

Title:

Coventry, Warwickshire

Shelfmark:

C1190/01/03

Recording date:

24.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Hartley, Alan, b. 1924 Barrow-in-Furness; male; machine tool salesman/insurance salesman (father b. Barrow-in-Furness, shipwright; mother b. West Hartlepool, Durham)

Jones, David, b. 1956 Coventry; male; retired policeman (father b. South Wales, factory inspector; mother b. Coventry, nurse)

Taylor, Heather, b. 1950s Coventry; female; songwriter (father b. Liverpool, grinder; mother b. Coventry, dress-maker)

All three interviewees are Coventry City supporters.

ELICITED LEXIS

- see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- △ 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 *thrilled; right glad* (thought to be spelt 'reet', used in Barrow-in-Furness in past); *pleased; happy*

tired *worn out; shattered; bushed* (thought to be Australian)

unwell *ill; poorly* ("proper poorly"); *bad* (suggested by interviewer, not used)

hot *hot; roasting*

cold *freezing; chilly*

annoyed *fuming; niggled; angry*

throw *chuck*

play truant *wag it; wag; hookey*

sleep *sleep; rest; zizz* ("have a little zizz", thought to derive from visual representation of sleeping in comic strips, i.e. 'zzz'); *zedding*◊

play a game *play; getting stuck in*△ (used in football, "typical soccer")

hit hard *belt; smash; slog*

clothes	<i>gear; clobber; clothing</i>
trousers	<i>trousers; pants</i>
child's shoe	<i>pumps; galoshes</i> (used in Lancashire of “ <i>rubber shoes</i> ”, used in Coventry of “ <i>wellies</i> ”)
mother	<i>mum</i>
gmother	<i>nan; nanny</i>
m partner	<i>boyfriend; mate; husband</i>
friend	<i>mate; friend; oppo</i> (abbreviation of “ <i>your opposite number</i> ” used when in RAF , used occasionally now)
gfather	<i>grandad</i>
forgot name	<i>thingy; what's-his-name; him-as-has[△]</i> (“ <i>him as has a nose on his face/a shop down t' road/a shed down the garden</i> ” used in Lancashire)
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tools</i>
trendy	<i>trendy; a dude</i> (“ <i>trendy dude</i> ”); <i>bling</i> (“ <i>buzz word</i> ” now); <i>spiv</i> (used during Second World War)
f partner	<i>girlfriend; missus; friend; their other half</i>
baby	<i>baby; little one; nipper</i> (common in Coventry in past, used by grandparents)
rain heavily	<i>pour; pour down; piddling down</i>
toilet	<i>loo</i> (“ <i>most acceptable one</i> ”); <i>john; toilet</i> (used in female company); <i>the can</i> (“ <i>American</i> ”); <i>dunny</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used, “ <i>Australian</i> ”); “ <i>I'm gonna wet my boots</i> ” [△] (heard used by northern secretary of ‘going to toilet’)
walkway	<i>entry; back street; alley-way</i>
long seat	<i>settee; couch; sofa</i>
run water	<i>stream; brook; beck</i> (used in Lake District)
main room	<i>lounge; living room; parlour</i> (of front room “ <i>where the coffins went in</i> ”, used in past in contrast to ‘living room’)
rain lightly	<i>drizzle; mizzling; fine rain</i>
rich	<i>loaded; well off</i>
left-handed	<i>caggy[°]; caggy-handed[°]; left-hander; left-handed</i>
unattractive	<i>plain; ugly</i>
lack money	<i>not too well off; poor; busted; broke</i>
drunk	<i>pissed; wrecked</i> (“ <i>polite version</i> ”); <i>sozzled</i>
pregnant	<i>pregnant; in pod; up the stick; bun in the oven</i> (heard but not used)
attractive	<i>pretty; nice; beautiful</i>
insane	<i>mad; potty</i>
moody	<i>moody; mardy</i> (thought to be Victorian word); <i>misery guts</i>

SPONTANEOUS LEXIS

Brummy = person from / dialect of Birmingham (0:09:27 *Coventry has an accent of its own it it's peculiar to itself it's not Leicestershire it's not Bedworth even it and it's not it's certainly not Brummy*)

divvy = abbreviation of ‘dividend’ (1:06:25 *used to go and do the shopping on Saturday morning to the Co-Op¹ on on and you used to you used to, “you must remember those cheque numbers” for their for their for their divvies never never never forgotten*)

¹ UK consumer cooperative founded in 1863 with headquarters currently in Manchester.

ear-hole = ear (1:09:47 *we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent*)

early doors = early on, in the beginning (1:14:09 *um they reckon I think it's about when you're seven years of age you are the finished item then so it's what you what you pick up from your parents what's good and bad in languages and uh your dialect um early doors it makes you the person you're gonna be*)

eff and blind = to use word 'fuck', to swear frequently (0:59:49 *um and that's no doubt where the young the young kids perhaps pick up these these swear-words and find it's acceptable to eff and blind and be even be racist towards towards players*)

folks = parents (0:08:06 *but people from different part particularly when I go down to Wales to visit my my folks my father's folks down there they say that I've got this Midlands accent but um from a personal point of view I don't think I've got any accent at all*)

Geordie = person from / dialect of Newcastle upon Tyne (1:18:13 *a Geordie accent is a is my favourite if I uh had to choose one*)

gradely = great, excellent (0:10:21 *we don't talk like the real uh, "gradely lad" that the Lancastrians talk so we we again in Barrow-in-Furness we're a district of our own*)

quid = pound sterling (0:40:27 *and he said, "there's only four of us on top money of eighteen quid a week that's all we got"*)

right = very, extremely (0:43:49 *well we used to use the expression 'right glad'*)

take the mickey out of = to make fun of, poke fun at (0:02:55 *uh the pride and joy of the English master was to have me in front of the class reading so that everybody could take the mickey out of my Lancashire accent*)

tattyfilarious² = great, excellent (1:19:59 *and Frisby Dike*³ *used to have me in stitches [...] he used to say things like um "tattyfilarious" what does "tattyfilarious" mean?" real Irish Liverpool accent*)

plum-in-the-mouth = stereotypically upper-class British English accent (1:20:38 *it never used to be the case that when you listened to the news that it they were always really well spoken um and on the television but now it it doesn't matter there are no barriers which in a way is good because, you know, at least it opens it out but you would never have had that, would you, years ago (no) the it would've been, you know, the plum-in-the-mouth and that was it*)

proper = very, really (0:44:46 *'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always says 'poorly' "I feel poorly")*)

soccer = football (0:30:34 *first of all I love soccer really love soccer*)

PHONOLOGY

KIT [ɪ]

(0:00:19 *I was born in Coventry uh on the ninth of March 1956* [naɪnti:nfrftisɪks] *well actually it was Keresley um it was Keresley Hospital* [kə:zli hɒspɪtɪ]; 0:05:03 *so what with my Wartime um Association and my golf I keep pretty* [pɹɪdi] *busy* [bɪzi]; 1:14:09 *um they reckon I think* [θɪŋk] *it's about when you're seven years of age you are the finished* [fɪnɪʃt] *item then so it's what you what you pick* [pɪk] *up from your parents what's good and bad in languages* [lɑŋgwɪdʒɪz] *and uh your dialect um early doors it makes you the person you're going to be*)

<em-, en-, ex-> (0:01:15 *I'm only forty-nine so I need something to keep the the brain cells going so I don't I I will need another job at some time but uh I'm just enjoying* [ɪndʒɔɪɪŋ] *the the um fun at the moment*; 0:02:31 *my father was a shipwright in Barrow-in-Furness building ships and then*)

² Nonce-word more widely associated with Liverpool comedian Ken Dodd (b. 1927) – see e.g. Richard Alexander's *Aspects of Verbal Humour in English* (1997).

³ Comedy character created and played by English actor Derek Guyler (1914-1999).

because the um unemployment [ʊnɛmplɔɪmənt] was rife we came to Coventry in 1936; 0:36:43 I think those were three special years that they were so special and when they were promoted and I don't think it's ever been like that again except [ɛksɛpt] the Cup Final⁴ obviously; 0:43:49 well we used to use the expression [ɛksprɛʃən] 'right glad'; 1:13:01 and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed [ɛmbəɪəst] stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten)

DRESS [ɛ]

(0:01:31 well for the last couple of years I'd got an office job anyway [ɛnɪwæɪ]; 0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker [dɹɛsmɛɪkə] she used to make dresses [dɹɛsɪz] for the dancing school that I used to go to; 0:07:16 the the best [bɛst] point up to this date is when [wɛn] we actually wrote the Cup Final⁴ song for Coventry City and going to Wembley⁵ [wɛmbli] and hearing the crowd sing the song was absolutely incredible [ɪŋkɹɛdəbəl])

TRAP-BATH [a]

(0:01:31 well for the last [last] couple of years I'd got an office job anyway; 0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used to make dresses for the dancing [dansɪn] school that I used to go to; 0:36:00 everywhere was sky-blue and you used to get all the sellers selling little badges [badʒɪz] with photos of the players on; 0:59:25 it's something that that happens, [həpənɪz] isn't it, and you will never ever stop it because there's just so many people there and once the chants [tʃants] begin they begin and um people with that mentality [mɛntələti] because um I certainly wouldn't do it but people with that mentality [mɛntələti] if they once it starts it starts)

LOT-CLOTH [ɒ]

(0:01:31 well for the last couple of years I'd got [gɒd] an office job [ɒfɪs dʒɒb] anyway; 0:05:03 so what [wɒʔ] with my Wartime um Association and my golf [gɒʔf] I keep pretty busy; 0:07:16 the the best point up to this date is when we actually wrote the Cup Final⁴ song [sɒŋ] for Coventry City [kɒvɛntɪ sɪti] and going to Wembley⁵ and hearing the crowd sing the song [sɒŋ] was absolutely incredible)

STRUT [ʊ > ə]

(0:01:03 I've been left what now just over three weeks so the honeymoon [hənɪmuːn] period is still with me; 0:05:27 my mother [mæðə] was from Coventry and my father was actually born in Liverpool uh but moved to live in Leigh at an early age; 0:18:54 I think the city's got a lot more violent well than uh than what it was years ago and whether it's a sign of the times the culture [kʌʔtʃə] we we live in um drugs [dɹʊgz] are widely available um and drink alcohol abuse I think those are major factors; 0:26:33 my club [klʌb] were at Wembley⁵ for the first time and I was going to be there)

ONE (0:10:35 in talking to people I can say, "you're from Barrow" although we've got nothing [nʌθɪŋ] and the same with Coventry you've got nothing [nʌθɪŋ] as far as accent is concerned only mannerisms; 0:15:25 if you listen to a person like, say, Reg Dixon⁶ singing Coventry faugh obviously and yet there's nothing [nʌθɪŋ] and yet that very 'nothingness' [nʌθɪŋnəs] is identifiable; 0:18:09 well it's been my home town since uh since day one [wʌn]; 0:34:22 because only being little I wouldn't have seen very much so I used to stand there from one [wʌn] o'clock waiting watching the ground fill up; 0:59:25 it's something that that happens, isn't it, and you will never ever stop it because there's just so many people there and once [wʌns] the chants begin they

⁴ 1987 FA Cup Final in which Coventry City beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 after extra time.

⁵ Wembley Stadium opened 1927 in North West London as 'Empire Stadium' subsequently rebuilt and re-opened 2007.

⁶ Coventry-born comedian and singer (1915-1984).

begin and um people with that mentality because um I certainly wouldn't do it but people with that mentality if they once [wʊns] it starts it starts)

FOOT [ʊ]

(0:27:31 the whole um stadium just sort of froze for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going on here?" and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took [tʊk] everybody by surprise I think, didn't it? (it did); 0:33:10 I I've still I can sti... remember it he sat me on this little cushion [kʊʃən] um thing and it was like concrete I think it seemed to me at that age; 1:13:01 and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood [stʊd] up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten)

NURSE [ə:]

(0:01:37 having only been gone three three weeks it is it does seem seems strange knowing that I'll never ever go back um and work [wə:k] with my colleagues that I worked [wə:kt] with well sometimes a lot of them for thirty [θə:ti] years; 1:14:09 um they reckon I think it's about when you're seven years of age you are the finished item then so it's what you what you pick up from your parents what's good and bad in languages and uh your dialect um early [ə:li] doors it makes you the person [pə:sən] you're going to be)

FLEECE [i:]

(0:01:37 having only been gone three [θi:] three [θi:] weeks [wi:ks] it is it does seem [si:m] seems [si:mz] strange knowing that I'll never ever go back um and work with my colleagues [kɒli:gz] that I worked with well sometimes a lot of them for thirty years; 0:33:10 I I've sti... I can still remember it he sat me on this little cushion um thing and it was like concrete [kɒŋkri:t] I think it seemed [si:md] to me at that age)

been (0:01:03 I've been [bɪn] left what now just over three weeks so the honeymoon period is still with me; 0:25:39 from that day to this I've been [bɪn] a an ardent Coventry City fan; 0:36:43 I think those were three special years that they were so special and when they were promoted and I don't think it's ever been [bi:n] like that again except the Cup Final⁴ obviously)

FACE [æɪ ~ ɛɪ]⁷

(0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker [dɪsmeɪkə] she used to make [meɪk] dresses for the dancing school that I used to go to; 0:59:49 um and that's no doubt where the young the young kids perhaps pick up these these swear-words and find it's acceptable to eff and blind and be even be racist [ɹæɪsɪst] towards towards players [plæɪəz])

always (0:44:46 'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always [ɔ:wɪz] says 'poorly' "I feel poorly"))

<-day> (0:19:38 and particularly when I go down to Wales where where my father lives it's like steck... stepping back in time um OK admittedly he lives in a sort of little village uh where things can sort of be done tomorrow rather than yesterday [jɛstədi]; 1:06:25 used to go and do the shopping on Saturday [satdɪ] morning to the Co-Op¹ on on and you used to you used to, "you must remember those cheque numbers" for their for their for their divvies never never never forgotten)

PALM~START [ɑ: > ɑ:]

(0:00:19 I was born in Coventry uh on the ninth of March [mɑ:tʃ] 1956 well actually it was Keresley um it was Keresley Hospital; 0:19:38 and particularly when I go down to Wales where where my father [fɑ:ðə] lives it's like steck... stepping back in time um OK admittedly he lives in a sort of little village uh where things can sort of be done tomorrow rather [ɹɑ:ðə] than yesterday; 0:57:30 you don't need the words and

⁷ Alan consistently uses [ɛɪ]; David and Heather vary between [æɪ ~ ɛɪ].

you don't need what they're saying but I do think that we've you have to switch off and become blasé [bla:zɛɪ] really; 0:34:00 *and that was the uh I think uh the start* [sta:t] *of something special and that I was hooked from then then on;* 0:59:25 *it's something that that happens, isn't it, and you will never ever stop it because there's just so many people there and once the chants begin they begin and um people with that mentality because um I certainly wouldn't do it but people with that mentality if they once it starts* [sta:ts] *it starts* [sta:ts]; 1:02:54 *paradoxically and centuries ago in our history the Anglo-Sax... Saxons gave us some very descriptive words for all kinds of things and having got these rich descriptive words and they now tell us we can't* [ka:nʔ] *use them)*

THOUGHT [ɔ:]

(0:03:35 *and I did four years with Transport Command*⁸ *on um airborne operations as a mechanic engine mechanic and came out and uh with my gratuity from the Air Force bought* [bɔ:t] *um an insurance book did insurance for seven years;* 0:35:35 *um and then after the match you used to stand outside for an hour or more waiting for the players to come out with your autograph* [ɔ:təɡɹaf] *book which I've still got all* [ɔ:t] *my autograph* [ɔ:təɡɹaf] *books)*

alter, saucepan (0:14:35 *(it's difficult to comprehend as well that just two minutes up the road there's your your Bedworth accent) "saucepan"* [sɔ:spən]⁹ *(uh and and, yeah yeah, and um and twenty odd miles up the road there's the Birmingham accent which are very very distinctive);*

0:22:45 *I loved Coventry when I was growing up and I think now it's altered* [ɒtəd] *so much)*

GOAT [əʊ > ɔ:]¹⁰

(0:09:27 *Coventry has an accent of its own* [ɔ:n] *it it's peculiar to itself it's not Leicestershire it's not Bedworth even it and it's not it's certainly not Brummy;* 0:27:31 *the whole um stadium just sort of froze* [fɹəʊz] *for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going* [ɡəʊn] *on here?" and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn't it? (it did);* 0:36:00 *everywhere was sky-blue and you used to get all the sellers selling little badges with photos* [fəʊtəʊz] *of the players on;* 0:36:43 *I think those* [ðəʊz] *were three special years that they were so* [səʊ] *special and when they were promoted* [pɹəməʊtɪd] *and I don't* [dəʊnt] *think it's ever been like that again except the Cup Final*⁴ *obviously;* 1:22:25 *as you were saying, you know, [nɔ:] couple of mile down the road* [nɔ:] *(I know* [nəʊ] *) they're talking a different language, you know* [nɔ:]

go(ing to) (0:17:25 *as I said when I go* [ɡə] *down to Wales which is quite often three or four times a year um they do come out with this um uh sort of labelling of a Midlands accent;* 0:19:38 *and particularly when I go* [ɡə] *down to Wales where where my father lives it's like steck... stepping back in time um OK admittedly he lives in a sort of little village uh where things can sort of be done tomorrow rather than yesterday;* 0:26:33 *my club were at Wembley*⁵ *for the first time and I was going to* [ɡənə] *be there;* 1:14:09 *um they reckon I think it's about when you're seven years of age you are the finished item then so it's what you what you pick up from your parents what's good and bad in languages and uh your dialect um early doors it makes you the person you're going to* [ɡənə] *be)*

GOAL [ɔ:]

(0:27:31 *the whole* [hɔ:t] *um stadium just sort of froze for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going on here?" and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn't it? (it did);* 1:09:47 *we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole* [ɪəɔ:t] *for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)*

⁸ RAF Unit established 1943 to control all transport aircraft, renamed 'Air Support Command' 1967.

⁹ This pronunciation is consciously 'performed' in imitation of speakers from Bedworth.

¹⁰ David and Heather consistently use [əʊ]; Alan consistently uses [ɔ:].

GOOSE [u:]

(0:01:03 *I've been left what now just over three weeks so the honeymoon [hənimu:n] period is still with me; 0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used [ju:st] to make dresses for the dancing school [sku:t] that I used [ju:st] to go to [tu:]; 1:09:47 we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot [bu:t] a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)*

PRICE [aɪ > aɪ]

(0:05:03 *so what with my Wartime [wɔ:təɪm] um Association and my golf I keep pretty busy; 0:18:54 I think the city's got a lot more violent well than uh than what it was years ago and whether it's a sign [saɪn] of the times [taɪmz] the culture we we live in um drugs are widely [waɪdli] available um and drink alcohol abuse I think those are major factors; 0:59:49 um and that's no doubt where the young the young kids perhaps pick up these these swear-words and find [faɪnd] it's acceptable to eff and blind [blaɪnd] and be even be racist towards towards players)*

<-ight>¹¹ (0:43:49 *well we used to use the expression 'right [ɹeɪ?] glad')*

my (1:24:35 *um I'm Alan Hartley um geriatric born in Barrow-in-Furness and uh qualify for a button on my [mɪ] cap as a Coventrian)*

retire, violent (0:00:45 *I've just retired [ɹɪtaɪəd] um from the Police Service I was a Police Officer for thir... just over thirty years and uh at the moment I'm uh looking for another job; 0:18:54 I think the city's got a lot more violent [vaɪələnt] well than uh than what it was years ago and whether it's a sign of the times the culture we we live in um drugs are widely available um and drink alcohol abuse I think those are major factors)*

CHOICE [ɔɪ]

(0:01:15 *I'm only forty-nine so I need something to keep the the brain cells going so I don't I I will need another job at some time but uh I'm just enjoying [ɪndʒɔɪɪŋ] the the um fun at the moment; 0:33:20 I sat there and by half-time I just screamed and screamed uh I couldn't stand the noise [nɔɪz] so my dad took me really annoyed [ə'nɔɪd] took me home)*

MOUTH [aʊ]

(00:07:16 *the the best point up to this date is when we actually wrote the Cup Final⁴ song for Coventry City and going to Wembley⁵ and hearing the crowd [kɹɔʊd] sing the song was absolutely incredible; 0:20:37 and we had a front garden and a back garden and a bathroom inside the house [haʊs] instead of going down [daʊn] the yard with a candle)*

hour, our (0:10:21 *we don't talk like the real uh, "gradely lad" that the Lancastrians talk so we we again in Barrow-in-Furness we're a district of our own [ɑ:ɪ ɔʊn]; 0:21:02 I missed the sea because uh as a youngster we were brought up by the sea and all our [ɑ:] spare time we had no money in those days of course was spent on the beach; 0:35:35 um and then after the match you used to stand outside for an hour [aʊə] or more waiting for the players to come out with your autograph book which I've still got all my autograph books)*

NEAR [ɪ ~ ɪə]

(0:00:45 *I've just retired um from the Police Service I was a Police Officer for thir... just over thirty years [jɪ:z] and uh at the moment I'm uh looking for another job; 0:01:03 I've been left what now just over three weeks so the honeymoon period [pɪ:ɪəd] is still with me; 0:01:31 well for the last couple of years [jɪəz] I'd got an office job anyway; 00:07:16 the the best point up to this date is when we actually wrote the Cup Final⁴ song for Coventry City and going to Wembley⁵ and hearing [hɪ:ɪŋ] the crowd sing the song was absolutely incredible; 1:09:47 we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the*

¹¹ This pronunciation is consciously 'performed' in imitation of speakers from Barrow-in-Furness.

backside, “I’ll clip your ear-hole [ɪəɹɔʊt] for you” or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, [fɪəd] the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)

SQUARE [ɛɪ]

(0:03:35 and I did four years with Transport Command⁸ on um airborne [ɛɪbɔːn] operations as a mechanic engine mechanic and came out and uh with my gratuity from the Air Force [ɛɪfɔːs] bought um an insurance book did insurance for seven years; 1:14:09 um they reckon I think it’s about when you’re seven years of age you are the finished item then so it’s what you what you pick up from your parents [pɛɪənts] what’s good and bad in languages and uh your dialect um early doors it makes you the person you’re going to be)

NORTH~FORCE [ɔː]

(0:00:19 I was born [bɔːn] in Coventry uh on the ninth of March 1956 well actually it was Keresley um it was Keresley Hospital; 0:03:35 and I did four [fɔː] years with Transport Command⁸ [ˌtrɑːnsˌpɔːt kəˈmɑːnd] on um airborne [ɛɪbɔːn] operations as a mechanic engine mechanic and came out and uh with my gratuity from the Air Force [ɛɪfɔːs] bought um an insurance book did insurance for seven years; 0:05:03 so what with my Wartime [wɔːtaɪm] um Association and my golf I keep pretty busy)

CURE [ɔː]

(0:03:35 and I did four years with Transport Command⁸ on um airborne operations as a mechanic engine mechanic and came out and uh with my gratuity from the Air Force bought um an insurance [ɪnʃʊərəns] book did insurance [ɪnʃʊərəns] for seven years; 0:16:49 because you say you’re from the Midlands it’s automatically Birmingham and you think, “well, I’m sure [ɔː] we don’t speak anything like Birmingham people”; 0:44:46 ‘poorly’ [pɔːli] “proper poorly” [pɔːli] (they say um in Birmingham my husband always says ‘poorly’ [puəli] “I feel poorly”); 1:14:55 if you’re with a lot of people that talk sloppy everybody talks sloppy but when you talk sloppy and then you go to a better society people who are talking proper then it reflects on your [jɔː] poor [pɔː] speech and it becomes noticeable)

happy [i]

(0:00:19 I was born in Coventry [kɒvəntɪ] uh on the ninth of March 1956 well actually it was Keresley [kəːzli] um it was Keresley Hospital [kəːzli hɒspɪtɪ]; 0:05:03 so what with my Wartime um Association and my golf I keep pretty [pɪɪdi] busy [bɪzi]; 1:13:29 I notice that when I’m listening to songs and the song words I cannot stand it when singers drop their aitches and there’s some pretty [pɪɪti] big singers do actually [aktʃəli] drop their aitches and it really [ɪɪli] really [ɪɪli] irritates me)

letter~comma [ə > a]

(0:05:27 my mother [mæðə] was from Coventry and my father [fɑːðə] was actually born in Liverpool uh but moved to live in Leigh at an early age; 0:18:23 um we’ve got the the new complex in the city centre the um and the the new arena [əɪnə] that’s being built there’s a lot of um things that are going right for Coventry; 0:36:00 everywhere was sky-blue and you used to get all the sellers [sɛləz] selling little badges with photos of the players [plɛɪəz] on; 1:08:01 I think a lot of young people d... um have got a a a degree of arrogance about them now for whatever [wɒdevə] reason um they seem to think that um the world owes them a favour [fæɪvə] and that they’re being hardly done by)

horses [ɪ]

(0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used to make dresses [dɪɛsɪz] for the dancing school that I used to go to; 0:36:00 everywhere was sky-blue and you used to get all the sellers selling little badges [badʒɪz] with photos of the players on)

started [ɪ]

(0:36:43 I think those were three special years that they were so special and when they were promoted [pɹəməʊtɪd] and I don’t think it’s ever been like that again except the Cup Final⁴ obviously; 1:09:47 we

had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, “I’ll clip your ear-hole for you” or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed [hɛvɪhændɪd] parent)

mornɪŋ [ɪ]

(0:10:35 in talking to people I can say, “you’re from Barrow” although we’ve got nothing [nʊθɪŋ] and the same with Coventry you’ve got nothing [nʊθɪŋ] as far as accent is concerned only mannerisms; 0:16:49 because you say you’re from the Midlands it’s automatically Birmingham and you think, “well, I’m sure we don’t speak anything [ɛnɪθɪŋk] like Birmingham people”; 0:31:57 but I said to a goalkeeper this week I said, “how would you feel if you got on the football field and suddenly you saw five forwards lining [laɪnɪŋ] up against you?”)

ZERO RHOTICITY

PLOSIVES

T

frequent word final T-glottaling (e.g. 0:06:05 *my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used to make dresses for the dancing school that [ðəʔ] I used to go to;* 0:18:23 *um we’ve got the the new complex in the city centre the um and the the new arena that’s being built [bɪʊʔ] there’s a lot of um things that are going right [ɹaɪʔ] for Coventry;* 0:18:54 *I think the city’s got [gʊʔ] a lot [lʊʔ] more violent well than uh than what it [ɪʔ] was years ago and whether it’s a sign of the times the culture we we live in um drugs are widely available um and drink alcohol abuse I think those are major factors;* 0:27:31 *the whole um stadium just sort of froze for a minute [mɪnɪʔ] as if to say, “what the hell’s going on here?” and then uh (it was stunning, wasn’t it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn’t it? (it did);* 1:03:53 *I’ve got [gʊʔ] a ‘dude’ ‘trendy dude’)*

word medial & syllable initial T-glottaling (0:09:27 *Coventry has an accent of its own it it’s peculiar to itself it’s not Leicestershire it’s not Bedworth even it and it’s not it’s certainly [səːʔŋli] not Brummy;* 0:26:18 *and the second best day was getting [gɛʔɪŋ] to Wembley⁵ um when we we beat Leeds in the semi-final;* 1:13:01 *and there was two boys and myself and I’ll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and ‘cause I didn’t know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, “thirty-three feathers” and we had to go through all that but I’ve never forgotten [fəʒʊʔŋ] it it’s a lesson I’ve never forgotten [fəʒʊʔŋ])*

T-tapping (0:31:57 *but I [bɛr aɪ] said to a goalkeeper this week I said, “how would you feel if you got on the football field and suddenly you saw five forwards lining up against you?”;* 0:57:30 *you don’t need the words and you don’t need what they’re saying but I [bɛr aɪ] do think that we’ve you have to switch off and become blasé really;* 1:10:04 *if you got in trouble with either the police or at school when you got home you got it [gʊr ɪt] again off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline)*

frequent T-voicing (e.g. 0:01:15 *I’m only forty-nine [fɔːdɪnɪŋ] so I need something to keep the the brain cells going so I don’t I I will need another job at some time but uh I’m just enjoying the the um fun at the moment;* 0:01:31 *well for the last couple of years I’d got [gʊd] an office job anyway;* 0:05:03 *so what with my Wartime um Association and my golf I keep pretty [pɹɪdi] busy;* 0:31:57 *but I said to a goalkeeper this week I said, “how would you feel if you got [gʊd] on the football field and suddenly you saw five forwards lining up against you?”;* 0:59:07 *I’m uncomfortable uh in company where uh there is ladies and people are using those sort [sɔːd] of words;* 1:10:04 *if you got [gʊd] in trouble with either the police or at school when you got home you got it again off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline;*

1:12:01 *they've let the genie out of the bottle and now they're trying to put [pʊd] it back in again and they won't get [gɛd] it back in again)*

NASALS

NG

frequent velar nasal plus (e.g. 0:07:16 *the the best point up to this date is when we actually wrote the Cup Final⁴ song for Coventry City and going to Wembley⁵ and hearing the crowd sing [sɪŋg] the song was absolutely incredible; 0:16:49 because you say you're from the Midlands it's automatically Birmingham [bə:mɪŋghʊm] and you think, "well, I'm sure we don't speak anything like Birmingham [bə:mɪŋgəm] people"; 0:59:07 I'm uncomfortable uh in company where uh there is ladies and people are using [ju:zɪŋg] those sort of words; 1:12:29 'TH' is a particularly thing [θɪŋg] of mine it's the 'TH' and um it's 'thing', [fɪŋg] isn't it, and 'thing' [fɪŋg]; 1:13:01 and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong [ʊθŋg] but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten; 1:13:29 I notice that when I'm listening to songs and the song words I cannot stand it when singers [sɪŋgəz] drop their aitches and there's some pretty big singers [sɪŋgəz] do actually drop their aitches and it really really irritates me)*

frequent NG-fronting (e.g. 0:01:15 *I'm only forty-nine so I need something to keep the the brain cells going so I don't I I will need another job at some time but uh I'm just enjoying [ɪndʒɔɪɪŋ] the the um fun at the moment; 0:06:05 my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used to make dresses for the dancing [dɑnsɪŋ] school that I used to go to; 0:34:22 because only being [bi:ɪŋ] little I wouldn't have seen very much so I used to stand there from one o'clock waiting [weɪtɪŋ] watching [wɒtʃɪŋ] the ground fill up; 0:37:54 perhaps um I don't think everybody'll be screaming [skɪ:ɪmɪŋ] out at the end of the game I think they'll be hanging [ɑŋɪŋ] around for it just to savour that last bit of um emotion; 1:13:29 I notice that when I'm listening [lɪsɪŋ] to songs and the song words I cannot stand it when singers drop their aitches and there's some pretty big singers do actually drop their aitches and it really really irritates me)*

<-thing> with NK (0:16:49 *because you say you're from the Midlands it's automatically Birmingham and you think, "well, I'm sure we don't speak anything [ɛnɪθɪŋk] like Birmingham people"; 0:24:39 the social climate, isn't it, that um has affected everything [ɛvɪθɪŋk] really; 0:34:00 and that was the uh I think uh the start of something [səmθɪŋk] special and that I was hooked from then then on)*

N

frequent syllabic N with nasal release (e.g. 0:20:37 *and we had a front garden [gɑ:dŋ] and a back garden [gɑ:dŋ] and a bathroom inside the house instead of going down the yard with a candle; 0:27:31 the whole um stadium just sort of froze for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going on here?" and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn't [dɪdŋ] it? (it did); 0:27:41 all of a sudden [sʊdŋ] Ernie Hunt¹² comes up and whacks it into the top right-hand corner and it was amazing; 0:31:57 but I said to a goalkeeper this week I said, "how would you feel if you got on the football field and suddenly [sʊdŋli] you saw five forwards lining up against you?"; 0:33:20 I sat there and by half-time I just screamed and screamed uh I couldn't [kədŋt] stand the noise so my dad took me really annoyed took me home; 0:34:22 because only being little I wouldn't [wʊdŋ] have seen very much so I used to stand there from one o'clock waiting watching the ground fill up; 0:59:25 it's something that that happens, isn't it, and you will never ever stop it because there's just so many people there and*

¹² Roger Patrick 'Ernie' Hunt (b. 1947) English professional footballer who played for Coventry City 1968-1973, scorer of innovative free kick versus Everton at Highfield Road October 3rd 1970.

once the chants begin they begin and um people with that mentality because um I certainly wouldn't [wʊdn̩t] do it but people with that mentality if they once it starts it starts; 1:13:01 and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't [dɪdn̩t] know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten)

syllabic N with epenthetic schwa (0:17:25 as I said when I go down to Wales which is quite often [ɒftən] three or four times a year um they do come out with this um uh sort of labelling of a Midlands accent; 0:27:41 and quite often [ɒftən] I play that video)

FRICATIVES

H

H-dropping (0:27:31 the whole um stadium just sort of froze for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going on here?" [ɪə] and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn't it? (it did); 0:27:41 all of a sudden Ernie Hunt¹² [ʊn?] comes up and whacks it into the top right-hand corner and it was amazing; 1:09:47 we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole [ɪəɹɔʊt] for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)

hypercorrect H (1:12:29 'TH' [tɪ:hɛɪtʃ] is a particularly thing of mine it's the 'TH' [tɪ:hɛɪtʃ] and um it's 'thing', isn't it, and 'thing'; 1:13:29 I notice that when I'm listening to songs and the song words I cannot stand it when singers drop their aitches [hɛɪtʃɪz] and there's some pretty big singers do actually drop their aitches [hɛɪtʃɪz] and it really really irritates me)

TH

TH-fronting¹³ (0:14:35 it's difficult to comprehend as well that just two minutes up the road there's your your Bedworth [bɛdʊf] accent ("saucepan") uh and and, yeah yeah, and um and twenty odd miles up the road there's the Birmingham accent which are very very distinctive; 1:12:29 'TH' is a particularly thing of mine it's the 'TH' and um it's 'thing', [fɪŋg] isn't it, and 'thing' [fɪŋg])

LIQUIDS

R¹⁴

approximant R (0:07:16 the the best point up to this date is when we actually wrote [ɹəʊt] the Cup Final⁴ song for Coventry City [kɒvəntɪ sɪti] and going to Wembley⁵ and hearing [hɪ:ɹɪŋ] the crowd [kɹaʊd] sing the song was absolutely incredible [ɪŋkɹɛdəbɫ]; 0:33:10 I I've sti... I can still remember it [ɹɪmɛmbəɹ ɪt] he sat me on this little cushion um thing and it was like concrete [kɒŋkɹɪ:t] I think it seemed to me at that age; 1:14:09 um they reckon [ɹɛkən] I think it's about when you're seven years of age you are the finished item then so it's what you what you pick up from your parents [pɛɹɹənts] what's good and bad in languages and uh your dialect um early doors it makes you the person you're going to be)

R-tapping (1:02:54 paradoxically [pəɹədɒksɪkli] and centuries ago in our history the Anglo-Sax... Saxons gave us some very [vɛɹɪ] descriptive words for all kinds of things and having got these rich descriptive words and they now tell us we can't use them; 1:09:47 we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole [jɛɹ ɪəɹɔʊt] for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)

¹³ This pronunciation is consciously 'performed' in imitation of young speakers locally.

¹⁴ David and Heather consistently use [ɹ]; Alan generally uses [ɹ] and very occasionally [r].

L

clear onset L (e.g. 0:36:00 *everywhere was sky-blue* [skaɪblu:] and you used to get all the sellers [sɛləz] selling [sɛlɪŋ] little [lɪt̚] badges with photos of the players [plɛɪəz] on; 0:31:57 *but I said to a goalkeeper this week I said, “how would you feel if you got on the football field and suddenly [sʊdn̩li] you saw five forwards lining [laɪnɪŋ] up against you?”*)

dark coda L (e.g. 0:06:05 *my mother uh she was um a dress-maker she used to make dresses for the dancing school [sku:t̚] that I used to go to; 0:31:57 but I said to a goalkeeper [gɔʊtki:pə] this week I said, “how would you feel [fi:t̚] if you got on the football field [fʊtbɔ:t̚ fi:t̚d] and suddenly you saw five forwards lining up against you?”; 0:33:10 *I I’ve sti... I can still [stɪt̚] remember it he sat me on this little [lɪt̚] cushion um thing and it was like concrete I think it seemed to me at that age*)*

L-vocalisation (0:00:32 *um I’ve lived in Coventry all my life my father hails [hæɪʊz] from Wales [wæɪʊz] um and my mother is a is a Coventrian; 0:18:23 um we’ve got the the new complex in the city centre the um and the the new arena that’s being built [bɪʊʔ] there’s a lot of um things that are going right for Coventry*)

syllabic L with lateral release (0:00:19 *I was born in Coventry uh on the ninth of March 1956 well actually it was Keresley um it was Keresley Hospital [kə:zli hɒspɪt̚]; 0:16:49 because you say you’re from the Midlands [mɪd̚t̚əndz] it’s automatically Birmingham and you think, “well, I’m sure we don’t speak anything like Birmingham people”; 0:20:37 and we had a front garden and a back garden and a bathroom inside the house instead of going down the yard with a candle [kand̚t̚]; 0:33:10 *I I’ve sti... I can still remember it he sat me on this little [lɪt̚] cushion um thing and it was like concrete I think it seemed to me at that age; 0:36:00 everywhere was sky-blue and you used to get all the sellers selling little [lɪt̚] badges with photos of the players on; 1:01:03 all you did was wave your rattle [ɹat̚] and (I know I used to hit everybody with it, mind you) and sing the Sky Blue song¹⁵ and that was it*)*

GLIDES**J**

yod dropping with N, D (0:09:19 *I I come from an area and I’ve come to an area of neutral [nu:t̚jət̚] accents; 0:18:23 um we’ve got the the new [nu:] complex in the city centre the um and the the new [nu:] arena that’s being built there’s a lot of um things that are going right for Coventry; 1:03:53 I’ve got a ‘dude’ [du:d] ‘trendy dude’ [du:d]; 1:20:38 it never used to be the case that when you listened to the news [nu:z] that it they were always really well spoken um and on the television but now it it doesn’t matter there are no barriers which in a way is good because, you know, at least it opens it out but you would never have had that, would you, years ago (no) the it would’ve been, you know, the plum-in-the-mouth and that was it*)

yod coalescence (0:03:35 *and I did four years with Transport Command⁸ on um airborne operations as a mechanic engine mechanic and came out and uh with my gratuity [græt̚ʃu:ət̚i] from the Air Force bought um an insurance book did insurance for seven years*)

ELISION**prepositions**

of reduction (0:01:31 *well for the last couple of [ə] years I’d got an office job anyway; 0:37:54 perhaps um I don’t think everybody’ll be screaming out at the end of [ə] the game I think they’ll be hanging*)

¹⁵ ‘Sky Blues’, nickname of Coventry City FC, English professional football club founded in 1883; club anthem ‘Let’s All Sing Together’ sung to tune of ‘Eton Boating Song’ – see e.g. Adrian Thrills’ *You’re Not Singing Anymore* (1998, p.87).

around for it just to savour that last bit of um emotion; 0:59:07 I'm uncomfortable uh in company where uh there is ladies and people are using those sort of [ə] words; 1:22:25 as you were saying, you know, couple of [ə] mile down the road (I know) they're talking a different language, you know)

simplification

word final consonant cluster reduction (0:27:31 the whole um stadium just sort of froze for a minute as if to say, "what the hell's going on here?" and then uh (it was stunning, wasn't it?) it was, yeah, yeah, it took everybody by surprise I think, didn't [dɪdɪ] it? (it did); 0:34:22 because only being little I wouldn't [wʊdɪ] have seen very much so I used to stand there from one o'clock waiting watching the ground fill up; 0:59:25 it's something that that happens, isn't [ɪzən] it, and you will never ever stop it because there's just so many people there and once the chants begin they begin and um people with that mentality because um I certainly wouldn't do it but people with that mentality if they once it starts it starts; 1:12:29 'TH' is a particularly thing of mine it's the 'TH' and um it's 'thing', isn't [ɪzən] it, and 'thing')

word medial consonant cluster reduction (0:14:35 it's difficult to comprehend as well that just two minutes up the road there's your your Bedworth accent ("saucepan") uh and and, yeah yeah, and um and twenty [twɛni] odd miles up the road there's the Birmingham accent which are very very distinctive)

syllable deletion (0:37:54 perhaps [pɪaps] um I don't think everybody'll be screaming out at the end of the game I think they'll be hanging around for it just to savour that last bit of um emotion; 0:58:34 when I was younger the wor... that the word 'bloody' was perhaps [pɪaps] uh a severe swear-word; 1:06:25 used to go and do the shopping on Saturday [satɪ] morning to the Co-Op¹ on on and you used to you used to, "you must remember those cheque numbers" for their for their for their divvies never never never forgotten)

it reduction (0:09:56 and yet you you can talk to a person and detect him as a Coventry person for the little mannerisms they say like um "bus" instead of a 'bus' "it's nice [snaɪs] now")

L-deletion (0:01:15 I'm only [əʊni] forty-nine so I need something to keep the the brain cells going so I don't I I will need another job at some time but uh I'm just enjoying the the um fun at the moment; 0:34:22 because only [əʊni] being little I wouldn't have seen very much so I used to stand there from one o'clock waiting watching the ground fill up; 0:44:46 'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always [ɔ:wɪz] says 'poorly' "I feel poorly"))

TH-deletion with them (0:01:37 having only been gone three three weeks it it is it does seem seems strange knowing that I'll never ever go back um and work with my colleagues that I worked with well sometimes a lot of them [əm] for thirty years; 0:54:51 so I think uh if they can be as natural as they can then that helps them [əm])

w-deletion (0:09:27 Coventry has an accent of its own it it's peculiar to itself it's not Leicestershire it's not Bedworth [bɛdəθ] even it and it's not it's certainly not Brummy; 0:14:35 it's difficult to comprehend as well that just two minutes up the road there's your your Bedworth [bɛdɜf]⁹ accent ("saucepan") uh and and, yeah yeah, and um and twenty odd miles up the road there's the Birmingham accent which are very very distinctive; 1:23:46 a Bedworth [bɛdəθ] man comes from Bedworth [bɛdəθ] (yeah) um in Coventry we refer to them as 'Bedworths' [bɛdwəθs] (that's right) and we use the 'W')

LIAISON

frequent linking R (e.g. 0:00:45 I've just retired um from the Police Service I was a Police Officer for thir... just over thirty years and uh at the moment I'm uh looking for another [fə ənʊðə] job; 0:10:21 we don't talk like the real uh, "gradely lad" that the Lancastrians talk so we we again in Barrow-in-Furness we're a [wɪ:ə ə] district of our own [a:ɪ ɔʊn]; 0:33:10 I I've sti... I can still remember it [ɪmɛmbəɪ it] he

sat me on this little cushion um thing and it was like concrete I think it seemed to me at that age; 0:37:12 it's progress, isn't it, um if it makes if it gives the club a bigger image [bɪgəɪ ɪmɪdʒ] um uh and most of the clubs these days are moving to bigger stadiums; 1:09:47 we had the courts we had the policeman with a heavy boot a kick up the backside, "I'll clip your ear-hole [jər ɪəɪnɔʊt] for you" or half a dollar fine or the birch which was feared, the birch, and then we had the heavy-handed parent)

zero linking R (0:01:37 *having only been gone three three weeks it is it does seem seems strange knowing that I'll never ever [nɛvə ɛvə] go back um and work with my colleagues that I worked with well sometimes a lot of them for thirty years; 0:35:35 um and then after the match you used to stand outside for an hour or [fə ən aʊə ɔː] more waiting for the players to come out with your autograph [jə ɔːtəɡɹaf] book which I've still got all my autograph books)*

intrusive R (0:35:10 *and so he actually let us he saw us [sɔːɪ əs] outside and let us come in and sit on the wall)*

+/- VOICE

bus (0:09:56 *and yet you you can talk to a person and detect him as a Coventry person for the little mannerisms they say like um "bus" [bʊz] instead of a 'bus' [bʌs] "it's nice now"*)

WEAK-STRONG CONTRAST

word initial vowel strengthening¹⁶ (0:02:17 *uh well my name is Alan Hartley I was born in a place called Barrow-in-Furness um which is now in Cumbria which originally was in Lancashire so I still consider [kɒnsɪdə] myself a Lancastrian; 0:10:35 in talking to people I can say, "you're from Barrow" although we've got nothing and the same with Coventry you've got nothing as far as accent is concerned [kɒnsəːnd] only mannerisms)*

word final vowel strengthening (0:14:35 *it's difficult to comprehend as well that just two minutes up the road there's your your Bedworth [bedʊf]⁹ accent ("saucepan") uh and and, yeah yeah, and um and twenty odd miles up the road there's the Birmingham accent which are very very distinctive; 0:16:49 because you say you're from the Midlands it's automatically Birmingham [bəːmɪŋghʊm] and you think, "well, I'm sure we don't speak anything like Birmingham people")*

vowel strengthening – other (0:02:17 *uh well my name is Alan Hartley I was born in a place called Barrow-in-Furness um which is now in Cumbria which originally was in Lancashire [lənkiʃə] so I still consider myself a Lancastrian)*

LEXICALLY SPECIFIC VARIATION

again(st) (0:10:21 *we don't talk like the real uh, "gradely lad" that the Lancastrians talk so we we again [əgeɪn] in Barrow-in-Furness we're a district of our own; 0:31:57 but I said to a goalkeeper this week I said, "how would you feel if you got on the football field and suddenly you saw five forwards lining up against [əgeɪnst] you?"*; 0:36:43 *I think those were three special years that they were so special and when they were promoted and I don't think it's ever been like that again [əgeɪn] except the Cup Final⁴ obviously; 1:10:04 if you got in trouble with either the police or at school when you got home you got it again [əgeɪn] off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline; 1:12:01 they've let the genie out of the bottle and now they're trying to put it back in again [əgeɪn] and they won't get it back in again [əgeɪn])*

because (0:02:31 *my father was a shipwright in Barrow-in-Furness building ships and then because [bɪkɒs] the um unemployment was rife we came to Coventry in 1936; 0:59:25 it's something that that*

¹⁶ Both tokens supplied by Alan.

happens, isn't it, and you will never ever stop it because [bɪkəz] there's just so many people there and once the chants begin they begin and um people with that mentality because [bɪkəz] um I certainly wouldn't do it but people with that mentality if they once it starts it starts)

either (1:10:04 *if you got in trouble with either [ɛɪðə] the police or at school when you got home you got it again off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline)*

often (0:17:25 *as I said when I go down to Wales which is quite often [ɒftən] three or four times a year um they do come out with this um uh sort of labelling of a Midlands accent; 0:27:41 and quite often [ɒftən] I play that video)*

says (0:44:46 *'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always says [sɛz] 'poorly' "I feel poorly")*)

GRAMMAR

DETERMINERS

zero indefinite article (1:22:25 *as you were saying, you know, _ couple of mile down the road (I know) they're talking a different language, you know)*

NOUNS

zero plural (1:22:25 *as you were saying, you know, couple of mile down the road (I know) they're talking a different language, you know)*

PRONOUNS

possessive me (1:24:35 *um I'm Alan Hartley um geriatric born in Barrow-in-Furness and uh qualify for a button on me cap as a Coventrian)*

unbound reflexive (1:13:01 *and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten)*

relative as (1:07:010 *"him as has a nose on his face")*

relative that (1:14:55 *if you're with a lot of people that talk sloppy everybody talks sloppy but when you talk sloppy and then you go to a better society people who are talking proper then it reflects on your poor speech and it becomes noticeable)*

VERBS

invariant there is~was (0:18:23 *um we've got the the new complex in the city centre the um and the the new arena that's being built there's a lot of um things that are going right for Coventry; 0:40:27 and he said, "there's only four of us on top money of eighteen quid a week that's all we got"; 0:59:07 I'm uncomfortable uh in company where uh there is ladies and people are using those sort of words; 1:10:04 if you got in trouble with either the police or at school when you got home you got it again off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline; 1:13:01 and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten; 1:13:29 I notice that when I'm listening to songs and*

the song words I cannot stand it when singers drop their aitches and there's some pretty big singers do actually drop their aitches and it really really irritates me)

historic present (0:27:41 *all of a sudden Ernie Hunt¹² comes up and whacks it into the top right-hand corner and it was amazing*)

PREPOSITIONS

substitution

off [= from] (1:10:04 *if you got in trouble with either the police or at school when you got home you got it again off your off your dad so there was three distinct points of discipline*)

ADVERBS

unmarked manner adverb (0:44:46 'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always says 'poorly' "I feel poorly"); 1:14:55 *if you're with a lot of people that talk sloppy everybody talks sloppy but when you talk sloppy and then you go to a better society people who are talking proper then it reflects on your poor speech and it becomes noticeable*)

non-standard adverb marker (1:08:01 *I think a lot of young people d... um have got a a a degree of arrogance about them now for whatever reason um they seem to think that um the world owes them a favour and that they're being hardly done by*)

DISCOURSE

utterance internal like (1:13:01 *and there was two boys and myself and I'll never forget that we st... I was most embarrassed stood up the corner and 'cause I didn't know I was saying it wrong but then he said, like, "thirty-three feathers" and we had to go through all that but I've never forgotten it it's a lesson I've never forgotten*)

utterance final mind (you) (1:01:03 *(all you did was wave your rattle and) I know I used to hit everybody with it, mind you (and sing the Sky Blue song¹⁵ and that was it); 1:19:33 and he talks in this way he puts it on, mind, but he does these after-dinner speeches*)

intensifier proper (0:44:46 'poorly' "proper poorly" (they say um in Birmingham my husband always says 'poorly' "I feel poorly"))

intensifier right (0:43:49 *well we used to use the expression 'right glad'*)

otiose what (0:18:54 *I think the city's got a lot more violent well than uh than what it was years ago and whether it's a sign of the times the culture we we live in um drugs are widely available um and drink alcohol abuse I think those are major factors*)

© Robinson, Herring, Gilbert

Voices of the UK, 2009-2012

A British Library project funded by The Leverhulme Trust