

# **HOW ARE YA?**

## **A Camperdown Cabaret**

**Written for**

**The Commercial Hotel, Camperdown**

**by**

**Gillian Senior**

# LIST OF SONGS

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Strike up the band | OK                  |
| 2. Livin' in the City | OK (Small re-write) |
| 3. How Are Ya?        | OK                  |

## Main Course

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4. Volcanos              | NEW Forests are burning (Molly Malone)                  |
| 5. Then and Now          | OK  |
| 6. Computers             | NEW Cooking ..... (Phil the Flutter's Ball)             |
| 7. Family Tree           | NEW Tradies (I'm called Little Buttercup)               |
| 8. Little Boxes          | NEW Poor Philomena (Waltzing Matilda)                   |
| 9. All Through the Night | NEW Tick Goes the Clock (Click Go the Shears)           |
| 10. Fitness, fitness     | NEW With Music you can fly away (Down by the riverside) |

## Dessert

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11. Bang that drum, ring that bell. | NEW This'll keep you laughing. (Can-Can)                            |
| 12. The Rotary Dairy Song           | OK  |
| 13. Friends will make us strong     | NEW March – They say the future's gloomy (Marching Through Georgia) |
| 14. Goodbye:                        | NEW The More we are together and Goodnight Ladies.                  |

## **HOW ARE YA? – A Camperdown Cabaret.**

**BAR IS OPEN, ENTREES ARE BEING SERVED BY WAITING STAFF.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the time has arrived! The bar is about to be closed while we bring you the first act of our show. Please collect your drinks and take your seats so we can begin our celebration of the greatest little town in the west – Camperdown!**

### **(MOBILE PHONE RINGS)**

**Ooops! Sadly, we have to report that this is a mobile phone-free zone. Our radio-microphones which we use to help you hear us properly, don't like other electronic devices. Therefore, we must request that you please switch off your mobile phones, your pagers, computer games and your pacemakers. (Oh! Sorry! Forget the last one.)  
(Pause for switching off time)**

## **PART ONE**

**DRUM ROLL – LIGHTS DOWN – CYMBAL CRASH  
LIGHTS UP AND ALL FOUR PLAYERS ENTER, SINGING.**

SONG: *“Strike up the Band”*

Strike up the band  
It's time for a party  
Drinks in our hand  
We're happy and hearty  
We're here for some fun – so tell everyone  
Forget your troubles while we entertain you.

SPOKEN:

GRAEME: Drinks for table Derrinallum,  
TOBY: Champagne over here.  
BEC: Bookaar's looking pretty dry  
LILLIAN: Sugarloaf needs a beer.

FOUR: Join us tonight  
Wining and dining  
Sparkling with light  
Stars will be shining  
No need to fear  
Tomorrow's not here  
So now's the time to let us entertain you.

ALL FOUR CHANT: Welcome to the Cabaret – this is your party!  
Welcome to the Cabaret!

GRAEME: And welcome indeed everyone to this night of wining, dining and entertainment here in this beautiful town – a town that has absolutely everything anyone could want. What have we got here? (SHARED

BETWEEN ACTORS) We've got clubs and pubs, footy and golf, lakes and craters, (and new pertaters) arts and crafts, singers and dancers, musicians and actors (and lots of tractors). We've got pets and vets, cows and horses, wallabies and kangaroos (and don't forget the cockatoos), doctors and nurses, schools and churches, sheep and alpacas, history and mystery,....

GRAEME: Look, there's just no way we could tell you all the good things about this place, there are so many! It's no wonder people want to live here – once they've seen it, they're hooked. Just listen to this:

## LIVIN' IN THE CITY

("Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina")

Living in the city  
It was never very pretty  
With the dirt in the air  
And the people everywhere  
There were traffic lights galore  
And a never ending roar  
Of the cars and the trains  
And the low-flying planes.

ALL:  
Couldn't stand the pressure  
Couldn't stand the pace  
Told myself  
It's time to go  
There's gotta be a better place

ALTERNATING AGAIN  
No one says hallo there  
Well you wouldn't want to go there  
To the city – not pretty –  
It's a pity – but it's true  
Wanted something greener  
Where the air is smelling cleaner  
And the birds in the trees  
Don't have to cough and sneeze.

ALL:  
*(TUNE: If I had Aladdin's lamp for only a day)*  
Then I had a vision of a pla-ace somewhere  
Filled with lakes and hills and people who care  
Packed up all my cares and woes  
Didn't forget the comfy clothes  
And left the city behind.

CAST ARRIVE AT PROPS TABLE, TAKE OFF HATS, LINE UP AND UNDO EACH OTHERS' COLLAR'N'TIE T-SHIRTS. LEAVE ALL ON TABLE.

So I travelled westward, following the sun  
Found me a place  
With friendly folk  
And now my life's begun.

SLOWER TEMPO:

Walking down the avenue  
 You're sure to see a cockatoo  
 Early morning air  
 Hardly anybody's there

When the sun is going down  
 You know you've got the perfect town  
 It's quiet and it's still  
 In the evening chill

Doesn't matter anymore just what the world does  
 We can smell the flowers and hear the bees buzz

OPTION 1:  
 You and I are all agreed  
 That Camperdown is all we need  
 And this – is our town!

We'll tell you all the latest  
 Camperdown's the greatest  
 ...tell you all the latest  
 Camperdown's the greatest  
 Little town – in the west!

GRAEME: Aaaaah! Smell that fresh air!

LILLIAN: (DEEP BREATH) Oooarrgh! I think a saleyard truck just went past!

GRAEME: Yes – well – sometimes it's .....er.....not so good.

TOBY: And ..... what about when they open the silage pits?

BEC: Ohhhh, yes! Phew – what a stink!

LILLIAN: I know someone who says they like that smell. She says it smells like cows.

BEC: Really? I'll bet she was born here.

GRAEME: Yes – well, a lot of Camperdonians were. Some of them are fifth generation.

TOBY: You certainly have to be careful round here if you're talking about anyone.

LILLIAN: I know – they're all related to each other.

BEC: And have you noticed that when you walk down the street here everyone says 'hello'?

TOBY: Yeah, even if you don't know them.

LILLIAN: Hah! If you did that in the city, they'd think you were crazy!

GRAEME: Not here. If you don't ask someone how they are – they think you're weird.

LILLIAN: Or rude.

### **SONG – HOW ARE YA?**

("Old McDonald had a Farm")

TOBY COLLECTS SHIRT, HAT AND PROP FROM STAND NEAR KITCHEN DOOR

Walkin' down the street – how are ya?  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 Leanin' on the bar – how are ya?  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 If he's on the street

If he's on the seat  
 And even if he looks dead beat  
 Ask 'im how he is, he'll tell ya  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.

**GRAEME PUTS ON FARMER'S SHIRT – MAYBE A HAT?**

Ask the farmer how he's doin'  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 When the price of milk is fallin'  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 We could do with rain  
 And he's got a pain  
 His farm is going down the drain  
 But ask 'im how he is he'll tell ya  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.

Make a phone call – How ya doin'?'  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 Callin' out across the paddocks  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 If he's on the phone  
 If he's all alone  
 Even with a broken bone –  
 Ask 'im how he is he'll tell ya  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.

Don't you try it in the city  
 You won't do no good  
 They'll look at you with eyes of pity  
 Never any good.  
 So you get back here  
 Where the air is clear  
 And this is all you wanta hear  
 Ask me how I am I'll tell ya  
 Oh – yeah – no – I'm good. (Fair dinkum)  
 (CONDUCT AUDIENCE TO JOIN IN) Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.

**IF APPLAUSE IS SUFFICIENT – REPEAT FIRST VERSE (WITH VARIATION)**

Walkin' down the street – how are ya?  
**AUDIENCE:** Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.  
 Leanin' on the bar – how are ya?  
**AUDIENCE:** Oh – yeah – no – I'm good.

If it's in the park  
 Or it's in the dark  
 Even fighting off a shark!  
 Ask 'im how he is, he'll tell ya

**AUDIENCE:** Oh – yeah – no – I'm good. (Fair dinkum!!) Oh – yeah – no – I'm good!

GRAEME: (TO AUDIENCE) Suppose you're ready for your main course, are you? And maybe another drink? Okay the bar will be open while your meal is served – and we'll see you later.

MUSIC PLAYS THEM OFF – (*Not singing*)

*We're here for some fun,*

*So tell everyone*

*Now's the time we're here to entertain you.*

## **END OF PART ONE**

**BAR IS OPENED - MAIN COURSE IS SERVED – PEOPLE ORDER DRINKS – HAVE A  
CHAT, ETC.**

**DURATION OF BREAK – APPROX. 45 MINUTES.**

**TABLES ARE CLEARED**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the bar will be closing in 5 minutes for the second act of  
“How Are Ya?”**

**Please collect your drinks and be seated.**

## PART TWO

**LIGHTS TO BLACK THEN SLOWLY BROUGHT UP TO A DIM, REDDISH GLOW WITH SINISTER DRUM ROLL (NO CYMBAL) AND SPOOKY MUSIC.**

**ALL FOUR PERFORMERS ENTER WEARING DARK CLOAKS WITH HOODS. THEY ARE DRESSED AS “VOLCANOES” – EITHER DEEP GREEN OR VERY DARK GREY, LIGHTNING BOLTS IN SILVER, CRACKS SHOWING MOLTEN LAVA IN DARK, SHINY RED – ANYTHING THAT CAN SUGGEST A VOLCANO.**

**DIALOGUE IS SHARED BETWEEN ALL FOUR:**

(SPOKEN)

You know that many years ago  
Before the white man came  
Australia was quite different  
Didn't even have a name.

The black man lived and hunted here  
And many tales exist  
Of mountains breathing fire and smoke  
They rumbled, shook and hissed.

Some wise men say this happened  
Just five thousand years ago  
Makes you wonder, doesn't it –  
What's happening below?

Is it time the mountains all around  
Began to wake again?  
Will they start to shake and rumble  
Well they could – and who knows when?

GRAEME: Listen!

MUSIC INTRO TO SONG:

### MR LEURA IS SLEEPING

(“Molly Malone” taken quite slowly and mysteriously)

There's a funny little tremble  
That maybe could resemble  
The shaking and the quaking of an elevator floor  
And then you hear a rumble  
And a rock begins to tumble  
And you get a sort of feeling that you've never had before.

CHORUS

*Mount Leura is sleeping  
Her secret she's keeping  
Just waiting and wanting to wake up again.*



You feel like you're sinking  
 And that starts you thinking  
 Is the ground around as steady as it always used to be?  
 And the rumbles get stronger  
 And last a little longer  
 And look! Smoke is curling from under a tree.....

*For years she's been sleeping  
 Her secret she's keeping  
 Just waiting and wanting to wake up again.*

Did you really feel that thumping?  
 Is it just your heart that's pumping?  
 And the roaring that you hear – could it be inside your head?  
 But perhaps it could be real  
 And a thing you really feel  
 That smoke is not from embers – Mt Leura's not dead!

*For years she's been sleeping  
 Her secret she's keeping  
 Just waiting and wanting to wake up again.*

So remember this warning  
 When you wake in the morning  
 Enjoy every sunrise – each tree and each flower  
 Your life is for living  
 For loving and giving  
 Make every day count and treasure each hour.

*Mt Leura's been sleeping  
 Her secret she's keeping  
 Just waiting and wanting to wake up again.*

(SLOWER)

GRAEME: *Just waiting*  
 BEC: *And wanting*  
 ALL: *To wake up again.*

CLOAKS & MASKS TO DRESSER. MAYBE SHE COMES OUT AND HELPS COLLECT THEM.  
 LIGHTS SLOWLY UP TO NORMAL.

GRAEME: Oooooh!!! How did you like that? A bit scary, eh?

BEC: Ah, we don't need to worry about stuff like that. That's just stories – (doubtful, to the audience)  
 isn't it?

TOBY: 'Course it is. Mind you, there's still plenty to scare us – even without volcanoes.

LILLIAN: Like what?

TOBY: Well, like planes falling out of the sky....

LILLIAN: Only if you're flying.

BEC: Sharks eating you...

LILLIAN: Only if you're surfing.

TOBY: Cars crashing...

BEC: Well, drive carefully! Look – There’s always been danger. What about way back in the eighteen hundreds when all those ancestors of ours came out to Australia by sailing ship?

GRAEME BEGINS TO PUT ON HIS SCOTS COSTUME: JACKET, SCARF, BERET AND STICK.

TOBY COMES OVER TO COLLECT HIS: LONG BLACK COAT, SCARF, BERET, BAG OF CLOTHES.

GRAEME: Yes, my great-great-grandfather came out from Scotland and he didn’t even know whether he’d get here or not.

BEC: Right. And there was no way for their family to know if they were still alive. Not for years, sometimes.

LILLIAN: Sometimes never!

TOBY: Not like now. No mobile phones then.

LILLIAN: Yeah! I told my mother I wanted to go to Thailand and she freaked! “Not on your own!” she says. “Who are you going with? You might get killed!” I mean - honestly!

## **THEN AND NOW**

DURING SCOTTISH VERSES:

BEC DRESSES IN SHORT JACKET, ORANGE WIG, MOBILE PHONE

LILLI IN BASEBALL CAP, BACKPACK, MOBILE PHONE.

### **1850s DAD** – (“Old Black Joe”)

Och, will I e’er

See you come back home again?

Sailing so far

To the ending of the world

Send me a word

When you arrive in Melbourne Town

Just find a ship that’s sailing this way

Send some word.

### **1850s SCOTTISH LAD**

Och, dinna fret

Sure you know I’m ower strong

A four-masted ship

You can see she’s strong as well.

I promise you

That before this time next year

I’ll find a ship that goes to Scotland

I’ll send word.

### **MODERN MUM** – (“Oh dear, what can the matter be?”)

She’s going to Thailand, it’s so full of danger

She isn’t yet twenty and hasn’t much money

I’ve told her to call me if ever she needs me

I’ve told her to call every day!

### **MODERN GIRL**

Hi Mum, yes, I made it – we’re just about boarding.

Of course, when we’ve landed I’ll certainly ring you

I’ll call you at least once a week. Yes, I promise!

And – NO – I won’t call every day!

**MODERN MUM**

She's been gone three days and she still hasn't called me  
 I've rung her and texted but got nothing from her.  
 She could have been murdered and how would I know it?  
 I shouldn't have said she could go.

**MODERN GIRL**

Hi Mum, well I'm sorry I had a flat battery  
 I've been in the jungle where there's no reception  
 I'm sorry, can't talk now we're all going swimming  
 I'll probably call you next week.

**1850s DAD**

Should you find Uncle Will  
 Say we're thinking of him still.  
 Two years and no word  
 Since he sailed for New South Wales

**SCOTTISH LAD**

Surely I'll try  
 But I think it's ower far.  
 From New South Wales  
 To Melbourne Town's  
 A long, long way.

**MODERN GIRL**

Hi Mum, yes the jungle was totally awesome  
 You don't need to worry I've met some nice people  
 We're travelling north where we're going to pat tigers  
 Then off to an island resort.

**MODERN MUM**

She says she's made friends there but how can she trust them  
 They could all be robbers and steal her wallet  
 And why would she want to be patting a tiger?  
 I think I should pack up and go!

**BOTH YOUNG PEOPLE: (Old Black Joe)**

At last I'm on my own  
 And discovering the world  
 Time to be me  
 And to learn just who I am  
 I'm young and I'm strong  
 And determined to survive  
 I'll tell the world as I go forward  
 Here I am!

**BOTH PARENTS (Oh dear etc..)**

It's not easy saying goodbye to a child

They're young and they're foolish – they know very little  
 We worry about them, we fear they could perish  
 It's terribly hard to let go.  
 We held them and kissed them when they were our babies  
 There once was a time they were frightened to leave us  
 But like every child and like all who will follow  
 They have to go off on their own.

| <b>YOUNG ONES: (Old Black Joe)</b>  | <b>BOTH PARENTS (Oh dear etc..)</b>   |
|---|---|
| At last I'm on my own<br>And discovering the world<br>Time to be me<br>And to learn just who I am<br>I'm young and I'm strong<br>And determined to survive<br>I'll tell the world as I go forward<br>Here I am! | It's not easy saying goodbye to a child<br>They're young and they're foolish – they know very little<br>We worry about them, we fear they could perish<br>It's terribly hard to let go.<br>We held them and kissed them when they were our babies<br>There once was a time they were frightened to leave us<br>But like every child and like all who will follow<br>They have to go off on their own. |

PERFORMERS TAKE OFF THEIR COSTUMES AS THEY SPEAK AND GIVE TO PROPS TABLE.

STAND AROUND TALKING INFORMALLY.

LILLI: Whew! That was exhausting!

TOBY: I think we need a rest.

BEC: Absolutely! We've been working pretty hard.

GRAEME: And guess what? We're going to have a break. It's time for our Guest Spot. This is where one of our local entertainers comes in and struts their stuff. And this week it's Elizabeth (or Libby) Someone! Welcome, Libby. Glad you can join us tonight. Blah, blah, blah.

**SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES OR SO.**

GRAEME: What a great performance! Thanks, Libby for coming along tonight. (LEADS APPLAUSE) Good luck with all your future gigs – may you get many more. (LIBBY EXITS AND GRAEME TALKS TO CAST AND AUDIENCE). There are a lot of talented people around Camperdown, aren't there? And it's wonderful how people of all ages are getting involved in learning new things – like joining art classes, singing, playing musical instruments....

BEC: Learning to use a computer.

GRAEME: Exactly. Even older people....

BEC: (LAUGHING) Oooh yes! Like my old Uncle Sam.

TOBY: What about your 'old Uncle Sam'?

BEC: Oh, he went out and bought a computer. Then he brought it round to me and said he didn't know how to use it.

LILLI: You didn't try to teach him, did you?

BEC: No way! I got on the internet and found some beginners' classes for him, so I sent him along to the first class.

GRAEME: And?

BEC: Let me tell you.

**COMPUTERS**

(Tune: 'Modern Major General' from The Pirates of Penzance – Gilbert & Sullivan)

He went along to classes 'cos he bought a new computer  
 And they welcomed him and quickly introduced him to a tutor  
 She said she'd give him windows that he wouldn't have to clean  
 But she handed him a mouse – and he nearly made a scene!

(SPOKEN) He lives on a farm – you know, he hates mice!

Then she said he had a hard drive, and he told her that was lucky  
 He said hard drives were easy 'cos he used to be a truckie  
 Then she said he had to boot it – so he got up to go  
 And why she sat him down again, he'll never, ever know.

ALL:

And why she sat him down again he'll never, ever know.  
 And why she sat him down again he'll never, ever know.  
 And why she sat him down again he'll never, never, never, ever know.

(SPOKEN) When he saw me again, he never stopped complaining! He said she told him:

There's a screen that doesn't stop the flies, and snow that isn't cold  
 And all he could remember was the last thing he was told:  
 "If you really want to Google while you fiddle with a riddle  
 Then you need another model with a toggle in the middle."

ALL:

"If you really want to Google while you fiddle with a riddle  
 Then you need another model with a toggle in the middle."

(SPOKEN) He was so upset! He nearly didn't go back again, but I persuaded him to give it another try and I went with him.

They got on to the internet by pressing lots of keys in  
 And she said he had a virus but he said: "I wasn't sneezin'"  
 Then she talked about the web and said it still was growing wider  
 And so he looked at me and said: "But how big is the spider?"

(SPOKEN) Poor darling! It was all getting too much for him.

She talked about a lap-top and he thought she meant the dancers  
 He said he'd never have one 'cos he wasn't taking chances  
 She told him he could have a blog and do some every day  
 He said he used to have one but he'd washed it all away.

ALL:

He said he used to have one but he'd washed it all away.  
 He said he used to have one but he'd washed it all away.  
 He said he used to have one but he'd pulled the chain and washed it all away.

BEC:

He decided he would finish 'cos he'd never ever pass  
 But he never has forgotten what she told him in the class

“If you really want to Google while you fiddle with a riddle  
Then you need another model with a toggle in the middle.”

ALL:

“If you really want to Google while you fiddle with a riddle  
Then you need another model with a toggle in the middle.”

BEC:

Now my uncle and computers don't ever have a quibble  
'Cos he never got a model with a toggle in the middle.

ALL:

“If you really want to Google while you fiddle with a riddle  
Then you need another model with a toggle in the middle.”

ALL LAUGH

GRAEME: Oh dear! Your poor uncle.

BEC: I don't think he's recovered yet! Ohh, I'm so dry – I need a cup of tea.

GRAEME: Look, why don't you all go off for a break – I've got something I want to talk to our guests about.

BEC: Okay, you don't have to tell me twice. (TO THE OTHERS) Coming?

LILLI AND TOBY: Yes, I could do with a glass of water, etc. etc. (Ad lib)

GRAEME: It's funny, you know, Bec's Uncle Sam made me think about how every generation learns some new skills. I mean, if you look back to our ancestors, there are probably things they could do that we can't. And it's amazing the sorts of things you find out about when you go back into your family history – and there are a lot of people doing just that, aren't there? I'm willing to bet some of you are researching your family trees. Am I right? (A HAND UP) And where did your family come from? Ah, Ireland. Do you know when? And what about you? etc. etc....etc. Of course, you never quite know what you're going to discover, do you? Sometimes it's a family skeleton that's been hidden for years. Let me tell you about what I found out only last week!

### RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

(Tune: 'Jota' from España – Chabriet)

**NOTE: Tune used for a Dean Martin song called: “Hot Diggety” but has been arranged differently.**

When Uncle Josiah  
Met Great Aunt Maria  
He wanted to bed her  
But never would wed her.  
The things you find out  
When you're scratching about  
And researching your family tree!

And then I discover  
That she took a lover  
And he took another  
And she had his brother.  
And who was the father  
Of my Great Grandmother?  
Well, nobody ever will know!

There's no end to the skeletons hidden away  
And I'm happy to say, I find more every day  
And we'll possibly find you're related to me

As I'm searching my family tree.  
 A forebear from Norway  
 Was raped in a doorway  
 And one from Romania  
 Was sent to Tasmania  
 A financial failure  
 Arrived in Australia  
 And that's how I came to be here.

Uncles and cousins  
 And aunts by the dozens  
 If they had a mystery  
 I'll search out their history  
 There's no way to hide it  
 I'll get right inside it  
 While searching my family tree.

There are plenty of stories around Camperdown  
 It's a strange little town, full of folk of renown,  
 And we often find more than the birds and the bees  
 When we're searching our family trees.

The girl from Benallacks and Gary Alexander  
 Just what were they doing on her back veranda?  
 The Maddens and Menzies and ALL the McKenzies  
 You don't want to know what I found!

The Bants and the Batemans, the Roycrofts and Hickey,  
 All of them famous for taking the mickey.  
 The Molans and Gilberts the Boyds and the Cronins  
 Well somehow they all look alike!

There's no end to the skeletons hidden away  
 And I'm happy to say, I find more every day  
 And we'll possibly find you're related to me  
 As I'm searching my family tree.

OTHER THREE PERFORMERS ENTER AND SING CHORUS  
 THEY HAVE GREY WIGS, A SHAWL, A WALKING STICK, ANYTHING TO INDICATE AGE.

**FINALE – ALL**

Bad skeletons, sad skeletons  
 (BEAT) From our family tree  
 (BEAT) Clank their chains at me  
 (BEAT) Now you've set them free

Poor skeletons, more skeletons  
 (BEAT) For the world to see  
 Now you've opened the door  
 (BEAT BEAT) Now you've opened the door  
 (BEAT BEAT) And there still may be more! Olé!

GRAEME: Now look at this! Here's a group of old people who've come down to join us from "Sunnyside".

Let's make them welcome! (APPLAUSE) And how are you all?

TOBY: Oh yeah, no, we're good.

GRAEME: Great! (TO BEC) And you, dear? Are you okay?

LIL: (NODS)

GRAEME: And your friend?

BEC: Eh? What did he say?

TOBY: (WHISPERS)

BEC: Oh! No, *I'm* not! I'm not at all well! I've got a bit of a problem with me ....

GRAEME: Ah, we're very sorry to hear that. (TO AUDIENCE) Aren't we? (TO OLD PEOPLE) They look after you well there, don't they?

TOBY: Oh yeah, no, they're good.

GRAEME: You want to tell us a bit about it?

TOBY: Oh, yeah – no – yeah. If you like. (PAUSE)

GRAEME: So....?

TOBY: Eh?

GRAEME: You were saying?

TOBY: Eh?

GRAEME: They look after you well?

TOBY: Oh yeah! They give us lots of pills.

GRAEME: Yeah?

TOBY: Well – like – like this.

### LITTLE BOXES

TOBY: In the bedroom, on the table  
Where we see them every day  
There are special little items  
That they never put away.

GRAEME: What?

TOBY: Little boxes with compartments  
For each day of every week  
Pills for morning, lunch and dinner  
It's enough to make you weep.

LIL: There's a red one and a yellow one  
TOBY: And there's one that's black and white  
BEC: Try the pink one for constipation  
Its effect is dynamite.!

ALL THREE – CHORUS  
Little boxes with compartments  
For each day of every week  
Pills for morning, lunch and dinner  
It's enough to make you weep.

TOBY: Now there's warfarin  
LIL: and voltaren



BEC: And digoxin for your heart  
 TOBY: Diuretics and emetics  
 LIL: You can tick them off your chart  
 BEC: Take a stemetel and temazepam  
 TOBY: Decongestants for your cold  
 LIL: Kaomagma and glucosamine  
 BEC: And Viagra for when you're old. (CACKLE)

ALL THREE – CHORUS

Little boxes with compartments  
 For each day of every week  
 Pills for morning, lunch and dinner  
 It's enough to make you weep.

TOBY: And the doctors and the nurses  
 LIL: And our children and their mates  
 BEC: Say we've got to make an effort  
 Or they'll leave us to our fates.  
 TOBY: So we take our medication  
 LIL: Even if we don't know why  
 BEC: But we know we have to have them  
 BEC: If we don't we'll prob'ly die!

ALL THREE – CHORUS

Little boxes with compartments  
 For each day of every week  
 Pills for morning, lunch and dinner  
 It's enough to make you weep.

REPEAT: Pills for morning, lunch and dinner  
 It's enough to make you weep.

BEC: Hey, why doesn't he tell 'em about the walls?

LIL: What do you mean, 'the walls'?

BEC: You know – how thin they are?

LIL: Oh! Oh, yeah, yeah!

TOBY: Oh – yeah – no –they're thin all right.

GRAEME: Is that a problem?

BEC: (CACKLES) Yes, it's a problem all right.

LIL: Oh yeah!

GRAEME: Why?

BEC: Will we tell 'im?

TOBY: (LAUGHS) Yeah – we'd better.

**ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT**

(Tune: 'All Through the Night' – Trad.)

TOBY: Hear the toilets gently flushing  
 LILLIAN & BEC: All through the night  
 TOBY: To the loo we all are rushing  
 LILLIAN & BEC: All through the night  
 BEC: Waking up – you lie there stalling

LILLIAN: Then you hear the raindrops falling  
 BEC: Time to go – it's nature calling  
 ALL THREE: All through the night

TOBY: Footsteps break the peace and quiet  
 ALL THREE: All through the night  
 TOBY: All of us – you can't deny it  
 ALL THREE: All through the night  
 BEC: To the bathroom quickly fleeing  
 LILLIAN: In the darkness, eyes unseeing  
 ALL THREE: Safe at last – we're gently pee-ing  
 ALL THREE: All through the night.

ALL THREE LAUGH TOGETHER

LILLI: You gotta laugh, haven't you?  
 TOBY: Hah, if you didn't laugh, you'd be crying.  
 BEC: And we're not doing that! Life's still pretty good, as far as I'm concerned.  
 LILLI: As long as I can still get around, I'm okay.  
 BEC: Me too.  
 TOBY: You don't want to end up lying around waiting to die.  
 BEC: No way! But we gotta keep fit.  
 TOBY: Yeah, but how?  
 BEC: Gentle exercise – that's the answer.  
 TOBY: Exercise?  
 GRAEME: She's right, you know. That's definitely the answer.  
 LILLI: I can't exercise. I'm not well enough.  
 BEC: Rubbish!  
 GRAEME: Toby?  
 TOBY: I don't – um – I'm not very good at exercise.  
 BEC: Come on, Graeme. Let's show them some really easy ones.  
 LILLI: Do I have to?  
 TOBY: Come on, Lilli, we can do it.  
 BEC: We'll start really slowly – all right?  
 LILLI: Well – I'll try it.  
 GRAEME: Just neck and arms to start with. (TO AUDIENCE) You can do this too, you know. Are we ready?  
 GRAEME SPEAKS TO AUDIENCE MEMBER:  
 GRAEME: Come along – you too. We want everyone here to join in and get fit.

**FITNESS SONG**

(Tune: 'My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean')

BEC:  
 You first roll your head to the left side  
 GRAEME:

You then roll your head to the right

BEC:

You now move it up and down gently

TOBY:

My word I'll sleep soundly tonight!

**CHORUS (ALL)**

Fitness (LEFT ARM UP TO SHOULDER)

Fitness (RIGHT ARM UP TO SHOULDER)

It's all about fitness (LEFT ARM OUT FRONT)

For you and me (RIGHT ARM OUT FRONT)

Fitness (LEFT ARM TO SHOULDER)

Fitness (RIGHT ARM TO SHOULDER)

If you can be fit (BOTH ARMS OUT – POINTING)

So can we. (BOTH ARMS BACK)

GRAEME: (TO AUDIENCE) You get the idea? We're not going to do this on our own, though.

This is something that everyone can do. And if you do it properly and if we're quite satisfied that you've done your best – we'll open the bar and give you all some dessert. Does that sound fair? Now, are we all ready?

BEC:

You first roll your head to the left side

GRAEME:

You then roll your head to the right

BEC:

You now move it up and down gently

TOBY:

My word I'll sleep soundly tonight!

**CHORUS (ALL)**

Fitness (LEFT ARM UP TO SHOULDER)

Fitness (RIGHT ARM UP TO SHOULDER)

It's all about fitness (LEFT ARM OUT FRONT)

For you and me (RIGHT ARM OUT FRONT)

Fitness (LEFT ARM TO SHOULDER)

Fitness (RIGHT ARM TO SHOULDER)

If you can be fit (BOTH ARMS OUT – POINTING)

So can we. (BOTH ARMS BACK)

BEC:

Your shoulders you roll gently forwards

GRAEME:

You then roll them back like before

BEC:

Now breathe in and tighten your stomach

LILLI:

Oh, no – I can't do any more!

**CHORUS (ALL)** (Fitness, fitness, etc.)

GRAEME: Well done, everybody! You've definitely earned a drink and some dessert.

LILLI: And so have we!!! (OTHER ALL AGREE – EXHAUSTED)

GRAEME: Absolutely. Come on all of you, I'll take you backstage and you can all have a cup of tea. (SOME GRUMBLING FROM THE OLDIES.) Cup of tea? I could do with a drink. etc. etc.

GRAEME SHEPHERDS THEM AS THEY ALL HOBBLE AND STAGGER OFF STAGE.

## **END PART TWO**

**BAR OPENS – DESSERT IS SERVED  
MAYBE COFFEE AND CHOC OR CHEESE PLATTER?**

**TABLES CLEARED –DURATION OF BREAK APPROX. 30 MINS.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the bar will be closing in 5 minutes for the third act of  
“How Are Ya?”**

**Please collect your drinks and be seated.**

## PART THREE (FINALE)

**DRUM ROLL – CYMBAL CLASH – LIGHTS UP FULL – ALL ENTER SINGING:  
CAST HAVE WHISTLES, ETC. FOR END OF EACH ONE-LINER.**

### BANG THAT DRUM, RING THAT BELL (Tune: ‘Jingle Bells’)

Bang that drum, ring that bell  
It’s time to celebrate  
Take my hand ‘cos life is grand  
We don’t have time to wait  
When skies are grey  
We’ve got a way  
To cut our cares in half  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.

GRAEME: I don’t call my toilet the John, I call it the Jim.  
BEC: Why?  
GRAEME: It sounds sooo much better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning!

ALL  
We sing it high  
We sing it low  
We sing it in the bath  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.

LILLIAN: What’s the difference between snowmen and snow women?  
TOBY: I dunno, what?  
LILLIAN: Snowballs.

We have to learn  
To separate  
The good bits from the chaff,  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.

TOBY: Doctor, doctor, what do I do? The contractions are only two minutes apart!  
GRAEME: Is this her first child?  
TOBY: No, you idiot! This is her husband!

What the heck  
Write a cheque  
Sell your autograph  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.

BEC: A naked man broke into the church and the police chased him.  
GRAEME: Did they get him?  
BEC: Yes, they finally caught him – by the organ!

Forget the blues  
‘Cos you can choose  
To take another path.  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.

JANE: I've got one! I've got one! A friend of mine took a Viagra the other day but it got stuck in his throat.

ALL: Yeah?

JANE: Yeah, he had a terrible stiff neck for days!

Bang that drum, ring that bell  
It's time to celebrate  
Take my hand 'cos life is grand  
We don't have time to wait  
When skies are grey  
We've got a way  
To cut our cares in half  
We always feel much better when we make each other laugh.  
We always feel much better when we (DOUBLE BEAT) make each other laugh.

CAST GIVE WHISTLES ETC. TO DRESSER.

BEC: What a great way to spend an evening, eh? A group of friends, a couple of drinks, song and dance, and lots of laughs. What could be nicer?

GRAEME: You're right, nothing better than sitting around with a bunch of mates. Even if you're feeling miserable, you can't help cheering up a bit.

TOBY: It's all about friends, isn't it?

LILLI: Certainly is, we all need them.

**OUR FRIENDS WILL MAKE US STRONG**

LILLI: Sometimes we are a little low and we don't feel so grand

BEC: That's the time that we can use a friendly helping hand

LILLI: A sympathetic ear and a mate who'll understand

BOTH: It's our friends who make us strong.

CAST COLLECT PLACARDS FROM PROPS TABLE:

TOBY – Glory, glory hallelujah

BEC – Fate will always try to screw ya

LILLI – But mates will never let 'em do ya

GRAEME – It's our friends who make us strong.

CHORUS – ALL: (Repeat between each verse)

Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Fate will always try to screw ya  
But mates will never let 'em do ya  
It's our friends who make us strong.

GRAEME:

You haven't any money and the future's looking bleak  
You haven't any water 'cos your tank has sprung a leak  
And then you find your son has dropped his iPad in the creek  
But your friends will keep you strong.

ALL: CHORUS

TOBY:

We may be little people but we still have got a voice

No matter what the future brings, we haven't any choice  
 But there are still a lot of things that make us all rejoice  
 And our friends will make us strong.

ALL: CHORUS

BEC: If we can keep on laughing then we haven't time to cry  
 GRAEME: Together we can bravely look the future in the eye  
 LILLI: We don't have lots of money  
 TOBY: But we hold our heads up high  
 ALL: And our friends will keep us strong.

ALL: CHORUS

GRAEME: (TO AUDIENCE) Who's going to join us now? Who's going to march with us for mateship?

EACH CAST MEMBER PERSUADES AN AUDIENCE MEMBER TO GET UP AND TAKE A  
 PLACARD. MARCHERS ARE MUSTERED IN CENTRE SPACE AND GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS –  
 WHICH WAY THEY MARCH, HOLD PLACARDS LOW, ETC.

GRAEME: Brilliant! Are we all ready to march now? And we want everyone to join in! You can see the  
 words now so there's no excuse!

MUSIC BEGINS FOR CHORUS.

DURING SINGING OF THE CHORUS, THEY LEAD MARCHERS – TWO TO FOYER AND TWO TO  
 BAR.

CHORUS REPEATS – A LITTLE SLOWER – AS THEY ALL MARCH BACK TO CENTRE.

GRAEME: Thank you! Thank you everybody and thanks to all of you who marched with us. Well done!

CAST APPLAUDS. THEY COLLECT PLACARDS – GIVE THEM TO JANE – WHO CAN ALSO COME  
 OUT AND HELP COLLECT THEM.

GRAEME: And now, sadly, I think we've come to the end of our show.

BEC: Is that all? Isn't there any more?

TOBY: We've got time for just one more song, haven't we?

LILLI: Yes, come on. Just one more.

GRAEME: Okay, Jane?

JANE: Fine with me!

GRAEME: Then – let's go!

## FINALE

And now, it's time to say goodbye (Cheerio!)  
 Our throats have got a little dry (I want a beer!)  
 We'll be on our way with a happy memory  
 And sorry to leave you all are we.  
 We'll go home and kick our shoes off

We can close our eyes and snooze off  
For the time has come for us to bring the curtain down  
Goodbye, so-long and cheerio (Au revoir!)  
We hope you've all enjoyed the show ('Course they have!)  
So goodnight from me – and me – and me – and me,  
And sorry to leave you all are we.  
No doubt of it  
Sorry to leave you all are we.  
We'll shout of it  
Sorry to leave you all are we.

APPLAUSE – CAST TAKE BOWS

APPLAUSE DIES DOWN  
CAST EXIT THROUGH PASSAGE DOOR (JANE OPENS FOR THEM?)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the bar is now open. You are welcome to stay and have a chat with friends – or a dance if you're so inclined – before you head for home.**

**We hope you've had an enjoyable evening and thank you for your presence here tonight.**