

Title:

Keresley, Warwickshire

Shelfmark:

C1190/01/04

Recording date:

29.11.2004

Speakers:

Black, Margaret, b. 1938 Glasgow; female; housewife (father painter and decorator; mother machinist)
 Haley, Wal, b. 1932 Coventry; male; retired chartered engineer (father soldier; mother housewife)
 Mather, Ethel, b. 1922 Darlington; female; housewife (father coal merchant; mother housewife)
 Robson, Matt, b. 1920 Blyth, Northumberland; male; retired (father miner; mother housewife)

All four interviewees live in a residential care home for former miners in Keresley.

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 Dictionary of the Scots Language (online edition)
- see Linguistic Atlas of Scotland (1975-1986)
- △ 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	<i>happy; over [aʊə] the moon; glad ("Scottish")</i>
tired	<i>nadgered¹; knackered; tired; worn out; sleepy</i>
unwell	<i>poorly ("proper poorly"); ill; sick (pronounced [sik] in Scotland)</i>
hot	<i>hot ("red [ɹi:d] hot" used in North East of extreme heat); stifling (of extremely hot weather); boiling</i>

¹ *Urban Dictionary* (online) records 'nadgered' in sense of 'broken, worn out' but not in this sense.

cold	<i>cold</i> (of weather, thought to be spelt ‘cad’ [ka:d] in North East)
annoyed	<i>mad; angry; vexed</i> (used in north, “Geordie”)
throw	<i>toss; pitch; throw; fling; hoy</i> ^Δ (used in past of e.g. cricket ball, “hoy it, man”)
play truant	<i>the dolly</i> ^Δ (“play the dolly”); <i>wag</i> (“play the wag”); <i>plunk</i> (“plunk school”); <i>wagged off school</i>
sleep	<i>gan</i> [◊] for a <i>snooze</i> ; <i>kip</i> (of afternoon sleep, “I’m ganning to bed for a kip”); <i>sleep</i>
play a game	<i>play</i> (“are you ganning out to play?”)
hit hard	<i>wallop; clout; batter; give him a smack; smack him</i>
clothes	<i>claes</i> (“northern”); <i>suit; clothes; clobber</i>
trousers	<i>trews; troosers</i> [†] ; <i>pants; togs</i>
child’s shoe	<i>sand-shoes; sannies</i> ^Δ ; <i>plimsolls</i> (used in Army); <i>pumps</i> (used in Coventry); <i>trainers</i> (suggested by interviewer, modern, not used in past)
mother	“ <i>me best pal</i> ”; <i>mother, ma</i> (used as adult); <i>mammy</i> (used as young child); <i>mam</i> (used as child, “she’s run away with a black man” ² common response in past to “where’s me mam?”)
gmother	<i>ganny</i> [◊] ; <i>gran; granny</i> (preferred to “nan or nana” by speaker and used by speaker’s grandchildren); <i>grandma</i>
m partner	<i>hubby; my man; my husband; the old</i> [a:d] <i>man</i> (old)
friend	<i>mucker; mate</i> (“me mate”); <i>pal</i>
gfather	<i>grand-da</i> [◊] ; <i>grandad</i>
forgot name	<i>thingmejig</i> [◊] ; <i>thingummyjig</i> ^Δ ; <i>you-know-who</i> [jə nɑ: wi:]; <i>thingmebob</i> [◊] (“you know [nɑ:] I who [wi:] I mean thingmebob”); “you know what I mean”
kit of tools	not discussed
trendy	<i>tart</i> (of female); <i>flash; show-off; flashy</i>
f partner	<i>the old</i> [a:d] <i>wife</i> (old); <i>pet, hinny</i> [◊] (used frequently as term of endearment, “mind how you go, hinny”); <i>hen</i> (used as term of endearment)
baby	<i>bairn</i> (used in North East and Scotland, understood locally); <i>wean</i> (thought to be spelt ‘wain’, still used to daughter); <i>baby; babby</i> [◊] (used locally); <i>the kid</i>
rain heavily	<i>pouring; bucketing down</i> ^{†3} ; <i>raining cats and dogs; cats and dogs</i>
toilet	<i>netty</i> (of outside toilet); <i>toilet; lavatory; the bog; the lav; lavvy</i> (used in Glasgow)
walkway	<i>alley; path; gully</i> [◊] ; <i>entry</i>
long seat	<i>sofa</i> (“posh name”); <i>three-piece suite; couch; settee; bed-settee</i> (of seat that converts into bed)
run water	<i>brook; stream; burn</i>
main room	<i>front room</i> (of room reserved for special occasions); <i>living room; lounge</i> (“posh”); <i>back room, kitchen, back kitchen</i> (of room used every day); <i>scullery</i> (used in Scotland of ‘kitchen’)
rain lightly	<i>drizzle; it’s spitting; spitting on</i>
rich	<i>well off</i> [wɪəʔ ɒf, wɛʔ ɒf, wɛʔ əf]; <i>loaded; loads of money</i> (heard used by young speakers)

² This exchange is included in list of common retorts to children’s persistent questions in J.D.A Widdowson’s ‘Lincolnshire Traditional Sayings and Proverbial Expressions’ in N. Field & A. White (eds.) *A Prospect of Lincolnshire* (1984).

³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online edition) records ‘doun’ as Scots equivalent of English ‘down’.

left-handed	<i>cuddy</i> ^o (“ <i>a left-handed cuddy</i> ”, ‘ <i>cuddy</i> ’ also used in North East to mean ‘horse’); <i>a cowey</i> *; <i>a lefty</i> (of e.g. left-handed boxer); <i>corrie fisted</i> [□]
unattractive	<i>dowdy</i> ; <i>ugly</i> ; <i>not good-looking</i> (“ <i>not very good-looking</i> ”)
lack money	<i>skint</i> ; <i>got nae</i> ^o <i>money</i> ; <i>got nowt</i>
drunk	<i>paraletic</i> [△] (of being very drunk); <i>well-gone</i> [△] ; <i>drunk</i> ; <i>sozzled</i> ; <i>steaming</i> [△] (used to Scottish family); <i>incapable</i>
pregnant	<i>in the pudding club</i> , <i>in the club</i> (used in past); <i>bun in the oven</i> ; <i>up the stick</i> ; <i>pregnant</i> (“ <i>posh</i> ”)
attractive	<i>bonny</i> (of female, “ <i>bonny baby/bairn/lass</i> ”); <i>beautiful</i> ; <i>canny lad</i> ; <i>pretty</i> ; <i>good-looking</i>
insane	<i>mad</i> ; <i>crackers</i> ; <i>nutter</i> ; <i>nutty</i>
moody	<i>huffy</i> (“ <i>she’s in a huff</i> ”); <i>sulky</i> ; <i>moody</i>
bread roll	<i>batch</i> (common in Coventry); <i>cob</i> (heard in Nottingham); <i>bun</i> ; <i>roll</i>

© Robinson, Herring, Gilbert

Voices of the UK, 2009-2012

A British Library project funded by The Leverhulme Trust