

WAYZGOOSE

The Annual Trip

The Wayzgoose was most commonly held on a Saturday. Because most print works opened half-day Saturday, this in effect gave the employees a half-day holiday. In the papermills where shifts were different, the annual trip was often on a Monday or Sunday. Employees, their families and people from the local community were invited to take part in the annual event.

*As we go up the vale, lad,
Oh, what a sight we see;
There's printers drinking ale, lad,
And lassies drinking tea,
There's dancing, football, swings and sports
(Those joys that never fail);-
With handicaps, and no 'scarce sorts'.*

Although funded by employers, the annual trip was organised by employees. They dealt with everything from food and venue hire to chartering trains ('specials'), steam boats, buses and other transport. Where employers could not meet all costs, staff sometimes raised funds through their own means. They also drew on their work skills and talents to create the publicity and brochures advertising the event.



Many of these trips were to seaside and traditional holiday places in Scotland. Ayr, Dunoon or Rothesay were among the places visited, sometimes via steamboat, following the tradition of going 'Doon the Watter'. A 'silver' band or orchestra would join the event for the whole day, playing the attendees down to the train at the start of their trip. One participant recalls:

An' we used to go to Dunoon, Rothesay - The pipe band would come walking up through the village and then ev'rybody would join in.

On arrival all meals would be provided, and a schedule of events would take place for the whole family, including races, sporting events, dances and children's activities.

