

**Title:**

Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/08/02

**Recording date:**

25.11.2004

**Speakers:**

Constable, David, b. 1964; male; landlord

Humm, Steven, b. 1964; male; performing arts teacher

Jones, Mark, b. 1962 Leeds; male; bloodstock sales manager

Khan, Tiger, b. 1977; male

The interviewees are the landlord and regular customers of the Bird in Hand pub in Cambridge.

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 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

<b>pleased</b>	<i>fabulous</i> <sup>△</sup> (used frequently as term of approval pronounced “ <i>fabulous</i> ” [fabjəlu:s] <sup>1</sup> ); <i>wicked</i> (used frequently by young speakers as term of approval); <i>over the moon</i> ; <i>marvellous</i> (pronounced “ <i>marvellous</i> ” [mɑ:vəlu:s]), <i>awesome</i> (used as term of approval)
<b>tired</b>	<i>knackered</i> (pronounced “ <i>knackered</i> ” [nakəd, kənakəd])
<b>unwell</b>	<i>dying</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>sick</i> ; <i>really ill</i> ; “ <i>I feel a little unwell today</i> ”, <i>slightly under the weather</i> , “ <i>mother’s having one of her heads</i> ” <sup>◇</sup> (suggested jokingly)
<b>hot</b>	<i>hot</i> ; <i>ever so warm</i> ; <i>roasting</i> ; <i>boiling</i> ; <i>sweltered</i>
<b>cold</b>	<i>freezing</i> ; <i>cold</i> (not used)
<b>annoyed</b>	<i>in a mood</i> ; <i>pissed off</i> ; <i>fucked off</i> ; <i>really pissed off</i> ; <i>really peeved</i> (polite)

<sup>1</sup> Paul Baker’s *Fantabulosa: A Dictionary of Polari and Gay Slang* (2002) includes ‘fab’ [ferb] and ‘fabulosa’ [fabju:ləʊsə] as typical of Polari but not this pronunciation.

<b>throw</b>	<i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chuck up</i> ” also used for ‘to vomit’)
<b>play truant</b>	<i>skive off; skive</i>
<b>sleep</b>	<i>kip; snooze; sleep; going to bed; power nap, disco nap</i> <sup>♦</sup> (of sleep before going out); <i>go to bed; nodded off; pass out</i> <sup>◊</sup> (“ <i>pass out come round</i> ”); <i>nod off</i>
<b>play a game</b>	<i>laking</i> (“ <i>are you laking today?</i> ” used as child in Yorkshire of e.g. board game, “ <i>are you laking out?</i> ” used as child in Yorkshire of ‘playing out’, “ <i>do you wanna lake cards?</i> ” still used in Yorkshire of e.g. playing cards in pub)
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>punch; twat</i> <sup>△</sup> (“ <i>I twatted him</i> ”)
<b>clothes</b>	<i>me fashions</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>attire; kit</i>
<b>trousers</b>	<i>trousers; pants</i>
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>pumps; plimsoll</i>
<b>mother</b>	<i>mum</i>
<b>gmother</b>	<i>nana; gran</i>
<b>m partner</b>	“ <i>lucky</i> ” <sup>△</sup> , “ <i>unfaithful cheating conniving arsehole wanker</i> ” <sup>△</sup> , “ <i>not rich enough</i> ” <sup>△</sup> , “ <i>twat</i> ” <sup>△</sup> , “ <i>divorced</i> ” <sup>△</sup> , “ <i>still living at home with his mother</i> ” <sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>boyfriend; night shag</i> <sup>△2</sup> (“ <i>till dawn do us part</i> ”)
<b>friend</b>	<i>quick shag</i> <sup>△1</sup> ; <i>sex partner</i> <sup>♦1</sup> ; <i>friend; mate</i> (“ <i>are you all right, mate</i> ”), <i>love</i> (“ <i>hello, love</i> ”), <i>babe</i> (used as form of address)
<b>gfather</b>	<i>grandad</i>
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>love</i> (“ <i>all right, love</i> ”), <i>babe, mate, sweetheart</i> (to person); <i>thing</i> (of object)
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-kit; bondage box</i> <sup>△</sup> , <i>fun bag</i> <sup>♦</sup> (i.e. “ <i>dildos handcuffs whips</i> ” suggested jokingly); <i>tool-box</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>unemployed</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>trollop; chav</i> (very current, considered offensive); <i>trailer trash</i>
<b>f partner</b>	<i>fag hag</i> <sup>△</sup>
<b>baby</b>	<i>sprog; baby</i>
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>pissing it down; raining</i> ; “ <i>there is a small amount of precipitation occurring outside</i> ” (suggested jokingly); <i>piss down</i>
<b>toilet</b>	<i>cottage</i> (Polari, pronounced “ <i>cottage</i> ” [kɒtɪdʒ, kətɑ:ʒ])
<b>walkway</b>	<i>cruising area</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>alleyway; back alley</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>settee; sofa</i>
<b>run water</b>	<i>ditch</i> (common locally, used as child in past of “ <i>ditch jumping</i> ”); <i>dike; stream</i>
<b>main room</b>	<i>lounge; front room; living-room</i>
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>drizzle</i>
<b>rich</b>	(not discussed)
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>cack-handed</i> (used as child in past); <i>left-handed</i>
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>minger; trout; moose</i> ; “ <i>look at that fat old slag with the nasty hair</i> ”
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint; Arbury</i> <sup>△</sup> (i.e. reference to district of Cambridge); <i>poor</i> (“ <i>very poor</i> ”); <i>council</i> <sup>♦</sup> (“ <i>oh, that’s so council</i> ”), <i>cheap</i> <sup>♦</sup> (“ <i>cheap white trash</i> ” used negatively of poor person)
<b>drunk</b>	<i>pissed; wankered</i> (“ <i>look at him over there fucking wankered</i> ”); <i>slaughtered</i> (used by young speakers); <i>drunk</i>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>slapper</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>up the duff; bun in the oven; knocked up; lucky</i> <sup>△</sup> , <i>fat</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>about to drop</i>
<b>attractive</b>	<i>bona; bona dish</i> <sup>△</sup> (means ‘attractive buttocks’ in Polari); “ <i>I’d fuck that</i> ”; <i>fabulous; nice</i> (“ <i>he’s nice</i> ”); “ <i>I could do him</i> ” <sup>△</sup> ; <i>nice-looking; gorgeous, stunning</i> (of female)

<sup>2</sup> In sense of ‘sexual partner’.

**insane**      *loopy; fucking nuts*  
**moody**      *naff; premenstrual* (“*stop being premenstrual*”, commonly directed at moody person); *in a strop* (used frequently); “*unsociable wankers*”<sup>Δ</sup> (of moody person on night out); *moody* (“*moody cunt*”, “*moody fucking cunt*”)

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