

**Title:**

Grangemouth, Falkirk

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/43/13

**Recording date:**

02.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Brown, Jean (June), b. 1942 Grangemouth; female (father b. Bo'ness, West Lothian, newsagent, grocer & postmaster; mother b. Bo'ness, housewife)

Hamilton, Lorraine, b. 1971 Grangemouth; female (father b. Grangemouth, newsagent; mother b. Grangemouth, housewife)

Mitchell, Iain b. 1963 Grangemouth; male (father b. Grangemouth, haulage contractor; mother b. Lochearnhead, Stirlingshire, nurse)

Peddie, William (Gilbert), b. 1929 Grangemouth; male (father b. Grangemouth, timber importer; mother b. Falkirk, housewife)

The interviewees are all close friends from Grangemouth.

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 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**

*chuffed* (most common, "I'm really *chuffed* about something" used frequently when in army, "*dechuffed*"<sup>1</sup> used when in army for 'not pleased'); *happy*

<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Paxman's *On Royalty* (2006, p. 363) includes 'dechuffed' in this sense.

<b>tired</b>	<i>knackered</i> (censured in past, avoided as child, not heard when young, common now); <i>shattered</i>
<b>unwell</b>	<i>ill</i> (of genuine symptoms e.g. cold/flu); <i>knackered</i> (of feeling effects of previous night out); “ <i>I’m not well</i> ”; <i>poorly</i> , <i>seik</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>sick</i> (of “ <i>throwing up</i> ” i.e. ‘vomiting’); <i>under the weather</i> (of not “ <i>feeling hundred per cent</i> ”); <i>unwell</i> ; <i>not feeling well</i> ; <i>hangover</i> ; <i>blazer</i> <sup>2</sup> (“ <i>how you feeling the day ... oh, I’ve got a blazer</i> ”), <i>wee touch of flu</i> (“ <i>I’ve got the flu</i> ”), <i>hangover</i> (of hangover)
<b>hot</b>	<i>boiling</i> (“ <i>I’m boiling hot</i> ” of weather); <i>sweating</i> (of self); <i>hot</i> (of weather); <i>roasting</i> (“ <i>oh, I’m roasting</i> ”)
<b>cold</b>	<i>frozen</i> (“ <i>I’m frozen to death</i> ” <sup>*</sup> common locally); <i>freezing</i> (“ <i>oh, I’m freezing</i> ” used by own children); <i>founert</i> <sup>†</sup> (“ <i>I’m fair founert</i> ” used by friend from Ayrshire, “ <i>the beast’s founert</i> ” also heard used of animal “ <i>that’s had too much grass</i> ” <sup>△</sup> ); <i>cold</i> (used by own children); <i>Baltic</i> <sup>◇</sup> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>oh, it’s Baltic today</i> ” heard used by teenagers)
<b>annoyed</b>	<i>angry</i> ; <i>pissed off</i> (used “ <i>depending on who you’re with</i> ”); <i>annoyed</i> (not used); <i>scunnered</i> <sup>†</sup> (used frequently for “ <i>fed up</i> ”, liked); <i>rattled</i> (common); <i>mad</i> (“ <i>mad at them</i> ”)
<b>throw</b>	<i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chuck a ball</i> ”, “ <i>she chucked me</i> ” also used of girlfriend/boyfriend ending relationship); <i>toss</i> (“ <i>toss a ball</i> ”, “ <i>pitch-and-toss</i> ” <sup>3</sup> played in past by miners in Bo’ness “ <i>pit bings</i> ” <sup>4</sup> ); <i>throw</i> ; <i>pass</i> ; <i>höv</i> <sup>5</sup> , <i>heave</i> , <i>wap</i> , <i>bajl</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
<b>play truant</b>	<i>plunking</i> (“ <i>I plunked the school</i> ” most common locally in past); <i>dogging the school</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>plunk it</i> ; <i>dogging it</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>plugging it</i> <sup>†</sup> (used as child)
<b>sleep</b>	<i>kip</i> (“ <i>go for a kip/went to your kip</i> ” used when in army); “ <i>I’m going to my bed</i> ” (of sleep at night); <i>doze</i> (“ <i>I dozed off/had a doze</i> ” of Sunday afternoon “ <i>nap</i> ”); <i>cat-nap</i> (of brief daytime sleep while watching TV); <i>going to sleep</i> (not used); <i>having a kip</i> , <i>a doze in the chair</i> (of brief daytime sleep)
<b>play a game</b>	“ <i>let’s go and have a game</i> ”; <i>play</i> (“ <i>I’m going out to play</i> ”, also used of football/tennis/cards); <i>playtime</i> (of break at school); <i>muck about</i> (suggested by interviewer)
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>wallop</i> (of person); <i>skelp</i> (“ <i>he’s skelped the ball</i> ” used of object, also used of person e.g. “ <i>getting a good skelping</i> ” as child); <i>thump</i> (“ <i>I’ll gie ye a thump</i> ” <sup>6</sup> used of person)
<b>clothes</b>	<i>clothes</i> ; <i>clobber</i> , <i>kit</i> (used of ‘uniform’ when in army); <i>claes</i>
<b>trousers</b>	<i>trousers</i> ; <i>breeks</i> (common in past, “ <i>good Scottish word</i> ” used all over Scotland); <i>troosers</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer as used in East Coast); <i>strides</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard used, thought to be Borders word)
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>gym shoes</i> (“ <i>you got your gym shoes?</i> ” used to own children); <i>gutties</i> <sup>†</sup> (used when younger, thought to refer to “ <i>gutta-percha</i> ” soles); <i>jimmies</i> <sup>△</sup> (used to own children); <i>trainers</i>
<b>mother</b>	<i>mum</i> (used now); <i>maw</i> (used by brother as humorous term of endearment); <i>mummy</i> (used as young child)
<b>gmother</b>	<i>granny</i> (used by own children to distinguish paternal grandmother from maternal “ <i>gran</i> ”); <i>gran</i> (used by own children to distinguish maternal grandmother from paternal “ <i>granny</i> ”, used by own grandchildren to self); <i>nan</i> (suggested by interviewer, disliked); <i>nana</i> (disliked)

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘bleezed’ in sense of ‘very drunk’.

<sup>3</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘pitch-and-toss’ in sense of ‘gambling game in which player attempts to throw coin closest to wall/mark’.

<sup>4</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘pit bings’ in sense of ‘slag heap’.

<sup>5</sup> *Shetland Dictionary* (2009 <https://www.shetlanddialect.org.uk/dictionaries>) includes ‘höv’ in this sense.

<sup>6</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘gie’ in sense of ‘to give’ and ‘ye’ in sense of ‘you’.

<b>m partner</b>	<i>husband; George</i> (i.e. by name, of own husband); ; <i>bidie ins</i> <sup>†</sup> (of unmarried partners, not common locally, considered preferable to “ <i>they’re living together</i> ”); <i>him</i> <sup>7</sup> (used by own wife of self); <i>hubby; boyfriend</i>
<b>friend</b>	<i>pal</i> (most common locally esp. among males); <i>mate; friend</i> (more common among females); <i>buddies</i> (common locally); <i>buddy; chum</i> (used in past)
<b>gfather</b>	<i>grandpa</i> (used by own grandchildren to self, used by own children to distinguish maternal grandfather from paternal “ <i>papa</i> ”); <i>grandad; Gibby</i> <sup>◊</sup> (i.e. nickname derived from surname “ <i>Gilbert</i> ” used by own grandson when being “ <i>cheeky</i> ”); <i>papa</i> <sup>♦</sup> (used by own children to distinguish paternal grandfather from maternal “ <i>grandpa</i> ”, used by own grandchildren)
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>thingummy</i> (“ <i>you know what I’m talking about the thingummy</i> ” used frequently); <i>thingme</i> <sup>♦</sup> ; <i>the man with the nose above his mouth</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>thingymajig</i> <sup>♦</sup> ; <i>watchamacallit, watchacallit</i> <sup>◊</sup> (suggested by interviewer); <i>you know</i>
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-box; tools</i> (“ <i>my tools</i> ”); <i>tool-kit; gibbles</i> <sup>†</sup> , <i>bass</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer as used elsewhere, not known)
<b>trendy</b>	<i>ned</i> (“ <i>new word</i> ”); <i>poser</i> (“ <i>what a poser</i> ” used of someone “ <i>a bit flash</i> ”); <i>slapper</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>what a slapper</i> ” considered “ <i>derogatory term</i> ” used of e.g. female in “ <i>short skirt</i> ”); <i>tacky; cheap</i> (used by mother in past)
<b>f partner</b>	<i>wife; girlfriend</i> (of unmarried female partner); <i>fiancée</i> (of female partner when engaged, seldom used); <i>the bird, her indoors, She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed</i> (used occasionally “ <i>depending on the company</i> ”); <i>partner</i> (suggested by interviewer, used of others but not of self); <i>bidie ins</i> <sup>†</sup> (of unmarried partners, not common locally, preferred to “ <i>they’re living together</i> ”)
<b>baby</b>	<i>baby; wain</i> <sup>†</sup> (heard used by older speakers, “ <i>the wain</i> ” used locally/associated with ‘Oor Wullie’ <sup>8</sup> /The Broons’ <sup>9</sup> ); <i>the bairn, the bairns</i> (common locally esp. of youngest child in family, associated with ‘Oor Wullie’ <sup>8</sup> /The Broons’ <sup>9</sup> , though to be cognate with Dutch word, “ <i>better meddle wi the deil than the Bairns o Falkirk</i> ” <sup>10</sup> , “ <i>The Bairns</i> ” also nickname for Falkirk FC <sup>11</sup> ); <i>kids</i> (heard used, disliked)
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>pouring</i> (“ <i>it’s pouring down</i> ”); <i>chucking it down</i> <sup>Δ</sup> (“ <i>it’s chucking it down out there</i> ”); <i>a right downpour; raining</i> (seldom used)
<b>toilet</b>	<i>toilet</i> (“ <i>go to the toilet</i> ” used to e.g. grandson); <i>shunkie</i> <sup>†</sup> (used occasionally); <i>loo</i> (considered universal); <i>bog</i> (“ <i>I’m going to the bog</i> ” used in “ <i>rough company</i> ”); <i>cludgie</i> <sup>Δ</sup> (suggested by interviewer, used)
<b>walkway</b>	<i>passageway</i> (of walkway/entrance between two buildings); <i>close, closies</i> (of roofed walkway within building leading to flats, common in Grangemouth in past prior to 1960s redevelopment); <i>corridor</i> (of walkway inside building); <i>path; alley, alleyway</i> (of own roofed walkway at home); <i>pend, vennel</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>The Vennel</i> ” thought to be typical street name in e.g. Fife/Linlithgow)
<b>long seat</b>	<i>couch</i> (most common, “ <i>get off that couch</i> ” used to dog); <i>seat</i> (“ <i>my/mum’s/dad’s seat</i> ” of special chair); <i>sofa</i> (seldom used); <i>settee</i> (suggested by interviewer, used by mother in past); <i>resting chyres</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer)

<sup>7</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘her’ in sense of ‘wife’.

<sup>8</sup> Scottish comic strip created by editor R. D. Low (1895-1980) and drawn by cartoonist Dudley D. Watkins (1907-1969) first published in *The Sunday Post* newspaper 1936.

<sup>9</sup> *Wikipedia* comic strip in Scots published in weekly Scottish newspaper ‘The Sunday Post’ first appearing 1936 created by writer/editor R. D. Low (1895-1980) and artist Dudley D. Watkins (1907-1969).

<sup>10</sup> *A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase & Fable* (2012) entry for ‘Bairns o’ Falkirk’ includes town motto ‘Better meddle wi the Deil than the bairns o Falkirk’ [= ‘better fight with the devil than the children of Falkirk’].

<sup>11</sup> *A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase & Fable* (2012) records ‘Bairns o’ Falkirk’ in this sense.

<b>run water</b>	<i>stream</i> (thought to be smaller than “ <i>burn</i> ”); <i>burn</i> (most common locally, used of e.g. “ <i>Grange Burn</i> ”)
<b>main room</b>	<i>living-room</i> ; <i>lounge</i> (used in past of “ <i>good room</i> ” with no TV, used now); <i>sitting-room</i> (used in current house in preference to “ <i>front room</i> ”); <i>front room</i> (used in previous house)
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>drizzle</i> (used when e.g. walking in contrast to “ <i>smur</i> ” when in car); <i>drizzly</i> ; <i>shower</i> ; <i>smur</i> (used when in car)
<b>rich</b>	<i>well off</i> (of being “ <i>moneyed</i> ”); <i>rich</i> (not used); “ <i>they’ve got a wee bit of money</i> ”; <i>worth a few bob</i> <sup>12</sup> (“ <i>he/she’s worth a few bob</i> ”); <i>loaded</i> (common locally); <i>wealthy</i> ; <i>minted</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard but not used)
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>corrie fisted</i> <sup>†</sup> (thought to be reference to Kerr family from Edinburgh with left-handed spiral staircase); <i>left-handed</i> ; <i>corrie handed</i> <sup>†</sup> (also used by mother, “ <i>corrie-footed</i> ” used for ‘left-footed’ <sup>13</sup> ); <i>cack-handed</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard but not used)
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>ugly</i> (“ <i>sounds awful harsh</i> ”, seldom used, more likely to think “ <i>ugly</i> ” than say it); <i>hammer</i> <sup>♦</sup> ; <i>minger</i> ; <i>dog</i> ; <i>badger</i> <sup>♦</sup> (suggested by interviewer); <i>minging</i> (used by daughter-in-law from Glasgow, more common locally for “ <i>smelly</i> ” e.g. “ <i>you’re minging, dad</i> ” used by nine-year-old daughter, also used for ‘drunk’)
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint</i> (“ <i>absolutely skint</i> ” considered Scottish, most common locally); <i>pink lint</i> <sup>◊</sup> (used by son); <i>on the bones</i> <sup>△</sup> (“ <i>on the bones of your backside/arse</i> ” <sup>◊</sup> )
<b>drunk</b>	<i>pissed</i> ; <i>wellied</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>leathered</i> <sup>△</sup> ; <i>fou</i> ; <i>drunk</i> (of others); “ <i>I’ve had a wee drink/bevvy</i> ” (of self); <i>tipsy</i> , <i>rubberlegged</i> <sup>♦</sup> , <i>comatose</i> <sup>◊</sup> , <i>out the game</i> <sup>14</sup> (suggested by interviewer, heard used)
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>expecting</i> (most common in past, polite, frequently “ <i>said in a whisper</i> ” in past); <i>pregnant</i> (avoided in past, used by own children); <i>bun in the oven</i> (polite); <i>up the duff</i> (used by males to male friends); “ <i>the vegetable garden behind the cabbages</i> ” <sup>15</sup> (used euphemistically in past as explanation of where babies come from); <i>in the club</i> (used by males when “ <i>out with the boys</i> ”); <i>expecting a baby</i> (of self)
<b>attractive</b>	<i>pretty</i> (“ <i>she’s pretty</i> ”); <i>attractive</i> ; <i>bonny</i> (“ <i>bonny bairns</i> ”, liked); <i>lovely lass</i> (of female); <i>braw</i> (“ <i>old</i> ”); <i>stoater</i> <sup>△</sup> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>cracker</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>oh, look at her, what a cracker</i> ” used with male friends); <i>very nice</i> ; <i>good-looking</i>
<b>insane</b>	<i>mad</i> (“ <i>broad spectrum</i> ”); <i>daft</i> (of child “ <i>doing something silly</i> ”, also used for “ <i>high-spirited</i> ”); <i>insane</i> (disliked); “ <i>you’ll end up in Larbert</i> ” <sup>16</sup> (i.e. reference to local asylum used to children in past); <i>aff your heid</i> <sup>17</sup> , <i>nae right</i> <sup>18</sup> , <i>nuts</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>look at him, he’s off his head</i> ” used occasionally)
<b>moody</b>	<i>dour</i> (“ <i>Scottish</i> ”); <i>female</i> <sup>♦</sup> (suggested jokingly); <i>grumpy</i> ; <i>moody</i> ; <i>crabbit</i> <sup>†</sup> (used frequently by mother)

© Robinson, Herring, Gilbert

<sup>12</sup> *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘worth a bob or two’ in this sense.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Why can’t Scotland aim to win World Cup (and how I played in same team as Kenny Dalglish)’ (Jock Morrison, *The Herald* 13.11.2014) includes ‘corrie-footed’ in this sense (see <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13189295.WhycantScotlandaimtowinWorldCupandhowIplayedinsameteamasKennyDalglish/>).

<sup>14</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) includes ‘out of the game’ in this sense.

<sup>15</sup> Steve Roud’s *Monday’s Child is Fare of Face and other traditional beliefs about mothers and babies* (2009, p.4) records ‘the traditional source of babies was somewhere in the garden [...], for example, in the cabbage patch’.

<sup>16</sup> *County Asylums* (<https://www.countyasylums.co.uk/bellsdyke/>) records Bellsdyke Hospital as psychiatric hospital opened in 1869 and closed in 1997.

<sup>17</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>18</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘nae’ in sense of ‘not’.

*Voices of the UK, 2009-2012*  
A British Library project funded by The Leverhulme Trust