

Title:

Helmsley, North Yorkshire

Shelfmark:

C1190/35/03

Recording date:

16.11.2004

**Speakers:**

Dunn, Paul, b. 1946 Helmsley, North Yorkshire; male; farmer

Ward, Eva, b. 1929 Helmsley, North Yorkshire; female

Wardle, Doreen, b. 1934 Harome, North Yorkshire; female

The interviewees are all lifelong residents of Helmsley.

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 Dictionary of North East Dialect (2011)
- ▲ Dictionary of Jamaican English (1980)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ♥ see Dictionary of Contemporary Slang (2014)
- △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

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|----------------|--|
| pleased | <i>pleased</i> (“ <i>I isn’t over pleased with you this morning</i> ” [aɪ ɪzənt əvə plɪəzd wɪ jəʊ ðɪs mɔːnɪŋ]); <i>over the moon</i> (“ <i>I’s over the moon</i> ” [əz əvəʔ mʊnɪŋ]); <i>fair capped</i> ¹ |
| tired | <i>jiggered</i> (thought to derive from phrase used in woollen industry for ‘frayed cloth’); <i>fagged out</i> (“ <i>I’s fair fagged out now</i> ”); <i>flaked out</i> |
| unwell | <i>dowly</i> ; <i>middling</i> (“ <i>I’s middling</i> ” of moderate symptoms); <i>badly</i> (“ <i>he’s nobbut badly</i> ”) |
| hot | <i>yat</i> [◦] (“ <i>slake fire down it’s over yat</i> ” [slæk faɪə dəʊn ɪts əvə jət]); <i>sweating</i> |
| cold | <i>frozen</i> [#] (“ <i>aye, by Gor, it’s fair frozen</i> ”); <i>cold</i> (“ <i>by, it’s cold in here</i> ”); <i>nithered</i> (“ <i>by, I’s nithered to death</i> ” ²) |
| annoyed | <i>nipped</i> [◦] ; <i>crazed</i> |

¹ *Yorkshire North and East Ridings Glossary: Words, Localities and Pronunciation* (2005) includes ‘capped’ in this sense.

² *OED* (online edition) records ‘to death’ as productive complement ‘intensifying adjectives of feeling’.

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|---------------------|---|
| throw | <i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chuck it away</i> ”) |
| play truant | <i>skiving</i> ; <i>dodging</i> [▲] |
| sleep | <i>nod off</i> ; <i>kip</i> |
| play a game | <i>laking</i> (“ <i>laking taws</i> ” used of playing ‘marbles’); <i>laking about</i> ; <i>larking</i> |
| hit hard | <i>lam</i> (“ <i>lam into him</i> ”); <i>clout</i> (“ <i>I clouted you in the lughole</i> ”) |
| clothes | <i>claes</i> (“ <i>get thy claes on</i> ”) |
| trousers | <i>trousers</i> ; <i>britches</i> (“ <i>britches and leggings</i> ” worn by farmers to market in past); <i>kegs</i> [♥] (used by husband); <i>kecks</i> |
| child’s shoe | <i>pumps</i> ; <i>sand-shoes</i> ; <i>plimsolls</i> (“ <i>posh</i> ”) |
| mother | <i>mam</i> (most common locally in past, “ <i>our mam</i> ” used in Middlesbrough, used by own children of self); <i>mummy</i> , <i>mammy</i> (not used in past); <i>mum</i> (used by own children, liked) |
| gmother | (not discussed) |
| m partner | (not discussed) |
| friend | (not discussed) |
| gfather | <i>grandfather</i> ; <i>grandad</i> (“ <i>grandad Tot grandad Mike</i> ” used by own children to distinguish between paternal/maternal grandfather); <i>grandpa</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used, considered “ <i>posh</i> ”); <i>grand-da</i> [◊] (used by mother) |
| forgot name | <i>gormless</i> (“ <i>gormless youth</i> ” used of person who has forgotten something); <i>thingamajig</i> ; <i>whatsit</i> ; “ <i>why, he’s forgotten t’ bally thing</i> ” |
| kit of tools | <i>tackle</i> (“ <i>fetch your tackle</i> ” [fɛtʃ jə tækʌ]); <i>set</i> (modern) |
| trendy | <i>flash</i> ; <i>tart</i> ; “ <i>she’s made-up with nowt</i> ” [△] ; <i>lamb looking like mutton</i> ³ ; <i>daubed up</i> (“ <i>by gum, she’s daubed up</i> ” of female wearing excessive make-up) |
| f partner | <i>t’ missus</i> (“ <i>I’ll just get t’ missus</i> ” used by own husband of self, disliked); <i>Dorothy</i> (i.e. by name); <i>better half</i> ; <i>tother half</i> ⁴ |
| baby | <i>bairn</i> (most common locally in past); <i>babby</i> [◊] (disliked); <i>young ’un</i> [△] |
| rain heavily | <i>pouring down</i> ; <i>siling</i> ; <i>siling down</i> |
| toilet | <i>privy</i> ; <i>closet</i> ; <i>little house</i> (used by parents of inside/outside toilet); <i>toilet</i> |
| walkway | <i>alley</i> ; <i>snicket</i> ; <i>ginnel</i> (used in Leeds); <i>alley-hole</i> ⁵ |
| long seat | <i>sofa</i> ; <i>settle</i> (of hard wooden seat) |
| run water | <i>beck</i> |
| main room | <i>parlour</i> (used as child of “ <i>best room</i> ” reserved for special occasions); <i>middle room</i> [◊] ; <i>far room</i> [◊] (used in contrast to “ <i>middle room</i> ” of room reserved for “ <i>special visitors</i> ”) |
| rain lightly | <i>drizzle</i> (“ <i>general word</i> ” associated with weather forecast); <i>mizzle</i> (“ <i>it’s mizzling on</i> ” [◊]); <i>drizzling</i> ; <i>roking</i> ; <i>stouring</i> (old, “ <i>by, it isn’t half stouring</i> ” used of “ <i>blowing snow</i> ”) |
| rich | <i>plenty of brass</i> ; <i>not short of a penny</i> ⁶ ; <i>well off</i> (pronounced “ <i>well off</i> ” [wi:lɒf] locally) |
| left-handed | <i>gallack</i> [◊] ; <i>gallack-handed</i> [◊] |
| unattractive | <i>a trollop</i> ; <i>gawky</i> (also used for “ <i>awkward</i> ”); <i>gormless-looking</i> |

³ *OED* (online edition) records ‘mutton dressed as lamb’ in this sense.

⁴ *OED* (online edition) includes ‘other half’ in this sense.

⁵ *Yorkshire North and East Ridings Glossary: Words, Localities and Pronunciation* (2005) includes ‘alley ‘oal’ [i.e. to represent dialectal pronunciation of ‘alley-hole’] in this sense.

⁶ Online article ‘Di Caprio and Scorsese impress with Wolf of Wall Street’ by Carl Jones (17.01.2014 – see *Native Monster* at <http://nativemonster.com/film-and-theatre/film/double-act-dicaprio-and-scorsese-impress-with-wolf-of-wall-street>) includes ‘not short of a penny’ in this sense.

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|-------------------|---|
| lack money | <i>broken</i> (pronounced “ <i>broken</i> ” [bɹɔkɹ̩] locally); <i>skint</i> ; <i>hard up</i> ; <i>pleading poverty</i> |
| drunk | <i>sozzled</i> (“ <i>by gum, he’s had plenty he’s fair sozzled</i> ”); <i>tipsy</i> ; <i>blotto</i> ; <i>drunk as a newt</i> ⁷ |
| pregnant | <i>getten a bun in t’ oven</i> (disliked); <i>with bairn</i> ⁸ (“ <i>she’s with bairn</i> ”); <i>expecting</i> ; “ <i>she’s gaing^o tae^o hae^o tae ga tae bed</i> ” ^Δ (used by mother in past); “ <i>she’s gaing^o tae^o have a scale up</i> ” ^Δ (“ <i>crude</i> ”) |
| attractive | <i>bonny</i> (“ <i>bonny lass</i> ”); <i>good-looking</i> (of male); <i>handsome</i> (not used) |
| insane | <i>loony</i> ; <i>barmy</i> ; <i>lunatic</i> ; “ <i>he’s gone intae^o t’ loony spot</i> ⁹ / <i>loony bin</i> ” (used in past of someone suffering nervous breakdown); “ <i>he’s having mental problems</i> ” (used now in preference to “ <i>loony</i> ”) |
| moody | <i>grumpy</i> (“ <i>by God, he’s grumpy this morning</i> ”); <i>takes some/a bit of shaving</i> ^Δ (used of person who “ <i>takes some getting on with</i> ”) |

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⁷ *OED* (online edition) records ‘pissed as a newt’ in this sense.

⁸ *OED* (online edition) includes ‘with child’ in this sense and ‘bairn’ in sense of ‘child’.

⁹ *OED* (online edition) records ‘loony bin’ in this sense.