

**Title:**

Fort William, Highland

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/43/21

**Recording date:**

07.05.2005

**Speakers:**

Abernethy, Ian, b. 1940 Fort William; male; journalist (father b. Penicuick, Midlothian, railway signalman; mother b. Uddingston, Lanarkshire, hotel worker)

MacLachlan, Catherine (Cathy-Ann), b. 1959 Stirling; female; trainer cook (father b. Barvas, Isle of Lewis, joiner/weaver; mother b. Reef, Isle of Lewis, housewife)

MacGavin, Donald, b. 1936 Aberfoyle, Perthshire; male; retired librarian (father b. Glasgow, County Planning Officer; mother b. London, nurse)

Smith, Nicola, b. 1965 Fort William; female; Lochaber College Information & Marketing Manager (father b. Fort William, self-employed coach operator; mother b. Glasgow, shop proprietor)

The interviewees are all close friends.

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**

*happy; chuffed* (“*chuffed to bits*”<sup>◆</sup> used frequently, “*chuffed to Barney*” used in past in reference to former colleague); *delighted; in your element; raring to go; H.A.P.P.Y.*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Michael Moorcock's *Doctor Who: The Coming of the Terraphiles* (2010, p.188) includes ‘I’m aitch ay pee pee wy’ in this sense (a reference, presumably, to traditional song used as theme tune for TV sit-com *Only When I Laugh*, first broadcast on ITV in 1979).

<b>tired</b>	<i>tired; knackered; jiggered</i> (used in past, used by father); <i>fed up; weary; knacked</i> <sup>Δ</sup> (“local equivalent of knackered”)
<b>unwell</b>	<i>sick; ill; peely-wally; poorly, out of sorts</i> (used since living in England); <i>unwell</i>
<b>hot</b>	<i>boiling; hot; roasting; sultry; sweating; glowing; feverish</i>
<b>cold</b>	<i>freezing; cold; raw; Baltic</i> <sup>◊</sup> (heard used by young speakers); <i>taters</i> <sup>◊</sup> (“ <i>taters in the mould cold</i> ”)
<b>annoyed</b>	<i>furiously; wild; discombobulated; incandescent; narked; flustered; hacked off</i> (“ <i>thoroughly hacked off</i> ”); <i>fuming; p...d off</i> <sup>◊</sup> (i.e. presumably ‘pissed off’ heard frequently locally)
<b>throw</b>	<i>chuck; eject; bung; fling</i> (“ <i>Highland fling</i> ”)
<b>play truant</b>	<i>skip</i> (“ <i>skipped school</i> ”); <i>jink</i> <sup>†</sup> , <i>jinked</i> <sup>†</sup> , <i>jinking</i> <sup>†</sup> (used now and in past); <i>bunked</i> (“ <i>bunked off for the afternoon</i> ” used by previous generation); <i>play hookey</i> (not heard locally); <i>bunk</i> (associated with Perthshire); <i>jouk</i> <sup>†</sup> (“ <i>jouk school</i> ” used in past)
<b>sleep</b>	<i>sleep; snooze; zizz</i> (“ <i>have a bit zizz</i> ” associated with “ <i>lot of letter zeds</i> ” used to represent sleep in cartoons); <i>nod off; kip</i>
<b>play a game</b>	<i>participate; take part</i>
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>wallop; skelp; swipe; clout; clobber; clatter; banjax</i> (associated with Terry Wogan <sup>2</sup> ); <i>slap; belt</i>
<b>clothes</b>	<i>clobber; gear; apparel; clothes</i> (of male/female clothes); <i>kit; dress</i> (“ <i>dress code</i> ” used of school uniform); <i>togs</i>
<b>trousers</b>	<i>breeks</i> (thought to come from Gaelic “ <i>brìgis</i> ” for ‘trousers’ <sup>3</sup> ); <i>flannels</i> (“ <i>posh</i> ”); <i>trouser</i> (“ <i>I’m away to buy a trouser</i> ” common locally)
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>sannies</i> <sup>Δ</sup> (abbreviation of “ <i>sand-shoes</i> ”); <i>plimsolls</i> (used in public school); <i>gym shoes, trainers</i> (used now); <i>gutties</i> <sup>†</sup> (used in Perthshire and elsewhere)
<b>mother</b>	<i>mum; maw</i> (associated with ‘The Broons’ <sup>4</sup> ); <i>mother</i> (used by own children to self when older, “ <i>slightly condescending</i> ”); <i>mammy</i> (used by own children to self when younger); <i>missus; She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed</i> <sup>5</sup> ; <i>mummy</i> (used by own children to self when younger)
<b>gmother</b>	<i>gaga</i> <sup>6</sup> (used by friend’s grandchildren); <i>the old coo</i> <sup>7</sup> (used by father); <i>granny</i> (“ <i>granny Badabrie</i> ” used of grandmother from Badabrie to distinguish between maternal/paternal grandmother, “ <i>old granny</i> ” used by own grandchildren of great-grandmother); <i>grandma; gran; granny pops</i> <sup>8</sup> ; <i>nana</i> (used by own grandchildren of great-grandmother)
<b>m partner</b>	<i>bidie in</i> <sup>†</sup> (used in past of unmarried co-habiting couple, more commonly used of female than male); <i>significant other</i> (disliked); <i>fine fellow</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>hubby; fella</i> <sup>◊</sup> ; <i>him indoors</i> <sup>9</sup> ; <i>him</i> <sup>10</sup> ; <i>himself</i> <sup>11</sup> ; <i>better half</i>

<sup>2</sup> Sir Michael Terence Wogan (1938-2016), Irish radio and TV presenter.

<sup>3</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘brìgis’ in sense of ‘trousers’.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed’ in sense of ‘strong-willed/domineering woman, esp. wife/female partner’.

<sup>6</sup> Margaret Manning’s ‘Trendy New Grandma Names – Coco, Neema, Gaga and ...’ (no date – see *Sixty+Me* at <http://sixtyandme.com/trendy-new-grandma-names-coco-neema-gaga/>) includes ‘gaga’ in this sense.

<sup>7</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘coo’ in sense of ‘cow’; *Urban Dictionary* (online) records ‘old cow’ in sense of ‘(grumpy) old woman’.

<sup>8</sup> @ellaCrv’s tweet *Missin’ granny pops* (16.09.17 – see <https://twitter.com/EllaCrv/status/909063844219121665>) includes ‘granny pops’ in this sense.

<sup>9</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘her indoors’ in sense of ‘wife/girlfriend’.

<sup>10</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘her’ in sense of ‘wife’.

<sup>11</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘herself’ in sense of ‘wife’.

<b>friend</b>	<i>pals; chums; muckers; mates; friend; pal; chum; mate</i>
<b>gfather</b>	<i>grandad; grumpy grumpy<sup>12</sup>; gran 'paw'<sup>†</sup>; grandpa; gaga<sup>13</sup> (considered idiolectal)</i>
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>thingummyjig<sup>Δ</sup>; doofer; rudan<sup>14</sup> (Gaelic for 'thing' used frequently by mother); cùisair<sup>15</sup> (Gaelic for 'thing'); thingummybob<sup>Δ</sup>; whatsit; hoojie<sup>♦</sup>; who-d'ye-ker-flip<sup>16</sup></i>
<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-kit; tool-box; tool bag (used by joiner father); kit; toolset</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>towny tart; bints; bird; fop; cool dude ("American"); dandy; bufties<sup>♦</sup> (of biker/skateboarder typically wearing black T-shirt and jeans with chains, used in past to mean 'homosexual'<sup>Δ</sup>); goths<sup>17</sup>; gay (used by own daughter but not in sense of 'homosexual')</i>
<b>f partner</b>	<i>bidie in<sup>†</sup> (used in past of unmarried co-habiting couple); her indoors</i>
<b>baby</b>	<i>wee one ("how's the wee one today?" used esp. when forgotten baby's name); bairn; sprog ("sprog-a-log" disliked); kiddy; baby; offspring; wee B asterisks R<sup>Δ</sup> (i.e. presumably "wee bugger" used of toddler); toddler; small person; the wain<sup>†</sup> (of young child); it<sup>18</sup> (gender neutral); T.B.<sup>Δ</sup> (idiolectal acronym for "that boy" used of own baby in past); wean</i>
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>pouring; bucketing<sup>19</sup>; persist down<sup>20</sup>; thunderplump<sup>†</sup> (used by mother, liked); batter down<sup>21</sup>; hammer down<sup>♦</sup>; chucking it down<sup>Δ</sup> (common)</i>
<b>toilet</b>	<i>cludgie<sup>Δ</sup> ("good Glasgow word"); convenience, W.C. ("terribly posh"); loo; bog (used in Lochaber High School); fanny<sup>Δ</sup> (heard used); john; water-closet (not common locally); the little boys' room; the outside room; essential offices<sup>22</sup>; branch office<sup>22</sup>; the wee room</i>
<b>walkway</b>	<i>close (used in Glasgow, also used locally); wynd; vennel; alleyway; alley</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>couch ("good Fort William word"); sofa ("a wee bit upmarket"); settee; bed-settee; chaise-longue; divan (old)</i>
<b>run water</b>	<i>burn; stream ("slightly upmarket"); rivulet; burns; allt<sup>23</sup> (associated with Grey Mare's Tail waterfall)</i>
<b>main room</b>	<i>living-room; sitting-room (abbreviated to "sits-room" within family); lounge; parlour; family space<sup>Δ</sup>; family room; front room (reserved for visitors in past); kitchen (of main room in tenement in past); best room</i>
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>dreich<sup>†</sup> (of "fine misty rain"); smur (thought to be related to "smear"); drizzle; fine rain; shower; Scotch mist</i>
<b>rich</b>	<i>loaded; well off; well-heeled; affluent; stinking (abbreviation of 'stinking rich')</i>
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>corrie fisted<sup>†</sup>; corrie jukit<sup>†</sup>; cack-handed; sinister; southpaws (boxing term, "American")</i>
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>glaikit<sup>24</sup> ("a bit glaikit-looking" used by mother, disputed: thought to be used for "stupid"<sup>†</sup>); "she's got a very unfortunate face"<sup>♦</sup> (used by mother of e.g. Bet Lynch<sup>25</sup> from 'Coronation</i>

<sup>12</sup> *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) includes 'grumpy' and 'grampy' in this sense.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records 'rud' in sense of 'thing'.

<sup>15</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records 'cùis' in sense of 'thing'.

<sup>16</sup> *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records 'oojah-ma-flip' in this sense.

<sup>17</sup> *OED* (online edition) records 'goth' in sense of "fan of particular style of rock music and associated youth culture".

<sup>18</sup> *Collins Dictionary* (<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>) includes 'it' in this sense.

<sup>19</sup> *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes 'bucket down' in this sense.

<sup>20</sup> Andi Payne's *The Only Way Is Up. 50 Not Out: a scoot around Switzerland by bike* (2013, p.132) includes 'persisting down' in this sense.

<sup>21</sup> Gels' tweet *Don't you just love lying in bed listening to the rain battering down outside #cosy* (14.01.18 – see <https://twitter.com/GelsRFC/status/952640668362559488>) includes 'battering down' in this sense.

<sup>22</sup> *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records 'office' in this sense.

<sup>23</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes 'allt' in this sense.

<sup>24</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records 'glaikit' in sense of 'stupid'.

	Street <sup>26</sup> ); <i>dull</i> ; <i>ugly</i> (“ <i>obvious one</i> ”); <i>no braw</i> ; <i>C.V.H.s</i> <sup>Δ</sup> (acronym for “ <i>Class Five horrors</i> ” used at Perth Academy in past)
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint</i> ; <i>boracic</i> (“ <i>Cockney equivalent</i> ” used by young speakers); <i>impecunious</i> (“ <i>journalistic/highfaluting</i> ” term); <i>poor</i> ; <i>poverty-struck</i> ; <i>indigent</i> ; <i>having a cash flow problem</i>
<b>drunk</b>	<i>fou</i> ; <i>blootered</i> (also used for ‘to hit hard’); <i>merry</i> , <i>half-jaked</i> <sup>27</sup> (of being slightly drunk); <i>paralytic</i> ; <i>paraletic</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>mortal</i> ; <i>steaming</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>canned</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>half-canned</i> <sup>28</sup> ; <i>half-cut</i> ; <i>well-oiled</i> ; <i>half-fou</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>half-shot</i> ; <i>well-shot</i> <sup>29</sup> ; <i>half seas over</i> ; <i>several sheets to the wind</i> <sup>30</sup>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>pregnant</i> ; <i>expecting</i> ; <i>bun in the oven</i> ; <i>in the family way</i> (“ <i>Edwardian</i> ”); <i>up the stick, up the skite</i> <sup>31</sup> (used in past of young mother)
<b>attractive</b>	<i>bonny</i> ; <i>pretty</i> ; <i>stunner</i> ; “ <i>she’s a cracker</i> ” (used locally by males of female); <i>brama</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>doss</i> <sup>†</sup> (used at school in past as general term of approval equivalent to modern “ <i>cool</i> ”)
<b>insane</b>	<i>daft</i> (“ <i>a bit daft</i> ”); <i>nuts</i> ; <i>nutcase</i> ; <i>mental</i> (not used of mental health problems); <i>fifteen shillings in the pound</i> <sup>32</sup> ; <i>a sandwich short of a picnic</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>twopence short of a ha’penny</i> <sup>33</sup> ; <i>not the full shilling</i> <sup>Δ</sup> ; <i>not dealing with a full pack of cards</i> <sup>34</sup> ; <i>bonkers</i> , <i>crackers</i> (used affectionately); <i>insane</i>
<b>moody</b>	<i>temperamental</i> ; <i>down in the mouth</i> ; <i>crabbit</i> <sup>†</sup> (of “ <i>temper/snappiness</i> ”); <i>grumpy</i> ; <i>grouchy</i>

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<sup>25</sup> *Wikipedia* fictional character played by British actress Julie Goodyer (b.1942) in long-running British soap opera, ‘Coronation Street’ – see footnote 26.

<sup>26</sup> *Wikipedia* long-running British soap opera broadcast on ITV since 1960 set in fictitious town of Weatherfield, Greater Manchester.

<sup>27</sup> *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘jaked’ in this sense.

<sup>28</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘canned’ in this sense.

<sup>29</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘shot’ in this sense.

<sup>30</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘three sheets in the wind’ in this sense.

<sup>31</sup> Thomas Cahill’s tweet *So Kate’s up the skite and is admitted to hospital for 7 days due to ‘acute morning sickness!’ FFS man up, woman!* (13.12.12 – see <https://twitter.com/tomcahill7/status/275634813275369473>) includes ‘up the skite’ in this sense.

<sup>32</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘few bob short of a pound’ in this sense.

<sup>33</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘twopence short of a bob’ in this sense.

<sup>34</sup> *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘not play with a full deck’ in this sense.