

Title:

Penzance, Cornwall

Shelfmark:

C1190/10/02

Recording date:

2005

Speakers:

Cargeeg, Alan, b. 1950; male; electrical contractor (father postman/farmer; mother caterer)

Cargeeg, Ken, b. 1923; male; postman & farmer (father farmer; mother farmer's wife)

Collins, Reuben, b. 1923; male; farmer (father farmer; mother farmer's wife)

Hosken, Timothy, b. 1961 Redruth; male; transport supervisor (father farmer; mother housewife)

Prout, Michael, b. 1945 male; ministry worker (father farmer; mother farmer's wife)

Wallis, Nigel, b. 1959; male; postman (father miner; mother housewife)

The interviewees are all members of the Marazion Apollo Male Choir.

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)
- ^x see Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable (2009)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ♥ see Dictionary of Contemporary Slang (2014)
- ♦ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased *pleased as Punch^x; really over the moon; elevated; on top of the world; handsome[◦], spondulicks^{♦1}, lovely, wonderful, grand (used as term of approval); satisfied ("posh"); chuffed as nuts²; pleased as ninepence[△]*

tired *knackered; tired ("tired as horse"); tired and teasy (of feeling "irritable [...] fed up")*

¹ *Urban Dictionary* (online) records 'spondulie' in this sense.

² See Ted Duckworth's *A Dictionary of Slang* (<http://www.peevish.co.uk/slang/index.htm>).

unwell	<i>brave^o wisht; sick as a rat^o; sick as a pig^Δ; poorly; a bit under the weather</i> (of mild symptoms); <i>feeling total crap</i> (of acute symptoms)
hot	<i>hot as fire; on fire; cooking^o; warm as toast</i>
cold	<i>cold as ice; cold as a pump^Δ; cold as iron^Δ</i>
annoyed	<i>vexed; jumping³; mad</i> (“ <i>mad as a fitcher</i> ” ⁴); <i>teasy as a fitcher</i> ⁴ (of extreme annoyance when “ <i>you could bite anybody’s head off</i> ”); <i>really uptight</i>
throw	<i>heave to en[*]</i> (common locally, “ <i>heaving and rooging</i> ” ^o used of strenuous work); <i>chuck it</i>
play truant	<i>minching ; minching school; minching from school; skiving; skip</i> (of being absent from school and work “ <i>skipping school skip work</i> ”)
sleep	<i>count sheep^x; sleep</i> (“ <i>sleep like a horse</i> ”); <i>kiping; having a kip; dozing; forty winks</i>
play a game	<i>taking the mickey; taking the piss out of somebody</i> (of playing trick on person)
hit hard	<i>clout</i> (“ <i>give en[*] a clout</i> ”); <i>scat^o en[*] down</i> (“ <i>if thee ’st don’t get up I’ll scat thee down</i> ” of punching person to ground)
clothes	<i>clobber; glad rags; best bib and tucker^Δ; dressed to the nines</i>
trousers	<i>strides</i> (suggested by interviewer as used in Australia); <i>trousers</i>
child’s shoe	<i>plimsolls; pumps; trainers; sandals</i> (worn as child in past); <i>hob nail boots</i> (“ <i>hobnailers</i> ” of shoes worn to school in past)
mother	<i>mum; mother</i> (also used of own wife); <i>mam; mummy</i> (of own wife to own children)
gmother	<i>gran; granny</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>grandma; nan; nanny; nana</i>
m partner	<i>poof</i> (of homosexual partner)
friend	<i>mate; buddy; chum; pal</i>
gfather	<i>grandad; papa^Δ</i> [pəpə, pəpə] (used by own grandchildren)
forgot name	(not discussed)
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tool-kit; box of tricks^Δ; gear; kit</i>
trendy	<i>tarty; mutton dressed as lamb</i> (of older female dressed inappropriately young); <i>a proper trollop; raver</i>
f partner	<i>wife; partner</i> (not used); <i>my missus</i> (“ <i>have you met my missus?</i> ”); <i>Susan</i> (i.e. by name); <i>my right hand^Δ; my other half; my other hand^Δ; my wife; her indoors</i>
baby	<i>baby; babby^o; sprog</i>
rain heavily	<i>pissing down; pour down; he ent^o en[*] down</i> (“ <i>old Cornish saying</i> ”); <i>raining heavy; chucking it down^Δ; raining cats and dogs; lashing down; coming down like stair-rods</i> (“ <i>when he coming down straight</i> ”); <i>enting^o down</i>
toilet	<i>bog; urinal; toilets; loo; shittery^Δ</i> (“ <i>I’m off to the shittery</i> ” used by colleague); <i>sitting-room^o</i> (heard used)
walkway	<i>alleyway; ope; opeway</i>
long seat	<i>sofa; settee; couch</i> (used in past)
run water	<i>stream; chute</i>
main room	<i>lounge; sitting-room; front room</i>
rain lightly	<i>drizzling; bit of scud; damping^o</i> (“ <i>damping a bit</i> ”); <i>scat of dew^o</i> (of light shower); <i>skew</i>
rich	<i>rolling; loaded; rolling in it; hungry^o, tight</i> (of penny-pinching person); <i>filthy rich^Δ</i>
left-handed	<i>clicky^o; click-handed^o; cack-handed</i> (also implies “ <i>he look like hommock^o [...] he don’t look fitty</i> ” i.e. ‘awkward/ungainly’)

³ *The New Oxford American Dictionary* (2005) includes ‘be jumping up and down’ in this sense.

⁴ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘fitcher’ in sense of ‘polecat’ but not ‘mad/teasy as a fitcher’.

unattractive	<i>ugly; she must've fell out the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down</i> ⁵ ; <i>ugly as sin</i> ^Δ ; <i>uglier than a door-knocker</i> ^Δ (used by mother); <i>a bit of a horse's arse</i> ^Δ ; <i>ugly as hat full of assholes</i> ^Δ ; <i>like the back end of a bus</i> ^Δ ; <i>old bag; a trollop; bit rough</i>
lack money	<i>skint; stumped</i> ^Δ ; <i>no spondulicks</i> (i.e. "no money"); <i>"ain't got a penny/halfpenny to scratch your arse with"</i> ⁶ ; <i>brassic; strapped</i> ("strapped for cash")
drunk	(not discussed)
pregnant	<i>up the duff; got a bun in the oven; in colt</i> ⁷ (not used in presence of pregnant woman)
attractive	<i>stunning; pretty as a picture; pretty as paint; a real cracker</i> ("cor, ain't she a cracker" accompanied by wolf-whistle); <i>a stunner</i> ("cor, what a stunner"); <i>gorgeous</i>
insane	<i>nuts</i> ("bloody nuts"); <i>mad; mental; off his rocker; off his trolley; off your head; addled</i>
moody	<i>got a cob on</i> ^Δ ; <i>moody; teasy</i> ("teasy as a snake/an adder" ⁸)

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⁵ *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* (2014) entry for 'ugly pills' includes this phrase in definition.

⁶ *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records 'scratch-ass' in sense of 'impoverished'.

⁷ *OED* (online edition) records 'in foal' for 'pregnant'.

⁸ Les Merton's *Cornish Dialect* (2012) includes 'taisy as an adder' in this sense.