
 3 I'm afraid I canny weir it the day, or I'd catch ma daith o
 4 cauld
 5 And I've naeb'dy tae show it aff tae, nou Wullie's back in
 6 Cumbernauld
 7 His girlfriend's a tax inspector ye ken, I jalouse that tells ye
 8 somethin
 9 They're goin tae gie her a transfer nou tae somewhere up in
 10 Grampian
 11 Talkin o which, owre in Stanehive⁷⁴, they're getting a visit
 12 frae the Queen
 13 And maybe the haar wull lift the day roon aboot Aiberdeen
 14 Top temp'ature the day, it'll be strugglin tae mak it tae
 15 seiven
 16 It might be somethin tae dae wi thon funny things goin on in
 17 the heivens
 18 The morn we're ower in Islay, I'm hopin me an Sandy
 19 kin cope
 20 Brocht tae ye by Cally MacBrayne, and the Body Shoap.
 21 *Exit Wather Girl and Sandy*
 22 *Enter Wind Miller*
 23 Wind Miller Fit like! Here's howpin yese haena yaised up aa the wather
 24 For that will lea the like o me in a puckle⁷⁵ o bother
 25 A miller am I, but no o the watter kind
 26 I'm a richt gaen miller that lives by the wind
 27 And wi that bein the wey o't we're gettin some grief

⁷³ on the alert

⁷⁴ Stonehaven

1 For the winds that are sent us wadna fluster a leaf
 2 Oor stanes haena budgit syne the last day o Yule
 3 And oor sails huv been hingin like the heid on Christ's
 4 mule
 5 And the rain that we've hud! There's been sic a lashin
 6 That even auld Noah himsel wad be fashin
 7 There's nae end tae the watter that draps oot the lift
 8 There maun be floods in heiven that the gods maun shift
 9 And doonpours like that, as aab'dy kens, aa the breezes
 10 quells
 11 Sae we huvna hud the wind for the birlin o oor sails
 12 Oor mills huv stood like statues, they've haurdly gane roon
 13 And we, the pair wind-millers, are stertin tae droon
 14 Wha wad be a miller? It's a trade that we aa rue
 15 I'm shair we'd aa be better aff jist signin on the broo
 16 Yet in days o langsyne, when grindin wis rowthie⁷⁶
 17 We millers were as blythe as a tune on the moothie
 18 As fast as corn wis hairstit⁷⁷, we millers made meal
 19 And aa wis hunky-dory amang the common weal
 20 But let aa that pass, for I fear that oor pride
 21 Is the root o the cares that the Guid Lord provides
 22 And sae we humbly bring oorsells here for judgement
 23 Tae see whitna penance will be the ootcam o this ludgement
 24 For the clack⁷⁸ o the shires, and aiblins it's jist blather
 25 Is that a god has cam doon tae sort oot ab'dy's wather.
 26 Merry He's here without doot, mixin wi the clamjamfry⁷⁹

⁷⁵ little bit
⁷⁶ plentiful
⁷⁷ harvested
⁷⁸ gossip

- 1 Tho he disna speak wi abody, bein kinna blate⁸⁰ in company
 2 He leaves aa that tae me, I'm heid o public relations
 3 It's an unco skeely joab, ye need a rowth o⁸¹ qualifications
 4 WindM I howp then sire ye hae gotten ma drift
 5 We're needin aa the rain-cluds banished frae the lift
 6 And a fine steady wind, we dinna like it gowstin.
 7 Merry I hae it jist perjink⁸², and dinna think I'm bowstin
 8 I'm namely fur mindin aathing, I hae that kind o brain
 9 I'll mak shair I tell him that. (*Beat*) Whit wis yer trade again?
 10 WindM I'm a humble miller sire, a miller that lives by the wind
 11 Merry Atweil it's jist a peety ye couldna get it tinned
 12 Fur there's anither gadgie here, a watter miller is he
 13 It wad be fine and grand gin the twa o ye could jist see ee tae
 14 ee
 15 Water Miller By means of oor craft we nicht staun as brithers
 16 But ne'er in yin bed will we ere lie as lovers
 17 We be o yin craft, but no o yin kind
 18 I live by the watter and he by the wind
 19 And jist as ye wad hae wind without let up
 20 Sae wad I hae rain tae get a guid wet up
 21 And it's shairly plain tae aa gin ye pit the twa thegither
 22 It's no raither it is whither, but whither it is raither.
 23 Merry I thocht ye said it wis plain
 24 WaterM Ye canna hae baith wind and rain
 25 Merry Whey no?
 26 WaterM Yin aeyweys gets on tap in the strife.

⁷⁹ common folk

⁸⁰ shy

⁸¹ plenty of

⁸² exact

1 Merry It's a wee bit like that wi me and the wife
 2 WaterM Ye see when the rain sterts, it damps the wind doon
 3 Yer gales turn tae breezes, yer breezes becam lown⁸³
 4 Ersy-versy ye'll notice when a wind's getting up
 5 Ony rain that is faain dries up tae a sput
 6 When the yin's camin on, the ither yin's subsidin.
 7 Merry In oor bed it's aey the missus that's ridin.
 8 WaterM And sae I jalouse that nou that we've stertit
 9 We'll hae tae get this argiement soartit
 10 And the yin that is waikest when we huv feenished
 11 Leave aff his suit and content tae be banished
 12 Merry That's the wey tae dae it boays, the winner gets the gravy
 13 The loser draps his breeks doon, jist like in the navy.
 14 Wind Miller I' faith that's agreed, but then whit's the position
 15 For oor mills thru aa this will be oot o commission?
 16 Syne that watter and wind are the fechters that tyauve⁸⁴
 17 The whilk is the better we'll hae first tae pruiwe.
 18 And sae on the sea I sall nou mak ma case
 19 Whaur ships yaise the wind tae get ilka place
 20 And syne that the wind dis aa these ships blaw
 21 Wha but the wind tae be praised abin aa?
 22 WaterM Aye but supposin that here stude a muckle great tree
 23 And neist a muckle wind richt up the glen did flee
 24 When the wind has deed doon the tree wull still be staunin
 25 But a ship on the sea will be takkin a richt stoundin⁸⁵
 26 The sails and the riggin will be hingin in tatters
 27 The sailors aa bokin⁸⁶, the bilge fu o watter

⁸³ calm

⁸⁴ struggle

1 But it's easy eneuch gin nae wind is blawin
 2 Tae caa yer ship onward by means o jist rowin
 3 For naethin mair pleases the ship or the raft
 4 Than the doucest⁸⁷ o breezes and plenty o draft
 5 For maist commonly the cause o ilk ither wrackin
 6 Is owre muckle wind whaur the watter is lackin
 7 And as for sea-wather I kin tell ye for certes
 8 Ye're better the Doldrums than the wild Roarin Forties.
 9 WindM Atweil gin ma reason in this winna staun
 10 I will forsake the sea and loup back ontae land
 11 For in ilka kirk whaur the congregation sings tae the lord
 12 It's the organ that keeps ilkane singin in the richt chord
 13 And whit caws the organ? Is it watter or wind?
 14 And it's no jist yer organ that needs blawin ye'll find
 15 But yer bagpipes, yer trumpets, yer moothies and flutes
 16 Withoot wind there is nane o them gien a toot
 17 Fill up yer bagpipes wi watter and listen
 18 And aa that ye'll hear is the soond o them pissin.
 19 WaterM I doot that ye arena quite ringin the bell
 20 For ye're crackin yer nuts wi the swing o a mell⁸⁸
 21 The winds ye are speakin o hae blawn ye aa skelly
 22 And huv as muckle tae dae wi't as the wind in yer belly
 23 I wis speakin o winds frae east and frae wast
 24 And no o the breath that cams oot o a kist⁸⁹
 25 Be they mens' kists or be they kists o whustles⁹⁰

⁸⁵ pounding

⁸⁶ puking

⁸⁷ softest

⁸⁸ sledgehammer

⁸⁹ chest

⁹⁰ organs

1 They're as muckle guid tae onyb'dy as regulations frae
2 Brussels
3 And as fur yer bagpipes, ye kin soond the retreat
4 Fur jalousin like that is easy tae beat.
5 WindM Whit wey kin the wind be sae at faut aeyways?
6 Jist think on the roads, the highways and byways
7 Gie them a guid drookin and they're covert wi glaur
8 Gie them some mair and there's potholes and waur;
9 Landslides and scree-slides, floods and subsidence
10 They're as bad as a battlefield, blaudit⁹¹ wi ordinance.
11 And ye ken whit they say aboot rain when it sterts
12 It'll ruin yer baurley and bog down yer cairts
13 Aa ye need's a wat Hairst⁹² and ye'll see fur yersell
14 That corn prices are spirallin oot o control
15 But gie us a dry yin and they're camin back doun
16 And abody's blythe then - even Chauncellor Broon.
17 WaterM Bide a wee wull ye and sit on yer erse
18 It isna the wind that ripens the hairst
19 E'en the wee bairnies kin get this in wan
20 There's but yae thing that ripens corn and that is the sun
21 And as fur the wind that's the warst o the flat'ners
22 It maks corn sae warthless ye couldna shift it in Ratners
23 WindM The grund winna yield, sir, when it is soakin
24 The craps kinna hieze⁹³ when they are chokin
25 They get foostie and aiten by rats and by mice
26 There's but yae thing that grows in the wat and that's rice.
27 WaterM Gin ye wad hae yer oats, hairstit and milled

⁹¹ blasted

⁹² harvest/Autumn

1 Yer land maun be ploeed, harried⁹⁴ and tilled,
 2 Nane o whilk ye kin dae gin yer grun is aa stoorie⁹⁵
 3 Or yer stooks'll be dry as the auld wife's poat pourri
 4 He that hes nae watter for the grain or the neep
 5 Aiblins he kin sow, but ne'er kin he reap
 6 Gin ye say that watter isna warth a docken
 7 I tell ye withoot it ye'll be wantin a drookin
 8 And a drookin is yin thing that ilk sinner needs
 9 For withoot it gien regular, he'll burn in the gleeds⁹⁶
 10 And be bowfin sae high wi odours diverse
 11 As the foul winds that blaw frae oot o his erse.
 12 WindM I jalouse that yer raison has gane fur a Burton
 13 We're talkin aboot wather here and no aboot fartin
 14 WaterM We're talkin aboot wind weyed up agin watter
 15 I jalouse that ye canna tell yer erse frae yer oxters⁹⁷.
 16 Merry Eneuch, ye daft chiels⁹⁸, eneuch o yer clack
 17 Ye hae jaloused and ye hae jaloused till white may be black
 18 [Atween watter and wind there isna sic chusin
 19 For ilk mill tae hae the thru-gaun it's yaisin.
 20 Whilk thing I kin tell by ma ain experience
 21 For I hae o ma ain, and no faur frae hence
 22 In a corner thegither, a couple o mills
 23 Set down in a bealach⁹⁹, atween twa big hills,
 24 No o ma inheritance, but that o ma wife
 25 The rump o a fiefdom that wis gien her for life;

⁹³ lift

⁹⁴ harrowed

⁹⁵ dusty

⁹⁶ embers/fires of Hell

⁹⁷ armpit

⁹⁸ lads

1 The yin is for wind, the tither for watter
 2 And baith o them kin fairly ging at the batter,
 3 For in a guid oor, I tell ye without leein,
 4 The watter-gate, nae shinner open bein,
 5 But pump gaes the windmill, richt at its back
 6 The Diel wi his scourges couldna gie sic a crack
 7 And e'en on the days that the happer is stoorie
 8 Or the millstanes are saft as the baws on a toorie¹⁰⁰,
 9 I tell ye ma oats get helluva foostie
 10 And the hale o ma mill is squaichin¹⁰¹ and roosty,
 11 Gin ye dinna believe me, I'll tell ye stracht aff,
 12 Ye kin cam ower ae day and rub on her chaff.
 13 WaterM The test o the grain is the kernel no the hull.
 14 Merry There is nae sweeter grain tae be fand in a mill
 15 Tho I hae tae tell ye afore we kin drap it
 16 The wife's watter mill is aften-time stappit.
 17 WaterM Sae wull she be, e'en tho ye brust ¹⁰²yer banes,
 18 Keep mind and be straucht when ye're layin yer stanes
 19 Tak tent o the ludger, and bewaur o yer runner
 20 Fur gin yer ludger is skelly, ye winna hae dune her.
 21 I'm thinking yer ludger nicht need a new peckin.
 22 Merry Sae the wife tells me, that's yin thing she's aey checkin
 23 Gin it wis up tae her she'd hae it pecked aa day
 24 But as ye ken yersel millers maun peck while they may
 25 I hae peckit sae aften ma stanes are jist dust
 26 And the rest o ma gear is no fit tae brust,

⁹⁹ "BE-YALLOCH"/pass (gaelic)

¹⁰⁰ bobble-hat

¹⁰¹ squeaking

¹⁰² break

1 For wi peckin and peckin I'm sae owerwrocht
 2 That ma guid peckin-tool is shrivelt tae nocht.
 3 The wey things are, gin I stick nae better til her
 4 The wife is sayin she'll hae herself a new miller.
 5 But let this be by wi, and nou tae the maitter
 6 Ma mills arena wantin fur wind nor fur watter;
 7 Nae mair dae your anes, as faur as I kin see
 8 But seein as in this maitter ye canna agree]
 9 (But) ¹⁰³I sall pit it tae Jupiter himself for the judgin
 10 And we'll see then whas mill gings, and whas isna budgin.
 11 WaterM I pray ye tae mind that ma suit is the best.
 12 WindM And blythely will mine be pit tae the test.
 13 Merry Gin I keep mind that ilk-ane is differ
 14 The tulzie atween them kin ainlie get stiffer
 15 Nou we're weel shot o them baith wi this ruse
 16 For ilk-ane the ither will shairly abuse.
 17 *Enter Dame*
 18 Dame Guid God amercy, they play at hunt the gowk!¹⁰⁴
 19 And me no richt accustomed tae aa this press o fowk.
 20 I ken-na whit wey I may gan intae his majestie.
 21 Merry No, but ye ken, Dame, whit wey he may gan intae ye.
 22 Dame I pray ye, guidman, let me in at the back-side.
 23 Merry Aye will I dae that, and yer fore-side sae wide?
 24 Bide a wee yet, for ye're shairly in luck
 25 I'll fin ye an ingaun richt here in this neuk
 26 Cam ye in here, Dame, afore ye gang hither
 27 And we twa kin hae a wee kittlin¹⁰⁵ thegither

¹⁰³ [] *This section was cut in performance*

¹⁰⁴ "hunt the cuckoo" the game of April Fool

1 Dame As for you, sir, I hae nae time tae natter,
2 Ma comin here is tae speak wi Jupiter.

3 Merry Staun at peace a meenit then and I sall pruiue,
4 Whether the godheid kin be brocht tae ye in love.
5 Guid Lord! Sire! Luik ye doon frae the rafters!
6 Here's a fine lusty dame, by the saints and martyrs!
7 And gin it be yer pleisure here tae score
8 Speak up and speak gleg or she'll be oot the door!
9 I' faith, I wat it wull be tae yer gain
10 Fur she fain wad speak wi yer lordship alane.

11 Jup That's no whit's wantit, son, no at this juncture
12 Gin we blaw up her bags they will ainlie be punctured.
13 Hear her oot yersel and mak the hale list o't
14 And cam back tae me later tae gie me the gist o't.

15 Merry I doot there's no muckle future for the fairer sex
16 When e'en gods will spurn them and canna be vexed.
17 Mistress, ye canna speak wi the god.

18 Dame No, whit's wrang?

19 Merry Because, by ma faith, his lordship is thrang
20 Wi a richt pressin task that needs tae be done,
21 E'en nou as we speak he is makin a moon!
22 He wis sayin that auld munes are no warth a fuck
23 For their guidness is squeezed oot like sweat thru a sock
24 [Whilk like in the Flood, did mak a great batter
25 As auld munes be leaky, they canna haud watter
26 But as tae this new mune, I wad wager a croon
27 Exceptin a few draps as she's ganin doon
28 Ye'll get nae mair rain until she is risin

¹⁰⁵ tickling/snog

1 She's made richt by Jove, it's haurdly surprisin
 2 And nae maitter that she be waxin or wanin
 3 Ye couldna spier for a mair douce-like rainin
 4 No blatterin the causeys¹⁰⁶ like drummers gaen gyte¹⁰⁷
 5 Or chokin the styvers¹⁰⁸ wi watter and shite
 6 But doucely like April wad sprinkle the flooers
 7 Or May micht gie us occasional shooers.]¹⁰⁹
 8 This new mune sall dae mair guid in a week
 9 Than an auld yin kin mak frae spring until neap
 10 And wi aa these savins the god is employin
 11 Ye'll see then whit benisons¹¹⁰ we'll aa be enjoyin
 12 Sae dinna fash yersel, Dame, and be o guid cheer
 13 For e'en tho in his presence ye canna appear
 14 Tell me whit ails ye and then lea me alane
 15 And aiblins I'll think o ye mair when ye're gane
 16 Dame I'm no shair that that will dae me ony guid
 17 For as ye are thinkin ye micht be getting wid
 18 Or gaitherin ither kinnlin up fur tae stoke yer fire
 19 It's yer sympathy that's wantit, no yer desire.
 20 Merry There's ma twa shooders here that ye kin greet on
 21 Fur there's twa things o yours that I'm quite sweet on.
 22 Dame I suppose there's nae herm ma story for tae tell
 23 And ye, sir, kin keep yer haunds tae yersell
 24 I am a woman, richt comely as ye kin see
 25 Blessed am I wi beauty and ither assets tae
 26 But the het sun in summer aey gets ma skin peelin

¹⁰⁶ pavements

¹⁰⁷ going mad

¹⁰⁸ drains

¹⁰⁹ [] *cut in performance*

1 And the cauld winds in winter I'm affa easy feelin
 2 They nip at ma breists and set me tae shiverin
 3 E'en in Spring and in Hairst they hae me jist quiverin
 4 Merry I kin see that richt weel, I'm seein it double
 5 Nae doot they maun gie ye some bother and trouble.
 6 Dame They dae, sir, I assure ye, it's really quite fashin
 7 And sae I appeal tae yer mense and yer passion
 8 Spier ye o Jupiter tae grant me I crave
 9 The temperate wather that will help me win love
 10 Nae sunshine, nae frost, nae snell¹¹¹ winds blawin
 11 But caum and gentle days, as douce as the dawin
 12 Then ye will see us ladies blythely walkin
 13 Buskit maist brawly and showin a stockin
 14 Merry Busk¹¹² as ye will dame, whit does it maitter?
 15 I canna see whit wey it maks yer lives better.
 16 Dame Gin we had wather tae walk as we may
 17 Oor lives wad be blythefu, canty and gay
 18 Yae pairt o the day tae tak tent o oor cleidin¹¹³
 19 Anither pairt then for discoorsin and readin
 20 A few oors pit by tae eat and tae sleep
 21 And that leaves the lave for walkin the street.
 22 Merry Are ye shair ye arena in some kind o profession?
 23 Dame I forgot. Forby there is Mass and Confession.
 24 Merry Baith sairly needit. Whit about in the evenin?
 25 Dame We're aey keen tae spend it in dauncin and singin.
 26 Merry I thocht that ye nicht hae some sangs in that kist

¹¹⁰ blessings

¹¹¹ bitter/severe

¹¹² dress

¹¹³ clothing

1 Dame I'm nae singer sire, but I'm aey blythe tae list.
2 Merry Let's hae a sang then, it's no unco late
3 Ye kin jyne in yersel gin ye're no ower blate.
4 (MX. Song2, "Global Warmin")
5 Dame Sir that was done weel, I hertily gie ye thanks
6 The pleisure it gied me winna be pit in branks¹¹⁴
7 For ilka evenin it is aey ma hert's first choosin
8 Tae hae sic music caum the fire that's in ma bosom.
9 Merry It'll no be the first time that sic fires are dowsit
10 For for it winna tak muckle for them tae be lowsit
11 But this yin, I'll wager, is tuggin at ma hert
12 The wey thon breists are heavin, and her mou sae pert
13 Ye're walcome, dame, I'm gled I brocht ye sic bliss
14 Gin ye want tae ken ma peyment, I'll settle for a kiss.
15 Dame Kiss me, ye say! Sae ye fancy yer chaunces?
16 Merry Whey no? For wi kissin, yae thing advaunces.
17 Kiss me then mistress, jist aince and it's o'er
18 For I ne'er desirit tae kiss ye afore.
19 (*She turns her back*)
20 (*EnterLaunder*)
21 Launder Atweil kissin afore is no kissin ahent
22 I' faith but that's fine gin that is yer bent
23 And gin ye wad waunner frae mou roon tae dowp¹¹⁵
24 I hae a guid erse on me here ye kin loup!
25 Merry Whit are ye wantin, ya interferin auld bitch?
26 Launder Comin frae an auld begger like ye, that's rich.
27 I'll tell ye fur why, ya hoorin auld beast

¹¹⁴ harness

¹¹⁵ butt

1 I'm here fur tae warn ye ye're aboot tae get fleeced
 2 I saw ye slaverin owre this prinked up hizzie
 3 Sae I jist thocht I'd tell ye afore ye got busy
 4 That idle dames like this yin are aey on the mak
 5 And frae eejits like ye they'll hae aa they kin tak.
 6 I dinna ken whit wey it's aey in men's naitures
 7 Tae slaver like dugs owre sic floonced-up craiders
 8 When the likes o masell, that gies ye guid service;
 9 The wey that we're treated, ye dinna deserve us
 10 But I'm shair that the god will easy see thru her
 11 And winna be as daft as ettlin tae woo her.
 12 Merry I dinna ken aboot woin, but he's no keen on jinkin¹¹⁶
 13 It's aiblins his staff winna strauchen I'm thinkin
 14 But nae maitter, I'm shair he treats aa weemin the same
 15 It's nae differ tae him be they launderer or dame
 16 Sae gie me yer crack and I sall endeavour
 17 Tae pit aa afore the god withoot fear or favour.
 18 Launder Then, son, I'll tell ye, dinna pit muckle store by that yin
 19 She's no spring poulet, but a big clockin fat yin
 20 I heard by her tale she wad banish the sun
 21 And then we pair launderers sall be shairly undone
 22 There is nocht but the sun's heat tae gie claihs their fairin
 23 And a licht baumy breeze fur tae get them an airin
 24 Tak tent o thon havers and ye'll fin yersel lapse
 25 It's naethin but coorie-doo¹¹⁷ and jooglin o paps.
 26 Dame Atweill better is it that I'm makkin ye jailous
 27 For onythin ither frae your class wad jist fail us

¹¹⁶ jumping/jigging

¹¹⁷ sweet nothings

1 That's whit we need tae hear frae the common quines
 2 For e'en when they're aa dressed up tae the nines
 3 They still canna match wi their rouge and their cleidin
 4 The beauty that cams wi grace and wi breedin.
 5 Launder I tell ye somethin, Dame, that when I wis a quine
 6 There wisna a lad upon the road that didna think me fine
 7 But as comely as I was, e'en that I had the mind
 8 I wad ma maidenheid¹¹⁸ and ma beauty twined
 9 Agin the fairest o ye gentle lasses
 10 Had I no feared the perils and the passes
 11 That cam tae thaim that live by beauty unabashed
 12 And sae I set masell tae labour at the wash
 13 For she that lives but by her luiks, in truith,
 14 Maun dree the weird¹¹⁹ that cams in misspent youth
 15 Whaur vice and idleset¹²⁰ live side by side.
 16 It is no yer luiks or beauty I deride
 17 But the life that's fu o wanton leasure
 18 In whilk nae guidly woman can fin pleasure
 19 For I tak tent that e'en when in aa yer swank
 20 Amang yer dukes and earles and thaim o rank
 21 Ye are but hoors and slaves tae ilka man's command
 22 As no a bauble on yer breist was placed by yer ain haund
 23 For had ye ainlie the fruits o yer wark
 24 Ye'd gang skuddy-bare withooten a sark¹²¹ .
 25 Gin ye'd tak tent o me, ye'd gie up these clavers¹²²
 26 And pit yersels insteid tae honest endeavours

¹¹⁸ virginity

¹¹⁹ suffer the fate

¹²⁰ idleness

¹²¹ vest/shift

1 Better tae lose yae pairt o yer luiks
 2 And tak up honest darg; pit by yer buiks,
 3 Yer idleset¹²³ and yer blethers, yer flooncy frocks
 4 And troke them for labour, and labourers' smocks
 5 Whit wad ye hae, dame, that we be idle tae?
 6 And aa live lives o leisure? Then whaur wad we be?
 7 Wha then wad dae the wark? Wha wad launder?
 8 Think ye that claes cam ready-washed instanter!?
 9 Whit care ony o us whether ye be pale or daurk
 10 Yer claes be perfumed, or fresh as the breeze?
 11 I spier o ye again, wha wad dae the wark!?
 12 As ye shut oot the life-gien sun, and hae us aa freeze?
 13 A curse on yer mainners, yer gentlemen erse-lickers
 14 Yer fake jewels and finery, fur-coats and nae knickers!
 15 *(Pause)*
 16 Sir, whit think ye o ma weyin up o this yin then?
 17 Merry Sic a rantin hoor, a priest wad say amen
 18 Tae that. I ne'er did hear the like in aa ma days
 19 But the twa o ye, I canna help but praise
 20 Tae Jupiter and the sky, I sweir by Christ's mither
 21 For the Deil will tak the tane tae set aff the tither.
 22 Launder Promise me that the sun will shine bricht
 23 And I will be gane for the rest o the nicht.
 24 Merry Get ye baith hence, I pray ye be be aff
 25 Yer airgiements I've goat, sae dinna ye faff
 26 And I'll gie them tae the god, as shin as I've leisure
 27 And wance they've been pit, I'll ken his pleasure

¹²² gossip
¹²³ idleness

- 1 And as shin as I ken it ye'll be first tae hear
 2 Baith o yese at wance, I howp that that's clear.
 3 Dame Sir, gin ye runkle¹²⁴, keep mind o me first.
 4 Launder Then in this runklin, ma pairt sall be warst.
 5 Merry Nou I sall spier that the Deil tak ye baith
 6 Wha runkles in twas sall be cursed untae daith
 7 But ye, ya bauld limmer¹²⁵, nicht be runkled alane
 8 And the ither yin tae kin be cowped jist the same.
 9 *Exit Dame*
 10 Launder By yer dowp, callant, it's yer stanes I sall runkle
 11 Gin these maitters o oors end up in a fankle
 12 Merry Mony wards, Launder, and sma purpose tae them
 13 That is the ootcam ye get when ye say them
 14 The mair ye clash, the mair ye claiver
 15 The mair ye hash, the mair ye haver
 16 The mair ye haver, the mair ye're thunderin
 17 The storm cluds brak in abin yer launderin
 18 Let the rains cam, be they near or faur
 19 For a guid drookin, Launder, ye'd be nane the waur
 20 The mair yer gab¹²⁶ gaws, the mair ye talk pish
 21 Ye gab it as muckle when hauden yer wheesht.
 22 Launder I ne'er met a man wi sic sma credibility
 23 I'll thank ye tae button it gin ye hae the ability
 24 For sae help me god gin ye will hae it oot
 25 I'll cut it doon quick and hae it aff at the ruit
 26 Merry Whatna carlin¹²⁷ is this? I ne'er heard the like

¹²⁴ rumple/twist
¹²⁵ loose woman
¹²⁶ mouth
¹²⁷ old hag

1 Yer tongue leas yer mou like a ferret frae a dyke
 2 And jist as the snake slinks oot o her fissure
 3 I spier whaur she launders? Nae doot in some pisher
 4 Ye'll wash nane o ma gear, in cludgie¹²⁸ or in sink
 5 For whitever the watter, I'm shair it will shrink
 6 I pray ye, gan hence, and gie me some rest
 7 And I will tak yer message as I think best.
 8 *Launder* Whit wey wad the snake leave, afore it did bite ye?
 9 The langer I bide, the mair I kin spite ye.
 10 *Merry* The langer ye're here, the shinner I'll get
 11 Yer message be cauld when aince it wis het.
 12 Whitna darg wis this I wis handit
 13 When ilka slattern cries me a bandit?
 14 Ilka man kens-na whit God's service is
 15 Nor I masell kent-it-na afore this
 16 They that serve God may live like shinin lichts
 17 Tho I sweir that the Deil's men hae the better nichts
 18 I ken-na whit God gies oot in his dole
 19 But the servants o Satan hae muckle tae thole¹²⁹
 20 A hunder times mair nor the pious and the priests
 21 For e'en tho ye be the lowliest o beasts
 22 Gin ye ever lack siller, the Deil soonds the horn
 23 That sends ye stracht intae an ither man's sporrان
 24 And that's when the Ill-Ane gies ye promotion
 25 For sic siller will aey cause sic a commotion
 26 First, Pater Noster Que est in Celis
 27 And then oot cam the sheriff's men, runnin holus-bolus

¹²⁸ toilet

¹²⁹ suffer

1 They say that siller kin win ye the race
2 But when it's swingin at yer baas, ye faa flat on yer face.
3 *Enter Boy*
4 Boy Here am I, a boay, tae larn frae the wards o the wyce
5 I pray ye, sir, are ye the great god o the skies?
6 Merry No son, I'm no, I'm jist wan o the laity
7 But I am sic a man that's mistookin fur deity
8 And I kin tell ye gin ye want tae hae Jupiter's lug
9 Jist haud forth tae me fur they cry me his dug.
10 Boy I'll tell ye, sir, it winna tak mony wards,
11 The chief o ma pliesures is the catchin o burds
12 Forby¹³⁰ flingin snaa-baas at targes¹³¹ and sic-like
13 For the whilk purpose I hing them up on dykes
14 When ye speak wi Jupiter, I beg ye mak this spierin
15 That tae these desires he nicht gie a hearin;
16 For yin, a frost that freezes hard and cauld
17 For twa, a rowth o snaa ower heath and hald.
18 Ice and snaa, us lads wad be blythe wi that
19 For then aff oor pals heids the snaa-baas kin stot
20 And a fair wind tae send burds intae oor nets
21 The soond o them skreichin is as guid as it gets:
22 Pairtriges and pheasants, capercaillie and doos
23 That oor mithers mak up intae game-pies and stews
24 Black-cock and wid-cock, Allcock and Broon
25 Aa namely for fleein jist aff the grun.
26 These are the sports that we fin maist pleasin
27 But tae dae them we're needin the temp'ratures freezin

¹³⁰ as well as

¹³¹ targets

1 Gin ye hae the god’s lug, sir, I pray ye tell him thus
2 And aa the lads like me will coont it as a plus.
3 Merry Tell me laddie, wha sent ye hither?
4 Boy A hunder lads that came thegither
5 The very meenit that the cry did soond
6 And went frae lug tae lug and aa aroon
7 That the great god himsell had set fit on the yird
8 Tae set doon tae sup wi plooman and laird.
9 The crack he hud, the boay wi the tidins,
10 Wis that ilka chiel¹³² could put up his mindins
11 As tae whitna wather he wad raither huv
12 And sae aa the lads thocht this wis a chaunce
13 Tae see gin we could fling doon a glove
14 That the wather fur laddies might be advaunced
15 But wha tae send? Some said chuse yin that rings the
16 dominie’s bell
17 Then ithers said, better yin that’s yist tae haundlin himsel
18 Sae upon their agreement, wi a muckle great noise,
19 “Pit up Wee Dick!” cried aa the boys.
20 And sae by their assent, I am sent furth
21 Tae spier fur guid wather for aa I am worth
22 Guid wather that is, that laddies wull like
23 Frosty and freezy like snaa on a dyke
24 The whilk, I beg ye, tae spier o his Heeness
25 In the howp he may judge oor case tae be keenest.
26 Merry Wather for laddies? The lord kens his mind.
27 Boy Gin he canna gie wather he kin gie us in kind
28 Or gie us a len o a wee stour¹³³ fur tae keep us goin

1 For there's nae time we like better than when it's snowin.
 2 Merry I couldna say, son, gin he's intae sic troke
 3 It micht be that will stick in his gizzard
 4 Snaa-faas in Summer he micht think are a joke
 5 And whatna dole wad ye spier on a blizzard?
 6 But I will see whitna shiftins I kin mak
 7 And ye'll fin oot by the morn whit airt he will tak.
 8 Boy Maister, bethankit. That's me. I'm awa.
 9 Merry Cheerio, son. Ye're walcome. Mind hou ye go.
 10 Wha huv we nou? Whitna buddy wull be nixt?
 11 We've hud them frae the toun, we've hud them frae the
 12 sticks
 13 I tell ye in aa ma life I ne'er did open
 14 Sic a bag o weasels, it's a winner I'm copin
 15 Laddies! And weemen! And some queer luikin men
 16 Thespian cross-dressers for aa that I ken
 17 But gin nae ither cams afore this judicator
 18 I'm aff tae the Big Yin tae pit an end tae the maitter
 19 And no wan amang them the brichtest o thinkers
 20 And gin nae wycer cams afore this judicator
 21 I'm aff tae the Big Yin tae pit an end tae the maitter
 22 Tak tent! Tak tent! Gin ony callant here
 23 Is willin tae appear
 24 For wather foul or clear
 25 Cam ye oot and spier!
 26 And be ye hale¹³⁴ or dwably¹³⁵

¹³² young man

¹³³ heavy snow fall

¹³⁴ fit

¹³⁵ unwell

1 Be ye soond or doitit¹³⁶
 2 Cam oot and tell us ably
 3 Ye tung maun no be bitit!
 4 Dinna haud back, I rede¹³⁷ ye, dinna be blate
 5 Binna owre gleg¹³⁸ at takkin the gate¹³⁹
 6 Whitiver ye say e'en tho it be havers
 7 Is better spat oot yer gab, covered wi slavers.
 8 I'm wastin ma breath staunin here it wad seem
 9 Nae ither cams forrit tae jyne in this team
 10 Time tae report and dischairge ma office
 11 I'd say we've been aa the wey thru the process.
 12 Lord! Are ye hearin? That's me done the business
 13 And done it richt weel wi ma yaisual finesse
 14 I'm tellin ye it's a fankle that will keep ye richt thrang¹⁴⁰
 15 It's as tyuch¹⁴¹ as the proverbial titty
 16 There's no even twa o them singin the same sang
 17 They're as bad as a Holyrood committee.
 18 Jupiter Son, ye've been eident and ye've dune unco weel
 19 It's a darg that will win ye promotion
 20 Dinna fash that ye canna square aff this wheel
 21 For we jalouse that we hae the solution
 22 As ye shin wull see. Jist tak tent o us nou
 23 And ilka suitor tae, that did for wather sue
 24 Sae lang as yese aa tak tent of whit yese are daein
 25 And yese dinna gang agley, then it gans without sayin

¹³⁶ witless

¹³⁷ caution

¹³⁸ eager

¹³⁹ leaving

¹⁴⁰ busy

¹⁴¹ tough

1 That we will mak shair that ilk ane o yese is seen tae
 2 Accordin tae yer needs. Wi aa the fashin yese huv been tae
 3 It's nae mair nor less nor yese deserve
 4 Dinna let it be said we gied ony o yese the body-swerve
 5 For it is ever said, by gods as weel as men
 6 Whitever gangs roon, cams aroon again.
 7 The first man that spiered then, him wi the brow reid coat
 8 He'll hae his wather for huntin, dry but no ower hoat
 9 And I'll tell him forby gin he cocks up his lugs
 10 That the goin will be guid for baith horses and dug
 11 As for the merchants that trade owerseas
 12 We'll mak shair that they hae a favourable breeze
 13 And sae that this disna gie the hunters a rummelin
 14 They'll hae it at nicht when the hunters are slummerin
 15 Forby when it cams it sall blatter thru the wids
 16 And that will gie the keepers their graith¹⁴² and their guides:
 17 Their windfa, their firewid, their aipples and plooms
 18 And that will shairly keep them frae gnashin their gooms
 19 And as for the watter-millers I sall gie this mense¹⁴³
 20 That it will yaisually be rainin doon in their glens
 21 And for the wind-millers that bide up on the taps
 22 They'll be plenty guid breezes for cawin¹⁴⁴ their flaps
 23 Then aa the mills kin grind and churn oot the flooer
 24 And apairt frae the brak-doons they winna lose an oor
 25 As for the fair weemen, that close wather wad hae
 26 I masell will mak siccar that they'll hae that tae
 27 For there's naethin mair canty than tae see gaen oot walkin

¹⁴² equipment

¹⁴³ knowledge

1 Sic braw-buskit dames in their silks and their stockings
 2 And the ither dames tae, that live by the washin
 3 Sall hae eneuch sun tae sauf them frae fashin
 4 Their claihs will be dried oot afore they kin blink
 5 And forby they'll get leisure-time awa frae the sink
 6 And as for the laddies that want things mair wintry
 7 They'll hae that in season owre the hale o the country
 8 That is oor judgement, for the yird and the heivens
 9 We howp that nane here will be left wi a grievance
 10 For we've been thochtie o abody, sae abody gains
 11 The wather they wantit, frae sunshine tae rains
 12 But lat this be a larnin for ilkane wha labours
 13 There is nane that will heize up on tap o his neebours
 14 Ilka darg that ye dae e'en tho it be skivvyin
 15 Is warth jist the same when we dae the divvyin
 16 Ilka craft that there is and ilka man's station
 17 Is meldit thegither tae mak the hale nation
 18 Ilka seed kin be growthie, ilka floer has her beauty
 19 Luik efter yer neebour, it's nae mair nor yer duty
 20 Whether ye be rich or whether ye be puir
 21 Ugsome or fair, up in years or in youth
 22 Woman or man, daurk-skinned or fair
 23 Ye are aa Jock Tamson's bairns; that's the truith.
 24 We thank ye for bringin these suits tae us hither
 25 And howp that ye'll nou be in bonaccord thegither.
 26 Merchant Blessed are we that we can beir witness
 27 Tae the mense o this god, his bounty and guidness
 28 As ruler o the winds and king o the ocean

1 Frae this day forrit ye sall hae oor devotion
 2 Water Miller And we watter-millers dae hertily accord
 3 A tithe¹⁴⁵ o oor meal we'll gie in reward
 4 Wind Miller Anither tithe frae here will be gien tae the god
 5 For we are baith millers and peas in yae pod
 6 Dame Gentle dames sic as I am dae thank ye maist fully
 7 And frae this day forrit oor herts are thine truly
 8 Launder Oor herts are as gentle, e'en tho oor backs be boued
 9 Frae ilka warkin lass I say yer honour is avoued
 10 Boy Grandfaither god, ye nicht be a devinity
 11 But the neist brace o fowls that I catch I sall gie tae ye
 12 And I promise ye mair that when winter cams roon
 13 The first o the snawmen will be weirin yer croon
 14 Merry Bethankit, yer majesty, for aa that ye've brocht tae us
 15 The wather for ilk ane but maistly yer thochtieness
 16 It's no jist that we've larnit whit wathers kin gie us
 17 But ye've let us see oorsells as e'en the gods dae see us.
 18 *Enter Wather Girl*
 19 Wather Girl Hallo there. Well here we are in Port Ellen
 20 and this wind's muckle waur than we said
 21 Sandy wisnae weel on the ferry
 22 he wis daein the five-finger spread
 23 We've got gales o saxty mile an oor here the day
 24 gowstin up tae eichty five
 25 And the digs we've goat are no very nice
 26 the producer booked us intae a dive
 27 But the warst thing of aa we've jist heard doon the pier
 28 is oor ferry hame's been pit aff

1 I'm tellin ye I've hud aboot eneuch o this job
 2 and that producer I'm takkin the shit aff
 3 We huvnae got a cameraman nou
 4 it's jist Sandy daein the best that he kin
 5 It's as weel he's ambi-whidyamacallit
 6 fur he's needin twa pair o haun
 7 We've managed tae get aa wir e-mails tho
 8 we got them roon the cyber café
 9 We got wan frae a gay porn site, wan frae Wullie
 10 and anither yin frae a scaffie¹⁴⁶
 11 The scaffie wis sayin he wis watchin the staur
 12 last nicht afore he went on his shift
 13 And he jaloused that the wather wad get better
 14 by the wey the planets were in the lift¹⁴⁷
 15 But the maist intrestin wan wis Wullie's
 16 I'm savin the best tae last
 17 He says he's sortin his life oot
 18 and wavin cheerio tae the past
 19 Him and Rosie, that's the burd,
 20 are buildin a kit-hoose in Buckie
 21 But he's plannin tae spend some weekends wi me
 22 Wullie, you should be sae lucky!
 23 I howp ye're listenin in tae this Wulliam
 24 fur I'm chyingin ma locks on Monday
 25 And of coorse I winna tell naeb'dy
 26 even tho yer bum's oot the windae
 27 The wather the day, it luiks like mair wind

¹⁴⁵ tenth

¹⁴⁶ Refuse Collector

1 at least oot here in Argyll
 2 And as fur the rest o the country
 3 it'll no be very nice fur a while
 4 Top temprature the day will be strugglin
 5 tae get muckle higher than five
 6 And we're howpin it's particularly stormy
 7 roon about Queen Margaret Drive
 8 That's aa then frae me wi yer wather
 9 we howp ye'll tune in wance again
 10 Brocht tae ye by the Body Shop
 11 and Caledonian MacBrayne
 12 *Exit Wather Girl*
 13 Jupiter Is wather made by gods, celestial and devine?
 14 Gin it were, I rede ye, it wad aeyways be fine
 15 But no jist fine for man, it is for nature that we care -
 16 The turnin o the leaf, the lark in the caller¹⁴⁸ air
 17 Whit maitter the wather tae us? I gie ye this reason
 18 It brings beauty and joy untae ilka season
 19 Whit wad be the Spring withoot the crocus that grows?
 20 Or the scent o the Summer withoot bindwood¹⁴⁹ and rose?
 21 Kin ye think on a Hairst when the haws dinna reiden?
 22 Or Winter that weirs-na the frost for her cleidin?
 23 Is wather made by man then? I bid ye consider
 24 The reek o yer lums, the waste in yer rivers
 25 The wormwood, the kanker, the black stinkin dubs¹⁵⁰
 26 The fire in the rain, the daith in the wids.

¹⁴⁷ sky

¹⁴⁸ fresh, rhymes with 'palour'

¹⁴⁹ honeysuckle

¹⁵⁰ puddles

1 Yestreen I saw a watergaw¹⁵¹,
2 No yin , but three, all in a raw
3 They rase frae the hills in a shimmerin licht
4 And in that circumference it shone unco bricht
5 A bleeze-fire¹⁵² o howp, that made me jalouse
6 That man nicht yet hae the wather he chuse
7 And as I watched I lost aa ma fears
8 And I thocht tae masell, it's the daunce o the spheres.ⁱ

¹⁵¹ rainbow

¹⁵² beacon

1 **Song 1** **FORTY DIFFERENT WARDS FUR RAIN**

2

3 (*allegro*)

4

5 The Scots invented mony things frae bikes tae tarmacadam
6 We've begatten famous thinkers, like Mrs Smith's boy Adam
7 But wan thing we've cam up that brings us greater fame
8 We've got forty diffrent wards fur rain

9

10 *Chorus*

11 It's blatterin, it's bloosterin, it's smirrin and it's smatterin
12 It's gowsterin, it's scowderin, it's even splitter-splatterin
13 It's camin doon in stair-rods, it's rainin cats and dug
14 It's dreepy, it's greetie, it's dirlin roon yer lugs
15 It's drookie, it's drachie, it's mauchie and it's seepy
16 It's peltin doon, it's birlin roon, it's drammie and it's dreepy
17 It's hammerin and it's bleeterin, it's plashin and it's plooshin
18 It's ragglish, it's stragglish, it's clashin and it's skooshin
19 It's stottin aff the paveys, it's camin doon in buckets
20 It's been rainin fur a twalvemonth and it isnae goin tae chuck it
21 It's gousterous, it's bloosterous, it's rash and it is splooterie
22 It's affen hard tae pin it doon even if ye're footerie
23 It disnae bide aff lang till it's camin doon again
24 We've got forty diffrent wards, (gie or tak a haunfu,)
25 We've got forty diffrent wards fur rain

26

27 We've hud missionaries and explorers like Davy Livingstone
28 And Alexander Graham Bell that cam up wi the telly-phone
29 There's been writers and great poets, owre mony fur tae name
30 And we've got forty diffrent wards fur rain

31

32 *Chorus*

33

34 In the Sahara desert there's a wheen o wards fur heat
35 The Eskimos huv twinty three fur kinds o snaw and sleet
36 They've got lots o types o sunny, in Portugal and Spain
37 But we've got forty diffrent wards fur rain

38

39 *Chorus*

40

41

42

1 **Song 2: GLOBAL WARMIN**

2

3 *(Bluesy accompaniment)*

4

5 Why dis the sun keep disappearing frae sicht?

6 Why is it aeyweys rainin frae mornin til nicht?

7 Global warmin, it's a warnin

8 Ye'd better tell yer grannie, she'll hae tae ca canny

9 Ye'd better tell yer bidie-in¹⁵³, the warld hes turned ootsidie-in

10 Global warmin, it's pittin the wather aa wrang.

11

12 They say the problem is the lums are ower reeky

13 They say the ozone layer is fu o holes an leaky

14 Global warmin, there's mair stormin

15 Ye think it's getting warmer, in fact it's getting waur

16 It maks it wet and mauchie; windy, cauld and drauchie

17 Global warmin, it's pittin the wather aa wrang

18

19 Even when yer switchin on the kettle fur yer tea

20 Ye're burnin up mair fossil fuels, the experts aa agree

21 Global warmin, it's habit formin

22 Spierin fur mair heat on, flingin anither peat on

23 We'll hae tae try tae ban it afore it kills the planet

24 Global warmin, it's pittin the wather aa wrang

25

26 Cuttin trees and burnin them, we really canny thole it

27 CO2 jist spewin oot, we'll hae tae control it

28 Global warmin, global warmin

29 Pit some laggin roon yer pipes, it cams in different types

30 Get in the double-glazin, C R Smith are jist amazin

31 Global warmin, stoap pittin the wather aa wrang

¹⁵³ a live-in partner to whom one is not married

ⁱ General Notes on Language

The Scots I have used is modern with the odd word or turn of phrase to make it sound as if it might be older. The use of “gin” for “if” for example, and “I fain wad”. I haven’t used a standard orthography as I usually go for something fairly phonetic, and I mix up different forms of usage. “Yin, ane, wan, yae” ...for “one” for example. This is partly because the characters come from different places in Scotland, and partly because it just gives more variety and greater freedom in writing the verse.

Generally speaking, ‘ou’ is pronounced ‘oo’, “Nou’, ‘bou’, etc

‘want’ rhymes with pant and rant, and it means ‘need’. ‘watter’ rhymes with ‘batter’. “Makin’ and ‘takin’ both rhyme with ‘sacking’. Sometimes I spell them with a double kk

The english short ‘o’ in ‘god’, ‘boy’, is generally lengthened to ‘goad’, boay’. Sometimes I’ve written it this way.

‘a’ is often pronounced ‘aw’ as in ‘abody’, ‘ba’ (for ball), ‘ca’ (which means ‘call’ or ‘drive’, or ‘turn’). Sometimes I spell it with a double ‘aa’

The ‘g’ in ‘airgiein’, ‘argie-bargiein’, is like the g in ‘game’, and not in ‘gin’

‘ei’ is usually pronounced ‘ee’ as in ‘insteid’, ‘pleisure’, etc