

**Title:**

Dunfermline, Fife

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/43/10

**Recording date:**

03.04.2005

**Speakers:**

Brown, James, b. 1970 Dunfermline; male (father b. Portsmouth, iron caulker/riveter/driller/burner; mother b. Dunfermline, housewife)

Girdwood, Irene, b. 1948 Fife; female (father b. Dunfermline, labourer; mother b. Whamphray, Dumfries and Galloway, storewoman)

Hoey, Maurice, b. 1984 Dunfermline; male (father b. Dunfermline, joiner; mother b. Dunfermline, nurse)

Wordie, Peter, b. 1986; male (father b. Glasgow, counsellor; mother b. Ireland, primary school teacher)

The interviewees all work at the Carnegie Leisure Centre in Dunfermline.

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 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** (not discussed)

**tired** *shattered; zonked; knackered* (most common); *done; all in; absolutely fucked* (of "being totally exhausted")

**unwell** *sick; cabbaged*<sup>1</sup>; *rough* (esp. of hangover after "you've been out on the randan"); *at death's door*<sup>2</sup>; *bauch*<sup>†</sup> (of hangover, also used for 'to vomit'); *bouf*<sup>†</sup> ("really feel bouf")

<sup>1</sup> *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records 'cabbaged' in sense of 'mentally and physically exhausted'.

<b>hot</b>	<i>scorching hot</i> (of weather)
<b>cold</b>	<i>brass</i> <sup>3</sup> ; <i>freezing</i> ; <i>Baltic</i> <sup>◊</sup>
<b>annoyed</b>	(not discussed)
<b>throw</b>	(not discussed)
<b>play truant</b>	<i>skive</i> (most common locally); <i>bump it</i> <sup>4</sup> (“ <i>bump it off/bumping off</i> ”); <i>bunked off</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>skive off</i>
<b>sleep</b>	<i>kip</i> (“ <i>I’m having a kip</i> ”); <i>hae a nap</i> <sup>5</sup> (of sleep “ <i>in my pit</i> ”); <i>hit the sack</i> ; <i>sleep</i> ; <i>cat-nap</i> (of brief daytime sleep in chair)
<b>play a game</b>	<i>play</i> ; <i>go for a game</i> (“ <i>go out for a game of fittie</i> ” i.e. football <sup>6</sup> ); “ <i>up for a game of football/golf?</i> ” (used to friends)
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>rifle</i> (“ <i>rifled that shot, eh?</i> ” of hitting e.g. ball “ <i>like a bullet</i> ”); <i>pelting</i> ; <i>skelp</i> ; <i>whack</i> ; <i>batter</i> (of “ <i>gieing it welly</i> ” <sup>7</sup> )
<b>clothes</b>	<i>threads</i> (“ <i>the new threads</i> ” used jokingly to friends); <i>clothes</i> ; <i>gear</i> ; <i>claes</i> (“ <i>my claes</i> ”); <i>togs</i> (“ <i>put my togs on</i> ” used of old clothes worn for e.g. housework)
<b>trousers</b>	<i>troosers</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>trackies</i> ; <i>breeks</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>old-fashioned</i> ”/used by older speakers); <i>plus fours</i> (of shorter trousers worn for hiking/golf)
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>trainers</i> ; <i>gutties</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>plimsolls</i> ; <i>jimmies</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>baffies</i> <sup>8</sup> (also used of “ <i>slippers</i> ” <sup>†</sup> )
<b>mother</b>	<i>mum</i> , <i>maw</i> (most common locally); <i>the old lady</i> ; <i>her indoors</i> <sup>9</sup> (heard used); <i>mother</i>
<b>gmother</b>	<i>granny</i> ; <i>grandmother</i>
<b>m partner</b>	<i>husband</i> ; <i>lover</i> (“ <i>this is my lover</i> ” used occasionally to “ <i>shock</i> ” own partner); <i>man</i> (“ <i>my man</i> ” of own husband); <i>boyfriend</i>
<b>friend</b>	(not discussed)
<b>gfather</b>	<i>dey</i> <sup>†</sup> (common locally, used by mining families, “ <i>painter dey</i> ” used of grandfather who painted Forth Bridges); <i>papa</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>pap</i> <sup>10</sup> ; <i>grandad</i> ; <i>grandfather</i>
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>thingymajig</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>thingy</i> ; <i>whatchamacallit</i> ; <i>that</i> ; <i>you</i> (“ <i>all right, you</i> ”); <i>whatshispuss</i> <sup>11</sup> , <i>whatshischops</i> <sup>Δ</sup> , <i>what’s-her-name</i> (of person)
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>graith</i> (“ <i>old Scottish word</i> ” used by scoutmaster’s miner father); <i>tool-kit</i> ; <i>tool-box</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>ned</i> (most common); <i>chavs</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard recently on TV, considered “ <i>posh word for ned/English</i> ”); <i>tart</i> ; <i>tarty</i> ; <i>reprobate</i> ; <i>slapper</i> , <i>slut</i> , <i>super-hure</i> <sup>12</sup> (of female); <i>mutton dressed as lamb</i> (of “ <i>overdone</i> ” older person dressing to appear younger)
<b>f partner</b>	<i>the bird</i> (“ <i>this is the bird</i> ”, disliked by females as “ <i>derogatory/lad’s term</i> ”); <i>the missus</i> ; <i>the other half</i> ; <i>the ball and chain</i> (of female partner whose male partner is considered “ <i>under the thumb</i> ” i.e. ‘subservient’); <i>the wife</i> (used of long-term “ <i>girlfriends</i> ” by own male)

<sup>2</sup> *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase & Fable* (2012) includes ‘at death’s door’ in this sense.

<sup>3</sup> Gavin Spicer’s tweet *Off out for some lunch, the only downside to riding in to work is that my winter coat is now at home and its brass outside* (11.02.09 – see <https://twitter.com/gavspicer/status/1198810036>) includes ‘brass’ in this sense.

<sup>4</sup> The Rise’s tweet *has someone been bumping off of school??* (08.06.11 – see <https://twitter.com/TheRiseofficial/status/78390579603570688>) includes ‘bump off school’ in this sense.

<sup>5</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘hae’ in sense of ‘to have’.

<sup>6</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘fittie’ in sense of ‘foot’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘footy’ in sense of ‘football’.

<sup>7</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘gie’ in sense of ‘to give’; *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) includes ‘give it some welly’ in this sense.

<sup>8</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘baffie’ in sense of ‘bedroom slipper’.

<sup>9</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘her indoors’ in sense of ‘woman occupying position of authority/regarded as domineering’.

<sup>10</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘pap’ in sense of ‘father’.

<sup>11</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘puss’ in sense of ‘face/mouth’ and ‘whatsisface’ in this sense; shannon’s tweet *I won’t get up then ill end up being late then mr whatshispuss will moan cause we’re ‘late for class’ ill be like whatever.* (05.01.10 – see <https://twitter.com/shananig0ns/status/22472522985373696>) includes ‘whatshispuss’ in this sense.

<sup>12</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘hure’ in sense of ‘promiscuous woman’.

	friends); <i>bidie in</i> <sup>†</sup> (of unmarried co-habiting partner); <i>bird</i> (most common among males); <i>partner</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
<b>baby</b>	<i>the bairn</i> ; <i>the wain</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>the sprog</i> ; <i>chiel</i> <sup>†</sup> (“bring the chiel in” used by mother/grandmother in past); <i>bairn</i> , <i>bairns</i> (of pre-teen child); <i>wain</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>sprog</i> ; <i>baby</i> ; <i>children</i> (of own children); <i>brats</i> (“where’s your brats gone?” used jokingly of misbehaving children); <i>the boys</i> (of own boys); <i>the wee yin</i> <sup>†</sup> (esp. of youngest child)
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>piss down</i> ; <i>raining cats and dogs</i> ; <i>tipping it down</i> <sup>♦</sup> ; <i>tipping it</i> <sup>♦</sup> ; <i>chucking it down</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>droukit</i> , (“droukit wet” used of being soaking wet)
<b>toilet</b>	<i>the bog</i> ; <i>the shit pipie</i> <sup>13</sup> (used by/to friends); <i>shitter</i> (suggested by interviewer, “not as good”); <i>cludgie</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>loo</i> ; <i>toilet</i> ; <i>lavvy</i> ; <i>shunkie</i> <sup>†</sup> (heard used); <i>closet</i> ; <i>privy</i> ; <i>house on the hill</i> <sup>△</sup> (used by scouts of ‘cesspit’ at scout camp)
<b>walkway</b>	<i>alley</i> (of walkway alongside house/buildings in town); <i>close</i> (of walkway between houses, also used of walkway next to “gable end” <sup>‡</sup> ); <i>alleyway</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>couch</i> ; <i>sofa</i> ; <i>settee</i>
<b>run water</b>	<i>stream</i> ; <i>burn</i> (used to “coofle the burn” <sup>14</sup> as child in past)
<b>main room</b>	<i>living-room</i> (most common); <i>lounge</i> (used by younger speakers); <i>TV room</i> (heard used); <i>sitting-room</i> ; <i>front room</i> (used in past)
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>drizzle</i> (“drizzle down”); <i>spitting down</i> ; <i>spit</i> (“spit wi rain” <sup>15</sup> ); <i>fine rain</i> ; <i>spitting</i> ; <i>mist</i> ; <i>haze</i> ; <i>dreich</i> <sup>†</sup>
<b>rich</b>	<i>loaded</i> ; <i>filthy rich</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>minted</i> ; <i>too much money</i> ; <i>lucky buggers</i> <sup>♦</sup> (of e.g. lottery winner); <i>snobby</i> ; “they’re just dripping wi gold” <sup>16</sup> (“old one” used by mother-in-law in past)
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>corrie pawed</i> <sup>‡</sup> ; <i>corrie handed</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>corrie hooped</i> <sup>‡</sup> ; <i>cack-handed</i>
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>minger</i> ; <i>glaukit</i> <sup>17</sup> ; <i>horrible</i> ; <i>gawkit</i> <sup>18</sup> ; <i>biling</i> <sup>19</sup> ; <i>minging</i> ; <i>stinking</i> <sup>◇</sup> ; <i>horrid</i> ; <i>munter</i> <sup>△</sup> (thought to be idiolectal); “she’s a dog” (heard used); <i>ugly</i> , <i>no braw</i> <sup>20</sup> (used by older speakers)
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint</i> ; <i>skech</i> <sup>†</sup> (pronounced “skeff/skeef” locally, “Geoff the skeef” used jokingly of classmate in past); <i>on the Social</i> <sup>△</sup> / <i>broo</i> <sup>△</sup> , <i>on the dole</i> (of person claiming benefits); <i>rookit</i> <sup>♦</sup> (used by grandfather); <i>wouldna hae two halfpennies to rub together</i> <sup>21</sup>
<b>drunk</b>	<i>cabbaged</i> (used since university); <i>steaming</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>buckled</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>gassed</i> <sup>△</sup> (of being “tipsy”); <i>mauled</i> ; <i>paraletic</i> <sup>△</sup> (of extreme drunkenness); <i>minging</i> (also used for ‘unattractive’); <i>blooterred</i> , <i>pissed</i> (suggested by interviewer, used occasionally); <i>fou</i> ; <i>steamboats</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested by interviewer, used of “pals”); <i>rat-arsed</i> ; <i>legless</i>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>up the duff</i> (to friends); <i>pregnant</i> (to parents); <i>in the family way</i> , <i>expecting</i> , “she’s not well” <sup>△</sup> (used in past); <i>in the pudding club</i> (“slang”)
<b>attractive</b>	<i>braw</i> (“older”, liked); <i>gorgeous</i> ; <i>stunner</i> ; <i>looker</i> ; <i>fine</i> ; <i>eye-turner</i> <sup>22</sup> ; <i>cracker</i> ; <i>stunning</i> (“she’s absolutely stunning”); <i>beautiful</i> (“poncy word” not used by younger speakers);

<sup>13</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘bile’ in sense of ‘to boil’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘boiler’ in this sense.

<sup>14</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘coofle’ in sense of ‘to dare/challenge (to a feat)’.

<sup>15</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘wi’ in sense of ‘with’.

<sup>16</sup> *Cambridge Dictionary* (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>) records ‘dripping with gold’ in sense of ‘wearing a lot of gold’; *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘wi’ in sense of ‘with’.

<sup>17</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘glaukit’ in sense of ‘stupid’.

<sup>18</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘gawkit’ in sense of ‘stupid/foolish/clumsy’.

<sup>19</sup> *Urban Dictionary* (online) records ‘shit pipe’ in sense of ‘waste pipe’; *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘-ie’ in sense of productive ‘diminutive suffix’.

<sup>20</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘no’ in sense of ‘not’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘braw’ in sense of ‘fine/nice’.

<sup>21</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘wudna’ in sense of ‘wouldn’t and ‘hae’ in sense of ‘to have’; *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes ‘not have two halfpennies to rub together’ in this sense.

*cracking lassie* (suggested by interviewer as used of female considered “*top o the pops*”<sup>23</sup>); *drop-dead* (“*drop-dead gorgeous*”), *awesome* (“*she’s awesome*”), *phenomenal* (of extremely attractive female)

**insane**

*mad*; *crazy*; *off her chump/block*; *screwball*; *screw loose*; *nutcase*; *mental*; *nutter*; *aff their heid*<sup>24</sup>; *insane*; *hooligan*<sup>^</sup>; *daft* (of doing something “*silly*”); *psycho* (of “*aggressive mad act*”, “*psycho bitch from hell*” used jokingly of friend who works with mental health patients); *numpties* (of “*person with no common sense/reprobate/bit o an idiot*”<sup>23</sup>); *not the fou shilling*<sup>25</sup>

**moody**

*in a huff*; *in a foul mood*; *crabbit*<sup>†</sup>; *in a cream puff*<sup>◇</sup> (used of/to children); *huffy*; *in a mood*; *cheesed off*; *peevied*; *hyper*, *on a downer*<sup>◇</sup> (depending on type of mood)

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<sup>22</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘head-turner’ in this sense.

<sup>23</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘o’ in sense of ‘of’.

<sup>24</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘aff’ in sense of ‘off’ and ‘heid’ in sense of ‘head’; *OED* (online edition) includes ‘off one’s head’ in this sense.

<sup>25</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘fou’ in sense of ‘full’; *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) includes ‘not the full shilling’ in this sense.