

Title:

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland

Shelfmark:

C1190/43/03

Recording date:

03.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Chappell, Ian, b. 1959 Berwick-upon-Tweed; male; electrician (father b. Berwick-upon-Tweed, storeman; mother b. Stirling, housewife)

Dixon, Arthur, b. 1947 Berwick-upon-Tweed; male (father b. Berwick-upon-Tweed, storeman; mother b. Berwick-upon-Tweed, shop assistant)

Stewart, Janet, b. 1944 Bristol; female (mother b. Gateshead, domestic service)

Walker, Emma, b. 1958 Berwick-upon-Tweed; female (father b. Berwick-upon-Tweed; mother b. Holy Island)

The interviewees had not met prior to interview.

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 Dictionary of North East Dialect (2011)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ▶ see Romani Rokkeripen To-Divvus (1984)
- ^ see Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary (2003)
- ▼ see Dictionary of Contemporary Slang (2014)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◻ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased	<i>chuffed</i> (“ <i>chuffed to the marrow</i> , <i>cha</i> ” ^{Δ1})
tired	<i>tired</i> ; <i>deid</i> [°] <i>on your feet</i> ² ; <i>slummy</i> ; <i>paggered</i> [*] (of extreme tiredness, “ <i>pagger</i> ” ^Δ used locally for ‘to beat/strike’, “ <i>it’s got a right paggered</i> ^Δ <i>neck on it, that jumper</i> ” used of e.g. pullover that has lost its shape); <i>knackered</i>
unwell	<i>shabby</i> ; <i>seak</i> [°] (also used locally for “ <i>fed up with life</i> ”); <i>poorly</i> ; <i>no wele</i> [†]
hot	<i>boiling</i> ; <i>scomfished</i> (thought to be Scottish); <i>yagging</i> ^{^3} (“ <i>it’s yagging in here</i> ”, “ <i>yag</i> ” ^{^3} used locally for ‘coal’)
cold	<i>freezing</i> (“ <i>absolutely freezing</i> ”); <i>nithered</i> (“ <i>nithered to the bone</i> ⁴ / <i>marrow</i> ” ⁵); <i>perished</i> ; <i>perishing</i>
annoyed	<i>peevd</i> , <i>peevd off</i> (not used locally); <i>boiling</i> (“ <i>absolutely boiling</i> ”); <i>raging</i>
throw	<i>hoy</i> [°] (“ <i>go and hoy them in the car for us</i> ”); <i>launch</i> (“ <i>launch it into the car</i> ”); <i>fire</i> (“ <i>fire it into the car</i> ”); <i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chuck it over here</i> ” [tʃʊk ət əvə hiə]); <i>hoick</i> ^Δ , <i>lap</i> [°] , <i>bell</i> [°] , <i>heave</i> (suggested by interviewer)
play truant	<i>playing hookey</i> ; <i>hookey</i> ; <i>skiving</i> ; <i>skive</i>
sleep	<i>kip</i> (“ <i>go to your kip/have a kip</i> ” of sleep in chair); <i>go to your scratcher</i> ^Δ (of ‘going to bed’, considered universal); <i>go to sleep</i> ; <i>go to sloom/tick</i> (used by husband, “ <i>go to your tick/away to lie down</i> ^{†6} <i>on my tick</i> ” used locally for ‘bed’); <i>nap</i>
play a game	<i>lark</i> (considered widespread); <i>play a game</i>
hit hard	<i>pagger</i> ^Δ (“ <i>gie</i> [°] <i>it a right paggering</i> ”); <i>belt</i> ; <i>plank</i> [°] ; <i>batter</i>
clothes	<i>claes</i> ; <i>clobber</i> ; <i>gear</i>
trousers	<i>troosers</i> [†] ; <i>breeks</i>
child’s shoe	<i>gutties</i> [†] (used as child in past of “ <i>gym shoes</i> ”, thought to refer to “ <i>gutta-percha</i> ” soles); <i>plimsolls</i> ; <i>plimmies</i> ^Δ ; <i>sand-shoes</i>
mother	<i>mam</i> (most common in Berwick); <i>mum</i> (of own mother from Stirling)
gmother	<i>nan</i> ; <i>granny</i> ; <i>grandma</i> (used by own grandchildren of self); <i>nana</i>
m partner	<i>gadgy</i> [°] (“ <i>eh, that’s my gadgy</i> ” [i: ðats ma ɡadzɛi] used of own husband); <i>gueri</i> ^{^7} ; <i>capture</i> [♦] ; <i>blokes</i> ^Δ ; <i>boyfriend</i> (used by daughter in Newcastle)
friend	<i>mate</i> (“ <i>he’s my best mate</i> ”); <i>mates</i> ; <i>pals</i> ; <i>marrow</i> (“ <i>your marrow</i> ” [jə mara] used by miners in past)
gfather	<i>grandpa</i> ; <i>gaga</i> ⁸ (used by own grandchildren of self); <i>grand-da</i> [°]
forgot name	<i>thingy</i> (“ <i>you know thingy from he used to live up in Highfields and then he moved to Newfields ye knaw</i> [°] <i>whae</i> [°] <i>I mean</i> ”); <i>what-d’ye-me-call-it</i> [°] [wɒdʒəmɪkɔ:lɪt], <i>cowie</i> [♦] (“ <i>hae</i> [°] <i>you seen that cowie I’ve been looking for all day?</i> ”), <i>chat</i> ^Δ (“ <i>chatty thing</i> ” of object); <i>what-d’ye-call-’em</i> , <i>what’s-he-me-call-it</i> [°] [wɒtsɪmɪkɔ:lɪt, wɒtsɪmɪkɔ:lɪt] (“ <i>you ken thingummy Hester what’s-he-me-call-it?</i> ” of person); <i>thingmejig</i> [°] ; <i>such and such</i> , <i>him</i> ,

¹ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘cha’ as exclamation used for ‘registering impatience/disdain/disappointment’.

² *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘deid’ in sense of ‘dead’; *Allen’s Dictionary of English Phrases* (2006) includes ‘dead on one’s feet’ in this sense.

³ *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) records ‘yag’ in sense of ‘fire’.

⁴ *OED* (online edition) records ‘to the bone’ in sense of ‘to the core’.

⁵ *Cambridge Idioms Dictionary* (2006) records ‘frozen/chilled to the marrow’ in this sense.

⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘doun’ as Scots equivalent of English ‘down’.

⁷ *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) includes ‘guero’ in sense of ‘person (male)’.

⁸ Lydia Warren’s article ‘Grandma and Grandpa no more: Parents encourage creative alternatives including ‘GaGa’ and ‘Grampy’ (31.05.2011 - see *Daily Mail* at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1392437/Grandma-Grandpa-Parents-encourage-creative-alternatives-including-GaGa-Grampy.html>) includes ‘gaga’ in this sense.

	<i>thingummybobby</i> ^{Δ9} , <i>what's-his-name</i> , “ <i>they worked with so-and-so/were married on</i> ^{○10} <i>so-and-so</i> ” (of person)
kit of tools	<i>tool-kit</i> ; <i>gear</i> ; <i>tools</i>
trendy	<i>trollop</i> ; <i>yesterday's washing out</i> [△] ; <i>poser</i> (of male); <i>barry-dicking</i> ^Δ <i>manushi</i> ^{^11} (of female); <i>charver</i> (used locally of any teenager/young person); <i>chav</i> (current term among young speakers nationally); <i>neds</i> , <i>slappers</i> (suggested by interviewer, not heard used locally)
f partner	<i>capture</i> [♦] (“ <i>is that your capture?</i> ” used with male friends when younger, disliked by own wife of self, “ <i>my capture's gieing</i> [○] <i>us a hard time tonight</i> ” used occasionally to male friends, considered term of endearment, used of casual/recent relationship); <i>manushi</i> [^] , <i>manushies</i> [^] , <i>moties</i> [†] (used in contrast to “ <i>capture</i> ” of wife/fiancée/long-term partner)
baby	<i>baby</i> ; <i>rug rats</i> (heard used elsewhere); <i>bairn</i> (most common locally); <i>chavvy</i> (of young child, thought to derive from Romani word “ <i>chavengro</i> ” ^{^12} and related to current fashionable term “ <i>chav</i> ”); <i>charver</i>
rain heavily	<i>pishing</i> ^Δ <i>down</i> ^{†6} ; <i>pannying</i> [▶] ; <i>pissing down</i> (“ <i>it's pissing down outside</i> ”); <i>ploting</i> [○] ; <i>hoying</i> [#] <i>it down</i> ^{†13}
toilet	<i>netty</i> (common in Northumberland/Newcastle, “ <i>they know nowt but dry netties</i> ” used by husband's friend of ignorant person, i.e. no experience of flush toilets); <i>loo</i> ; <i>bog</i> (“ <i>we would get wrong</i> [#] <i>for saying that</i> ”, i.e. censured as child in past); <i>toilet</i> (preferred to “ <i>bog</i> ”); <i>lavvy vennel</i> (used locally, also heard used in Yorkshire/Lancashire); <i>alley</i> (used in local street names, e.g. “ <i>Crawfords Alley</i> ”)
walkway	
long seat	<i>couch</i> (considered universal); <i>settee</i> ; <i>sofa</i>
run water	<i>burn</i> ; <i>stream</i>
main room	<i>sitter</i> (thought to be idiolectal abbreviation of “ <i>sitting-room</i> ”); <i>sitting-room</i> (“ <i>very posh</i> ”); <i>front room</i> ; <i>living-room</i>
rain lightly	<i>mizzle</i> (“ <i>it's mizzling</i> ” used by mother of mixture of mist and drizzle); <i>dreich</i> [†] (“ <i>mizzling dreich</i> ” thought to be “ <i>Aberdonian</i> ”); <i>drizzly</i> (“ <i>it's drizzly weather</i> ”); <i>spitting on</i> [○] (“ <i>it's just spitting on to rain</i> ”); <i>haar</i> (used locally of “ <i>mixture of mist and drizzle</i> ”, disputed by husband until heard on TV); <i>light pani</i> [†] (“ <i>pani</i> ” ^{○15} used locally for ‘water’, also thought to be used by Indians for ‘water’)
rich	<i>well-lowied hantle</i> ^{†14} ; <i>loaded</i> (“ <i>loaded with lowie</i> ”); <i>loads of lowie</i> [†] (“ <i>oh, he's got loads of lowie</i> ” used locally for ‘loads of money’)
left-handed	<i>corrie fisted</i> [‡] , <i>cubbie</i> [‡] - <i>handed</i> (suggested by interviewer, not known)
unattractive	<i>shan</i> , <i>shan-looking</i> (used frequently at school in past, “ <i>you get the barry yin</i> [○] <i>and I get the shan yin</i> ^{○15} <i>/that's a shan manushi</i> ” ^{^16} used with friends when younger of “ <i>no very nice-looking</i> ” female, “ <i>shan-dicking</i> ^Δ <i>guerries</i> ^{^17} <i>/gadgies</i> ” ^{^18} used of males)

⁹ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘thingummybob’ in this sense.

¹⁰ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘marry on’ in sense of ‘to be married to’.

¹¹ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘barry’ in sense of ‘good/excellent/wonderful’ & ‘dick’ in sense of ‘to look’, i.e. ‘barry-dicking’ [= ‘good-looking’]; *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) includes ‘manushi’ in sense of ‘woman/wife’.

¹² *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) records <-engro> as ‘masculine suffix used in the formation of descriptive terms’.

¹³ *Dictionary of North East Dialect* (2011) records ‘hoy down’ in sense of ‘to rain’; *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘down’ as Scots equivalent of English ‘down’.

¹⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘lowie’ in sense of ‘money/cash’ & ‘hantle’ in sense of ‘a considerable quantity’.

¹⁵ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘yin’ in sense of ‘one’.

¹⁶ *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) includes ‘manushi’ in sense of ‘woman/wife’.

¹⁷ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘dick’ in sense of ‘to look’; *Gypsy Jib: A Romany Dictionary* (2003) includes ‘guero’ in sense of ‘person (male)’.

lack money	<i>skint</i> (considered universal); <i>nae° lowie</i> ^{†19}
drunk	<i>palatic</i> [♥] (of extreme drunkenness); <i>gassed</i> ^Δ ; <i>peeve</i> [♦] (“ <i>peeve</i> ” ^Δ used for ‘alcohol/to drink alcohol’, “ <i>peeve</i> ” [▶] used for ‘pub’); <i>mortal</i> (“ <i>going on the peeve to get palatic/mortal</i> ”) <i>expecting</i> ; <i>up the stick</i> (used with males in pub); <i>bun in the oven</i> ; <i>pregnant</i>
pregnant	<i>barry</i> ^Δ (“ <i>barry gadgie</i> ” ^{Δ20} of male, “ <i>barry manushi</i> ” ^{Δ15} of female); <i>coostie</i> [♦] (common locally); <i>barry-dicking</i> ^{Δ21} (“ <i>dick</i> ” ^Δ used locally for ‘to look’)
attractive	
insane	<i>radge</i> (most common locally, “ <i>radge in the heid</i> ” ^{o22} / <i>totally radge</i> ” used frequently when younger, also used for “ <i>high spirits</i> ”, “ <i>oh, he’s a bit radge, him</i> ” also used affectionately); <i>mental</i> (considered universal); <i>rooty</i> ²³ (“ <i>rootie tootie</i> ” ²⁴ used of “ <i>being a little bit mentally imbalanced/acting like a kid</i> ”); <i>rory</i> ²⁵ (“ <i>rootie tootie rory</i> ” used of person “ <i>mad with drink/completely off it</i> ”); <i>rootle</i> ²⁶ (of odd behaviour more extreme than “ <i>radge</i> ” but less extreme than “ <i>rooty</i> ”)
moody	<i>huffy</i> (“ <i>huffy charver/manushi</i> ” ^{Δ15} / <i>gadgie</i> ” ^{Δ19})

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¹⁸ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘dick’ in sense of ‘to look’ & ‘gadgie’ in sense of ‘man’.

¹⁹ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘nae’ in sense of ‘no’; *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘lowie’ in sense of ‘money/cash’.

²⁰ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘gadgie’ in sense of ‘man’.

²¹ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘barry’ in sense of ‘good/excellent/wonderful’ & ‘dick’ in sense of ‘to look’, i.e. ‘barry-dicking’ [= ‘good-looking’].

²² *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘heid’ in sense of ‘head’.

²³ Glossary of Berwick dialect supplied by Renner (response 129) to online forum discussion ‘British slang’ (30.01.2010 – see *The Student Room* at <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1148467&page=7>) includes ‘rooty’ in this sense.

²⁴ Glossary of Berwick dialect supplied by Renner (response 129) to online forum discussion ‘British slang’ (30.01.2010 – see *The Student Room* at <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1148467&page=7>) includes ‘rootie tootie’ in this sense.

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