

**Title:**

Isle of Mull, Argyll &amp; Bute

**Shelfmark:**

C1190/43/24

**Recording date:**

09.03.2005

**Speakers:**

Brunton, Mary (Maimie), b. 1928 Ross of Mull; female (father b. Oban, Highland, fisherman; mother b. Mallaig, Highland)

MacKechnie, Margaret (Aggie), b. 1918 Isle of Mull; female (father b. Isle of Mull, gamekeeper; mother b. Isle of Mull, housewife)

MacRae, Anne, b. 1930 Ross of Mull; female (father b. Oban, Highland, fisherman; mother b. Rannoch Moor, Highland, full-time mother)

Wilson, Elizabeth, b. 1962 Isle of Mull; female (father b. Isle of Mull, postmaster; mother b. Tarbert, Argyll & Bute, housewife)

Wood, Euphemia, b. 1940 Isle of Mull; female (father b. Isle of Mull, crofter & postman; mother b. Ross of Mull, housewife)

The interviewees are all members of the same lunch club on the Isle of Mull.

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)
- ◻ no previous source (with this sense) identified

**pleased**

*happy; delighted; chuffed* (modern, “*real chuffed*”); *pleased; thrilled* (of being “*very pleased*”)

<b>tired</b>	<i>sgìth</i> <sup>1</sup> (Gaelic for ‘tired’, “ <i>oh God, I’m sgìth I’m away tae my bed</i> ” <sup>2</sup> used to mother); <i>tired</i> ; <i>wabbit</i> (“ <i>I’m just wabbit</i> ”); <i>exhausted</i> (“ <i>English</i> ”); <i>jiggered</i> (common, “ <i>I’m a-jiggered I’m away tae my bed</i> ” <sup>2</sup> used to sister); <i>finished</i> <sup>o</sup> ; <i>done</i> ; <i>dead-beat</i> ; <i>tuckered out</i> (“ <i>American</i> ”); <i>muladach</i> <sup>3</sup> (Gaelic); <i>crùbach</i> <sup>4</sup> (Gaelic for being “ <i>bent over with tiredness</i> ”)
<b>unwell</b>	<i>not great</i> (“ <i>I’m not feeling great today</i> ”); <i>no great</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>poorly</i> (“ <i>so-and-so was awful poorly last week</i> ”); <i>out of sorts</i> ; <i>sick</i>
<b>hot</b>	<i>teth</i> <sup>5</sup> (Gaelic for ‘hot’); <i>roasting</i> ; <i>sweating</i> ; <i>hot</i> (“ <i>too hot</i> ”); <i>melting</i>
<b>cold</b>	<i>founert</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>chivering</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>chilly</i> ; <i>cold</i> ; <i>freezing</i> ; <i>perishing cold</i> (“ <i>that bitter wind it was perishing cold</i> ”); <i>perishing</i> ; <i>terrible cold</i>
<b>annoyed</b>	<i>wild</i> (“ <i>oh, I was wild with them</i> ”); <i>mad</i> (of “ <i>really jumping up and down</i> ”); <i>annoyed</i> ; <i>angry</i> ; <i>angar</i> <sup>6</sup> (Gaelic for ‘anger’)
<b>throw</b>	<i>toss</i> (“ <i>toss me that cushion over</i> ”); <i>fling</i>
<b>play truant</b>	<i>skive</i> (“ <i>skive off the school</i> ”); <i>playing truant</i> ; <i>absent</i> ; <i>jink</i> <sup>†</sup> (“ <i>jink from school</i> ”); <i>jinkers</i> <sup>7</sup> (used by younger generation)
<b>sleep</b>	<i>bed</i> (“ <i>go to bed</i> ”); <i>sleeping</i> ; <i>snoozing</i> ; <i>snooze</i> (“ <i>a wee snooze</i> ”); <i>doss</i> (“ <i>go for a doss</i> ”)
<b>play a game</b>	<i>play</i> ; <i>playing</i> ; <i>gone out to play</i>
<b>hit hard</b>	<i>hit hard</i> ; <i>bash</i> ; <i>smack</i> (“ <i>polite</i> ”, used to non-Gaelic speakers); “ <i>give them a good scloug</i> ” <sup>†</sup> (thought to be Gaelic for “ <i>a good skelp</i> ”, “ <i>och, that kid needs a good scloug</i> ” <sup>8</sup> used to Gaelic speakers); <i>skelp</i> (“ <i>a good skelp</i> ”)
<b>clothes</b>	(not discussed)
<b>trousers</b>	<i>slacks</i> ; <i>breeks</i> (of men’s/women’s trousers); <i>trews</i> (of tartan trousers); <i>trousers</i>
<b>child’s shoe</b>	<i>gym shoe</i> ; <i>sand-shoe</i> ; <i>plimsoll</i> (“ <i>awful Anglified</i> ”); <i>gutties</i> <sup>†</sup> (heard used elsewhere)
<b>mother</b>	<i>mammy</i> (used as young child); <i>mum</i> (used as adult); <i>mam</i> (used as young child); <i>mother</i> ; <i>mummy</i> ; <i>cailleach</i> <sup>9</sup> (“ <i>are you going to the cailleach’s tonight?</i> ” used of own mother, Gaelic for “ <i>the old dear</i> ”)
<b>gmother</b>	<i>grandmother</i> ; <i>granny</i> (insists own grandchildren use spelling “ <i>grannie</i> ” <sup>†</sup> of self, thought to be old-fashioned spelling); <i>seanmhair</i> <sup>10</sup> ; <i>grandma</i> ; <i>nanny</i> (used by own grandchildren of self); <i>nana</i> ; <i>nan</i> (not used)
<b>m partner</b>	<i>by his name, Ian</i> (i.e. by name, to own husband); <i>dad</i> <sup>o</sup> (“ <i>do you want a cup of tea, dad?</i> ” to own husband); <i>darling</i> (not used); <i>boyfriend</i> ; <i>bodach</i> <sup>11</sup> (Gaelic for “ <i>old man</i> ”)
<b>friend</b>	<i>pal</i> (most common locally, “ <i>my pals</i> ”); <i>companion</i> ; <i>chum</i> ; <i>friend</i> ; <i>mates</i> (not common locally, heard on TV)
<b>gfather</b>	<i>grandfather</i> ; <i>shenar</i> <sup>†</sup> (Gaelic for ‘grandfather’, “ <i>shenar Morrison</i> ”); <i>grandpa</i>
<b>forgot name</b>	<i>thingy</i> ; <i>thingmejig</i> <sup>o</sup> ; <i>thingummyjig</i> <sup>o</sup> ; <i>mental block</i> <sup>12</sup> , <i>senior moment</i> <sup>13</sup> (current); <i>thingummybob</i> <sup>o</sup> ; <i>thingummy</i>

<sup>1</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘sgìth’ in this sense.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘crùbach’ in sense of ‘lame/crippled’.

<sup>5</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘teth’ in this sense.

<sup>6</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘angar’ in this sense.

<sup>7</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘-ers’ in sense of productive suffix ‘forming adjectives or familiar/humorous nickname’.

<sup>8</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘och’ in sense of ‘exclamation expressing exasperation’.

<sup>9</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘cailleach’ in sense of ‘old lady/the wife’.

<sup>10</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘seanmhair’ in this sense.

<sup>11</sup> *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘bodach’ in sense of ‘old man’.

<sup>12</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘mental block’ in sense of ‘inability to recall something’.

<sup>13</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘senior moment’ in sense of ‘instance/short period of forgetfulness/confusion’.

<b>kit of tools</b>	<i>tool-box</i>
<b>trendy</b>	<i>trash</i> (most common locally, “ <i>och, he/she’s just a wee trash</i> ” <sup>8</sup> ); <i>tarty</i>
<b>f partner</b>	<i>lady friend; bidie in</i> <sup>†</sup> ; <i>companion; girlfriend</i>
<b>baby</b>	<i>bairn; baby; pàist</i> <sup>14</sup> (Gaelic for ‘baby’); “ <i>och, what a nice/lovely wee thing</i> ” <sup>8</sup> (of baby)
<b>rain heavily</b>	<i>pouring; deluge</i> (learnt from school teacher who was keen Scrabble <sup>15</sup> player); <i>pour</i> (“ <i>pour with rain</i> ”)
<b>toilet</b>	<i>W.C.; loo; tigh-beg</i> <sup>‡</sup> (Gaelic for “ <i>small house/wee housie</i> ” <sup>‡</sup> /outside toilet” used in past); <i>toilet; lavatory</i> (used occasionally)
<b>walkway</b>	<i>path; causeway; passage; close</i>
<b>long seat</b>	<i>couch; sofa</i> (“ <i>posh</i> ”); <i>settee; bed-settee, put-me-down</i> <sup>16</sup> (of seat that converts into bed)
<b>run water</b>	<i>stream; burn</i> (used of “ <i>big one or wee one</i> ”, “ <i>there’s plenty of water in the burn today</i> ”, used for washing clothes in past); <i>well</i> (source of local drinking water in past)
<b>main room</b>	<i>sitting-room; living-room</i> (used as child/by own parents of room reserved for visitors); <i>kitchen</i> (used in past)
<b>rain lightly</b>	<i>smur; drizzle; drizzly; dreich</i> <sup>†</sup> (used frequently of “ <i>wet cold weather</i> ”); <i>mosach</i> <sup>17</sup> (Gaelic, liked); <i>spit</i> (“ <i>a spit of rain</i> ”)
<b>rich</b>	<i>well off; loaded</i> (“ <i>they’re loaded, that lot</i> ”, modern); <i>wealthy; got plenty of money</i>
<b>left-handed</b>	<i>corrie fisted</i> <sup>‡</sup> ; <i>left-handed; corrie-handed</i> <sup>†</sup> (suggested by interviewer); <i>glaikit</i> <sup>18</sup> (of somebody “ <i>awkward with their hands</i> ”)
<b>unattractive</b>	<i>unattractive; not nice; ugly</i> (“ <i>awful ugly</i> ”); <i>plain</i>
<b>lack money</b>	<i>skint</i>
<b>drunk</b>	<i>blootered</i> (“ <i>don’t give him any more drink ’cause he’s blootered</i> ” used when running hotel in Inverness); <i>mortal</i> (“ <i>och, she was mortal last night</i> ” <sup>8</sup> ); <i>blotto; drunk; well-oiled; three sheets to the wind; steaming</i> <sup>Δ</sup>
<b>pregnant</b>	<i>in the family way; expecting</i> (“ <i>I hear you’re expecting</i> ”, “ <i>och, they’re expecting</i> ” <sup>8</sup> ); <i>in an interesting condition</i> <sup>19</sup> (used occasionally in past); <i>well on</i> <sup>20</sup> (of final stages of pregnancy)
<b>attractive</b>	<i>bonny</i> (most common, “ <i>oh, you’re looking very bonny today</i> ”, “ <i>your hair’s awful bonny today</i> ”); <i>pretty</i>
<b>insane</b>	<i>daft; nuts; crackers; crazy; mental</i>
<b>moody</b>	<i>huffy; gruamach</i> <sup>21</sup> (Gaelic)

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<sup>14</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘pàist’ in this sense.

<sup>15</sup> *Wikipedia* Word game created 1938 by American architect Alfred Mosher Butts (1899-1993).

<sup>16</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘put-you-up’ in this sense.

<sup>17</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘mosach’ in sense of ‘nasty/filthy/foul’.

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

<sup>19</sup> *Oxford Dictionary of Euphemisms* (2003) includes ‘in an interesting condition’ in this sense.

<sup>20</sup> *OED* (online edition) records ‘on the way’ in this sense.

<sup>21</sup> *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘gruamach’ in sense of ‘sullen/gloomy/morose’.