

**Title:**

Aston Cantlow, Warwickshire

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/01/01

**Recording date:**

29.11.2004

**Speakers:**

Cokayne, Kevin, b. 1957 Cowbridge, Wales; male; engineer (father electrician; mother housewife)

Leedham, Bob, b. 1943 Wolverhampton; male; freelance history teacher (father engineer; mother worked in department store)

Parker, Mick, b. 1947 Darlington; male; webmaster (father engineer; mother housewife)

Reid, John, b. 1941 Oxford; male; retired (father printer; mother housewife)

The interviewees are members of the Warwickshire regiment of the Sealed Knot historical re-enactment society.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

**ELICITED LEXIS**

- see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- \* see Survey of English Dialects Basic Material (1962-1971)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

**pleased**

*wicked, cool* (used as term of approval by young speakers); *great, cracking, neat* (used as term of approval); *chuffed; good* (used as term of approval); *pleased; ecstatic* (of being extremely pleased); *brilliant* (not used, disliked); *impressive* (used as term of approval)

**tired**

*knackered; exhausted; whacked; whacked out; tired*

**unwell**

*sick; ill; poorly; turning yourself inside out, Technicolor yawn, pavement pizza<sup>△</sup>, chunder* (thought to come from Australia/India), *hughie and ralph<sup>◆</sup>, hughie<sup>△</sup>, Pierre<sup>△</sup>, heaving, heaving your guts up, puking, puke* (used for 'to vomit')

<b>hot</b>	<i>hot; warm; mathered<sup>△</sup> (“northern word” used by mother); in a lather; baking; baking hot; frazzled; cracking the flags<sup>△</sup> (“it’s that hot it’s cracking the flags”, used in north)</i>
<b>cold</b>	<i>cold</i>
<b>annoyed</b>	<i>miffed (used occasionally, “I’m miffed about that”, “someone’s miffed me”); annoyed (“very/extremely annoyed”, used frequently); angry; absolutely bombastically<sup>△</sup> awful</i>
<b>throw</b>	<i>chuck; fling; lob; throw; propel (suggested jokingly)</i>
<b>play truant</b>	<i>hookey; bunking off; bunking; playing truant; play hookey</i>
<b>sleep</b>	<i>kip; sleep (“perchance to dream”); snooze; get your head down; get some zeds<sup>◇</sup> in (heard used by younger speakers, liked, not used)</i>
<b>play a game</b>	<i>play (“let’s play a game”); have a game (of playing cards)</i>
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>thump; whack; batter; stroke (used in cricket); “he gave me a right pisser”<sup>△</sup>; “he gave me a hammering” (of being hit hard by someone); thump him, clout him, knock him, give him a good hiding, “just hit the bastard” (of hitting someone)</i>
<b>clothes</b>	<i>clothes; kit (of sports clothes, of clothes worn by servicemen and women during Second World War; “get your kit off”<sup>△</sup> suggested jokingly)</i>
<b>trousers</b>	<i>trousers; kecks (thought to come from Liverpool, “get your kecks off”); strides; pantaloons (thought to be Dutch for “big baggy trousers”, still used in Dutch)</i>
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>pumps (used in Wolverhampton and Midlands); plimsolls; sand-shoes (used in north); deck shoes (thought to be different type of shoe, “a bit middle-class”); dabs<sup>△</sup> (heard used)</i>
<b>mother</b>	<i>mother (of mother); the old lady (to friends); mum (to mother, used in Christmas card); ma (not used); mom (not used, “a bit American”); mater; mummy (used as pre-school child, subsequently used ‘mum’)</i>
<b>gmother</b>	<i>nan; nana; grandma; nanny, granny (suggested by interviewer, not used); nanny Stevenson, grandma Parker (used to distinguish between maternal/paternal grandmother); nan Reid, nan Edwards (used to distinguish between maternal/paternal grandmother)</i>
<b>m partner</b>	<i>boyfriend</i>
<b>friend</b>	(not discussed)
<b>gfather</b>	<i>pop (used by speaker’s wife of grandfather with ‘Popeye’<sup>1</sup> tattoo, now used by speaker’s son); grandad; gramp</i>
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>what’s-his-name (“if I had a memory I’d be dangerous”, common response to ‘what’s-his-name’); thingummyjig<sup>△</sup> (old); thingy; whatsit; what’s-her-name; oojah-ma-flip<sup>△</sup>; oojah-ma-call-it<sup>△</sup>; old so-and-so; him with the limp<sup>△</sup> (of person)</i>
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-kit; bag of spanners<sup>△</sup> (used by “service guys” in engineering industry)</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>chav (very modern, “in-word at the moment”); daughter<sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly)</i>
<b>f partner</b>	<i>wife; partner (“politically correct”, used when introducing new couple)</i>
<b>baby</b>	<i>bab<sup>○</sup>; babby<sup>○</sup> (common in Midlands); sprog; nipper; littl’un<sup>△</sup>; babies; the youngster</i>
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>piss down; pissing down; cats and dogs; raining stair rods; chucking it down; stair rods; just bloody raining; bucketing down</i>
<b>toilet</b>	<i>loo; toilet; bog; going for a shit, dropping a log (of going to toilet); dunny; dump</i>
<b>walkway</b>	<i>alley; wynd (used in Darlington, also used of river); tewer<sup>○</sup> (used in Alcester); ginnel (“northern”); jigger<sup>○</sup> (“couldn’t stop a pig up a back jigger”<sup>*2</sup> used to mean ‘bow-legged’);</i>

<sup>1</sup> Fictional sailor created by Elzie Crisler Segar who first appeared in 1929 comic strip *Thimble Theatre*.

<sup>2</sup> *Urban Dictionary* (online) includes ‘couldn’t stop a pig in a passage’ in definition of ‘bow-legged’; see also *Survey of English Dialects Incidental Material* (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/lavc/IMdocs.htm>) 6Y19 York, 21Nf2 Great Snoring, 28Hrt3 Wheathampstead, 33Brk Swallowfield & 40Sx Sutton.

	<i>lope</i> ; <i>brickle</i> <sup>△</sup> ('brickles' used to mean area behind slums reached by 'alleys' where people used to dump waste); <i>lane</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>settee</i> (not used at DFS <sup>3</sup> ); <i>sofa</i> , <i>three-piece suite</i> (used at DFS <sup>3</sup> ); <i>studio couch</i> (used when younger, 1950s/1960s word for "sofa-bed"); <i>divan</i> (used when younger to mean 'sofa', now means 'bed'); <i>chaise-longue</i> ("posh")
<b>run water</b>	<i>beck</i> (used in north); <i>burn</i> ("Scots"); <i>stream</i> ; <i>brook</i> ; <i>brae</i> (disputed, thought to refer to 'moorland')
<b>main room</b>	<i>lounge</i> ; <i>living room</i> ; <i>sitting room</i> ; <i>parlour</i> (not used); <i>back room</i> (used occasionally); <i>front room</i> (of "Sunday room"); <i>vestibule</i> , <i>grand hall</i> (suggested jokingly, not used)
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>spit</i> ; <i>shower</i> ; <i>drizzle</i> ; <i>mizzle</i> ; <i>drizzling</i> ; <i>miserable</i> ("welcome to Scotland"); <i>a haar</i> (used in Scotland); <i>sea-mist</i> (used frequently, disputed)
<b>rich</b>	<i>loaded</i> ; <i>minted</i> ; <i>rich</i> ; <i>well off</i> ; <i>bastard</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>rolling in it</i> ; <i>well-heeled</i>
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>cack-handed</i> (common, not used by left-handed speaker); <i>cuddy-wifter</i> * ("northern one", used in past by mother); <i>southpaw</i>
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>ugly</i> ; <i>ugly bugger</i> (of male); <i>unattractive</i> ; <i>fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down</i> <sup>♦</sup> (only used in "banter"); <i>beaten with the ugly stick</i> <sup>◇</sup> (suggested by interviewer, heard used); <i>back of the queue when the looks were given out</i> <sup>♦4</sup> ; <i>she's a dog</i> ; "I wouldn't fancy yours" <sup>◇5</sup>
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint</i> ; <i>poor</i>
<b>drunk</b>	<i>tired and emotional</i> ("Private Eye <sup>6</sup> speak"); <i>drunk</i> ; <i>pissed</i> (common); <i>bladdered</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>squiffy</i> ("1920s word"); <i>tight as a newt</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>as tight as a newt</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>pissed as a rat</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>pissed as a newt</i> ; <i>drunk as a lord</i> ("sober as a judge" used as antonym); <i>legless</i> ; "drunk as Bob" (i.e. name of one of speakers, suggested jokingly); <i>in his cups</i> ; <i>one over the eight</i> , <i>one over the eighth</i> <sup>△</sup> (thought to be Navy expression); <i>kaylied</i>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>pregnant</i> ; <i>bun in the oven</i> , <i>up the duff</i> (not used); <i>preggers</i> ; "she's gonna have a baby"; <i>expecting</i> ("expecting a happy event"); "she's gonna drop a sprog"; <i>interesting condition</i> <sup>△</sup> (old); <i>with child</i> ("very old one")
<b>attractive</b>	<i>good-looking</i> (disliked of male); <i>fit as a butcher's dog</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>a stunner</i> ; <i>stunning</i> ; <i>beautiful</i> ; <i>cracking</i> ("she's a cracking-looking lass"); <i>wow</i> ; <i>a good-looker</i>
<b>insane</b>	<i>mad</i> ; <i>off your trolley</i> ; <i>loony</i> ; <i>nutter</i> ; <i>bonkers</i> ; <i>headcase</i> ; <i>barking</i> ; <i>one sandwich short of a picnic</i> <sup>◇</sup> ; <i>one can short of a six-pack</i> <sup>◇</sup> ("there's a whole series of them")
<b>moody</b>	<i>grumpy</i> ; <i>got a mood on</i> ("someone's got a mood on them") in <i>a brown study</i> (old, "Victorian/Dickensian expression")
<b>bread roll</b>	<i>bap</i> (used in Coventry) <i>roll</i> ; <i>cob</i>

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<sup>3</sup> UK-based furniture retail chain (formerly Direct Furnishing Supplies).

<sup>4</sup> *Urban Dictionary* (online) entry for 'nightbreed' includes this phrase in definition.

<sup>5</sup> *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) includes 'don't fancy yours' in this sense.

<sup>6</sup> British satirical current affairs magazine first published in 1961, currently published fortnightly.