

Title:

Greenock, Inverclyde

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

02.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Burke, Andrew, b. 1985 Johnstone, Renfrewshire; male; student (father b. Paisley, Renfrewshire, painter & decorator; mother b. Glasgow, cleaner)

Eskdale, Ronnie, b. 1987 Glasgow; male; student (father b. Glasgow; mother b. Glasgow)

Haley, Scott, b. 1987 Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire; male; student (father b. Irvine, Ayrshire, civil servant; mother b. Paisley, Renfrewshire, civil servant)

Reilly, James (Jamie), b. 1986 Stirling; male; student (father b. Londonderry, nuclear engineer; mother b. Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, radio controller)

The interviewees are all students at James Watt College in Greenock.

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 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 *pleased; chuffed; happy; cheesied*¹ (“I’m *cheesied*”, thought to derive from “*cheeser*” i.e. “*big smile on your face*”²)

tired *shattered; knackered; wrecked*[◇]

¹ Alessandra Virginia’s tweet *well cheesied how i fitted into a size 4 dress* 😊 (31.08.13 – see <https://twitter.com/alessandralyons/status/373711066687344640>) includes ‘cheesied’ in this sense.

² *Wiktionary* (<https://en.wiktionary.org/>) includes ‘cheeser’ in this sense.

unwell	<i>sick; unwell; no well</i> [†]
hot	<i>roasting; warm</i> (pronounced “warr-m” locally); <i>boiling</i>
cold	<i>Baltic</i> [◇] (most common); <i>freezing; cold; fridging</i> [★] (suggested by interviewer, not known)
annoyed	<i>raging; pissed off; pissed aff</i> [♯] ; <i>mad; angry; radge</i> (suggested by interviewer, associated with Falkirk/Stirling); <i>natti</i> [†] (heard used in Central Scotland/Stirling, used jokingly of own “Uncle Natty” considered “pure crazy”)
throw	(not discussed)
play truant	<i>bunk</i> (used in preference to “dog” since living in Roseneath); <i>dog</i> [†] (used as child in Glasgow before moving to Roseneath, also used for “unattractive”); <i>dogging it</i> [†]
sleep	<i>snooze; sleeping; forty winks</i> (used by grandmother of short “rest for a wee while/closing her eyes/dozing off” during day); <i>shut-eye, hitting the hay, hitting the sack</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>scratcher</i> [△] (“going to my scratcher” [△] , thought to be reference to “bedbugs”); <i>doze</i> (of brief daytime sleep); <i>sleep</i> (of sleep at night)
play a game	<i>playing a game; play</i>
hit hard	<i>scud</i> (of person/object e.g. window, “I just scudded that window there wi a big brick” ⁴ , “in the scud” also used for “bare/naked” [○]); <i>wallop; pelt</i> (“I just pelted him”); <i>fuck</i> [△] ; <i>hit; crack</i> (“I just cracked that winow wi a stane” ⁵)
clothes	<i>clothes; claes</i> (most common); <i>trackies</i> ⁶ ; <i>gear, kit</i> (suggested by interviewer, usually used for “heroin”)
trousers	<i>troosers</i> [†] ; <i>trackie-bottoms</i> [△] ; <i>trackies; pinstripes</i> ⁷ (of trousers worn on night out); <i>strides, glad-rags, trews</i> (suggested by interviewer, not known)
child’s shoe	<i>sannies</i> [△] (most common locally); <i>gutties</i> [†]
mother	<i>ma; maw; mam</i> (used of/to own mother in preference to “maw” since going to college); <i>mammy</i> (used to own mother as young child before changing to “maw” as teenager then “mam” more recently)
gmother	<i>gran; nan; grandma</i>
m partner	<i>bird</i> (used by females locally); <i>boo</i> (used in USA); <i>your man; birds; your boy; your boyfriend; beau</i> (suggested by interviewer as used in past)
friend	(not discussed)
gfather	<i>grand-da</i> [†] (most common); <i>papa</i> [★] ; <i>pap</i> ⁸ (“lazy for papa”); <i>dey</i> [†] (suggested by interviewer as used in Dunfermline)
forgot name	<i>thingy</i> (pronounced “hingie” locally); “fuck, what’s your name again?” (to person); <i>hing</i> [†] (“pass us that hing/gie us that hing ower” ⁹); <i>mate</i> (“gie’s that here, mate” ¹⁰); <i>thingummyjig</i> [△] , <i>whatchamacallit</i> (suggested by interviewer, considered “too Central” i.e. used in Central Scotland)
kit of tools	<i>tool-kit; tool-box; gibbles</i> [†] , <i>bass</i> [†] (suggested by interviewer, not known)
trendy	<i>ned</i> (“a wee ned” most common locally); <i>neds; spoilt bastard</i> [△] ; <i>nedette</i> ¹¹ (of female); <i>senga</i> ¹² (suggested by interviewer, not known)

³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘aff’ in sense of ‘off’.

⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘wi’ in sense of ‘with’.

⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘wi’ in sense of ‘with’ and ‘stane’ in sense of ‘stone’

⁶ *OED* (online edition) records ‘trackies’ in sense of ‘tracksuit trousers’.

⁷ *OED* (online edition) records ‘pinstripe’ in sense of ‘suit/outfit made of pinstripe cloth’.

⁸ Susei Dent’s *How to Talk like a Local* (2010) includes ‘pap’ in this sense.

⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘gie’ in sense of ‘to give’ and ‘ower’ in sense of ‘over’.

¹⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘gie’ in sense of ‘to give’.

¹¹ *Collins Dictionary* (<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>) includes ‘nedette’ in this sense.

f partner	<i>bird; boo</i> (used in America); <i>lass</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>bit of stuff</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>bit on the side</i> ” ^Δ); <i>other half</i> (suggested by interviewer, used); <i>her indoors, the missus</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>dishwasher</i> [♦]
baby	<i>wain</i> [†] (most common locally, used by others of self); <i>baby; bairn</i> (suggested by interviewer, associated with Central/East Scotland)
rain heavily	<i>pissing doon</i> ¹³ ; <i>pissing it doon</i> ¹³ ; <i>pouring doon</i> ¹³ ; <i>chucking it</i> ^Δ (“ <i>chucking it doon</i> ” ¹³)
toilet	<i>toilet; pissar</i> (not used in presence of mother, used when “ <i>going for a pee/piss</i> ” in pub); <i>shitter</i> (not used in presence of mother, used when “ <i>going for a number two</i> ” ¹⁴ in pub); <i>W.C.; the bog; pisher</i> [♦] ; <i>water-closet; cludgie</i> [†] , <i>lav, shithouse</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>the john</i> (“ <i>I’m going to the john</i> ” used in presence of mother)
walkway	<i>alley; short cut; alleyway; lane</i>
long seat	<i>couch</i> (most common, “ <i>my bed</i> ” used jokingly of “ <i>couch</i> ” when too tired to go upstairs to bed); <i>settee; sofa</i>
run water	<i>burn; pond</i>
main room	<i>living-room; sitting-room; lounge</i> (suggested by interviewer, used)
rain lightly	<i>spitting; spitting down; smurry</i>
rich	<i>rich; snobs</i> (of e.g. “ <i>Posh and Becks</i> ” ¹⁵); <i>loaded; minted</i> (pronounced “ <i>mintit</i> ” locally); <i>lots o money</i> ¹⁶ ; <i>bastards</i> ^Δ (suggested jokingly)
left-handed	<i>left-handed</i> (pronounced “ <i>left-haunit</i> ” locally); <i>corrie fisted</i> [‡] , <i>corrie-pawed</i> [‡] , <i>pallie jookit</i> [†] , <i>sinister</i> (suggested by interviewer as used by older speakers); <i>cack-handed</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>cack</i> ” used locally for “ <i>shit</i> ”/“ <i>three litre bottle of cider</i> ” ^Δ)
unattractive	<i>dog; minger; stinking</i> [◊] ; <i>minging</i> (“ <i>she’s a wee minger</i> ”); “ <i>she’s black</i> ” [†] (used for “ <i>dirty</i> ”); <i>stanking</i> [◊] ; <i>whore</i>
lack money	<i>skint; nae money at all</i> ¹⁷
drunk	<i>steaming</i> ^Δ ; <i>mad wi’ it</i> [♦] (synonym for “ <i>pissed</i> ”, also used of being under the influence of drugs esp. “ <i>uppers</i> ” ¹⁸); <i>stoned</i> (suggested by interviewer), <i>out your tree</i> ^Δ (used of being under the influence of drugs esp. “ <i>downers</i> ” ¹⁹)
pregnant	<i>up the duff</i> (most common locally, also used by female friends); <i>pregnant; expecting, having a baby</i> (suggested by interviewer)
attractive	<i>stunning; stunner</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>look at that wee stunner</i> ”); <i>tidy; hot; sexual; sexy</i> (suggested by interviewer, used)
insane	<i>crazy; insane; “he’s aff his nut</i> ” ²⁰ ; “ <i>he’s just no right there</i> ”; <i>crazed; psycho</i>
moody	<i>moody</i> (“ <i>moody bastard</i> ”); <i>moany</i> (“ <i>Jamie’s a moany cunt</i> ”)

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¹² Wiktionary (<https://en.wiktionary.org/>) includes ‘senga’ in this sense.

¹³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘doon’ in sense of ‘down’.

¹⁴ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘number two’ in sense of ‘act of defecation’.

¹⁵ Media-inspired nickname for English celebrity supercouple Victoria Beckham (English singer & fashion designer, b.1974 née Victoria Adams aka ‘Posh Spice’) and David Beckham (English former professional footballer, b.1975).

¹⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘o’ in sense of ‘of’.

¹⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘nae’ in sense of ‘no/not any’.

¹⁸ *OED* (online edition) records ‘upper’ in sense of ‘drug esp. amphetamine pill which has stimulant/euphoric effect’.

¹⁹ *OED* (online edition) records ‘downer’ in sense of ‘drug esp. barbiturate that has depressant/tranquillizing effect’.

²⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘aff’ in sense of ‘off’; *OED* (online edition) includes ‘off one’s nut’ in this sense.