

Title:

Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

11.01.2005

Speakers:

MacLeod, Alasdair, b. 1977 Glasgow; male

MacNeil, Kevin b. Isle of Lewis; male

Martin, David, b. 1981 Isle of Lewis; male

Morrison, Innes, b. 1971 Isle of Lewis; male

The interviewees are all members of the Stornoway artistic community on the Isle of Lewis.

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 New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ♥ see Dictionary of Contemporary Slang (2014)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◊ no previous source (with this sense) identified

- pleased** *chuffed* (“*chuffed to bits*”[♥]); *really thrilled*; *over the moon* (of being extremely pleased); *delighted*; *so chuffed*; *bloody chuffed*
- tired** *sgíth*¹ (Gaelic for ‘tired’); *wrecked*[△] (“*I feel wrecked*”); *wasted*[△]; *knackered*; *cream crackered*[△] (“*rhyming slang for knackered*”); *falling off my feet*² (of extreme tiredness/exhaustion); *really knackered*; *totally knackered*

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

² back!’s tweet *idk why im so sleepy, im falling off my feet and its only 7:20* (19.12.17 – <https://twitter.com/poodsquishh/status/943260231311745024>) includes ‘falling off my feet’ in this sense.

unwell	<i>got the bolck</i> ³ (of vomiting); <i>under the weather; a bit off; off-colour; got the runs; rough; dog rough</i> ⁴ (of hangover); <i>crap</i> ⁵ (“ <i>somebody feels like crap</i> ”); <i>a bit dodgy</i> (of e.g. stomach upset); <i>the galloping yo-yos</i> ⁶ (used at primary school of ‘diarrhoea’)
hot	<i>boiling</i> (“ <i>pretty boiling</i> ”); <i>roasting</i> (of self/weather); <i>sweltering</i> (of self/weather); <i>sweating like a pig</i> ⁵ (of feeling extremely hot); “ <i>it’s hotter in here than hell on a Sunday</i> ” ⁶ (used occasionally)
cold	<i>Baltic</i> ⁷ (“ <i>I’m fricking Baltic</i> ” of extreme cold); <i>brass monkeys; fuar</i> ⁷ (Gaelic for ‘cold’); <i>cold, freezing</i> (of self); <i>flicking freezing</i> ⁸
annoyed	<i>cheesed off</i> (“ <i>quite mild</i> ”); <i>no happy</i> [†] ; <i>got the hump</i> (“ <i>so-and-so’s got the hump today</i> ”); <i>pissed off; hacked off</i> [†] ; <i>fucked off</i> (“ <i>I’m really fucked off</i> ” used exclusively with peer group of extreme annoyance)
throw	<i>chuck; lob</i>
play truant	<i>skiving; skive, skive off</i> (most common); <i>bunk, bunk off</i> (not common locally)
sleep	<i>going to have a kip</i> (of going to sleep); <i>asleep</i> (of being asleep); <i>retiring</i> (suggested jokingly of going to sleep at night); <i>off to bed</i> (of going to sleep at night); <i>kip; nap; forty winks; snooze</i> (of “ <i>wee half an hour</i> ” sleep); <i>hit the sack</i> (of going to sleep at night); <i>turn in; nod off, doze off</i> (of falling asleep); <i>have a snooze; have/do a norrag</i> ⁹ (Gaelic for ‘sleep’ used occasionally of e.g. “ <i>forty winks/wee doze</i> ”)
play a game	<i>play a game</i> (of e.g. board game); <i>have a game; mess about</i> (“ <i>do you wanna mess about?</i> ” of “ <i>messing about with mates</i> ”)
hit hard	<i>smack; wallop; scloug</i> [†] (“ <i>gie him a good scloug</i> ” ¹⁰ , typically used by parents in administering discipline, also used of e.g. accidentally bumping one’s head); <i>whack, hammer</i> (of harder hit than “ <i>scloug</i> ”); <i>nail</i> (“ <i>give them a good nailing</i> ” [†]), <i>beat</i> (“ <i>give them a good beating</i> ” used for “ <i>to punch somebody hard</i> ”); <i>boot</i> (of e.g. football); <i>smack it one</i> (of hitting object); “ <i>I’ll burst you, man</i> ” ¹⁰ (used locally of hitting person hard); <i>skelp</i> (“ <i>give it a good skelping/skelp</i> ” used frequently), <i>a good wallop</i> (of e.g. free kick in football)
clothes	<i>clobber; clothes; rig-out; togs; glad rags; gear; “oh, you’re very spaideal</i> ” ¹¹ (Gaelic used frequently as compliment)
trousers	<i>brigis</i> ¹² (Gaelic, common locally); <i>jeans</i> (of denim trousers); <i>combats</i> (of combat trousers); <i>trousers; breeks; kegs</i> [♥] ; <i>chinos</i> (common in past)
child’s shoe	<i>plimsolls; soft shoes; trainers</i> (used now); <i>sand-shoes, gym shoes</i> (used as child in past)
mother	<i>ma</i> (“ <i>ma, come here</i> ” used to/of mother); <i>Cathy Muriel</i> [†] (i.e. by name, used jokingly to own mother when “ <i>slagging her off</i> ”); <i>mum</i> (to own mother, “ <i>my mum</i> ” of own mother); <i>the old lade</i> ¹³ (“ <i>the old lade’s in a bad mood I’ve got to be home by six</i> ” used as child of mother);

³ *OED* (online edition) records ‘bolck’ in this sense.

⁴ *Irish Slang Online* (<http://www.slang.ie>) includes ‘dog rough’ in this sense.

⁵ *Cambridge Idioms Dictionary* (2006) includes ‘sweat like a pig’ in this sense.

⁶ Katherine’s tweet *Too Warm. It’s hotter than hell on a Sunday in work. Holy moly. #pnew* (23.07.14 – <https://twitter.com/HeartToFollow84/status/491903091995049984>) includes ‘hotter than hell on a Sunday’ in this sense.

⁷ *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘fuar’ in this sense.

⁸ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘flicking’ as ‘euphemism for fucking’.

⁹ *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘norrag’ in this sense.

¹⁰ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1829-1905) records ‘gie’ in sense of ‘to give’.

¹¹ *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘spaideal’ in sense of ‘well-dressed’.

¹² *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘brigis’ in this sense.

¹³ Shane O’Mahoney’s tweet *Shirt and tie on and the old lade said I look like a Norrie going to court ☺ nice one mom* 🐦 (26.12.17 – <https://twitter.com/shaneom97/status/912589904554659840>) includes ‘the old lade’ in this sense.

	<i>mammy</i> (common locally even among older male speakers, thought to be Gaelic); <i>my old lade</i> ¹⁴ (of own mother)
gmother	<i>granny</i> (“English”, “ <i>granny Kirsty</i> ”, “ <i>granny loud granny quiet</i> ” used to distinguish between maternal/paternal grandmother, also used of own great-grandmother); <i>seanmhair</i> ¹⁵ (Gaelic for ‘grandmother’, suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>glammies</i> ¹⁶ (blend of “ <i>glamorous grannies</i> ” used in Hollywood according to recent interview with Joan Collins ¹⁷)
m partner	<i>cove</i> ¹⁸ (“ <i>how’s the cove?</i> ”); <i>boyfriend</i> ; <i>bum chum</i> [◊] (of homosexual partner); <i>bloke, the other half, the better half</i> (of husband); <i>sparring partner</i> ¹⁹ (“ <i>where’s your sparring partner the day?</i> ” ²⁰)
friend	<i>cove</i> (“ <i>how you doing, cove?</i> ” common locally, liked, “ <i>affectionate</i> ”); <i>pal</i> ; <i>mate</i> ; <i>blone</i> ²¹ (also used of female generally [◊]); <i>man</i> (“ <i>how’s it going, man?</i> ” to friend)
gfather forgot name	<i>grandpa</i> ; <i>shenar</i> [†] (Gaelic for ‘grandfather’); <i>grandfather</i> (not used); <i>grandad</i> <i>doofer</i> (“ <i>pass over that doofer</i> ”, used by friend of remote control); <i>thingymejig</i> [◊] ; <i>thingummybob</i> [△] ; <i>thingummy-something</i> [◊] ; “ <i>what’s that thing uh you know</i> ” (“ <i>and then go on to describe it</i> ”); <i>whatchamicallit</i> [♦]
kit of tools	<i>tool-box</i> (used by tradesman brother); <i>toolset</i> ; <i>tool bag</i>
trendy	<i>ned</i> (common throughout Scotland, thought to be acronym for “ <i>non-educated delinquent</i> ”, thought to originate in Glasgow); <i>schemie</i> (thought to come from “ <i>housing schemes</i> ”); <i>casual</i> ; <i>fuckwit</i> [◊] (“ <i>stronger language</i> ”)
f partner	<i>bird</i> (used by friends); <i>blone</i> ²¹ (“ <i>how’s the blone?</i> ” common locally, liked, also used of female generally [◊]); <i>the other half, the better half, the missus</i> (used when e.g. asking about friend’s partner); <i>person’s name</i> [◊] (i.e. by name); <i>girlfriend</i> (of own partner in her presence)
baby	<i>baby</i> ; <i>the wee one</i> ; <i>wain</i> [†] (not common locally, “ <i>Wayne Rooney</i> ”); <i>sprog</i> (“ <i>how’s the sprog?</i> ” used “ <i>half-jokingly half-affectionately</i> ” to friend); <i>little one</i> (“ <i>how’s the little one?</i> ”); <i>the child</i> ; <i>beag</i> ²² (Gaelic for ‘little one’)
rain heavily	<i>pissing down</i> ; <i>torrential</i> ; <i>bucketing</i> ²³ ; <i>thrashing it down</i> ²⁴ ; <i>lashing</i> ²⁵ ; <i>pissing</i> ; <i>pissing it down</i> ; <i>pouring</i> ; <i>lashing it down</i> ²⁵ (“ <i>it’s absolutely lashing it down out there</i> ”)
toilet	<i>bathroom</i> (“ <i>I’m going to the bathroom</i> ”); <i>shitter</i> (heard used); <i>bog</i> (“ <i>going to the bog</i> ”); <i>loo</i> ; <i>dropping anchor in poo bay</i> [♦] ; <i>dropping the kids off at the pool</i> [△] (of going to toilet ‘to defecate’); <i>spend a penny</i> (“ <i>euphemism</i> ”); <i>going to drain the main vein</i> (heard used); <i>take a piss, going for a Jimmy Riddle</i> (“ <i>rhyiming slang</i> ” for “ <i>piddle</i> ” used with friend); <i>going to point Percy at the porcelain</i> (of going to toilet ‘to urinate’); <i>the cottage</i> (suggested jokingly as used of public toilets)

¹⁴ Sean Kerney’s tweet *I’d sell my old lade just for Gerrard to come back to Liverpool & win the league in May, I’d throw in my two sisters and brother too* (15.11.16 – <https://twitter.com/kearney1994/status/798581213380440064>) includes ‘my old lade’ in this sense.

¹⁵ *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘seanmhair’ in this sense.

¹⁶ Fab after Fifty’s blog post ‘Granny or Glammy?’ (*Fab after Fifty* 12 March 2011) includes ‘glammy’ in this sense (see <http://www.fabafterfifty.co.uk/2011/03/02/granny-or-glammy/>).

¹⁷ Dame Joan Henrietta Collins (b.1933), English actress, author and columnist.

¹⁸ *OED* (online edition) records ‘cove’ in sense of ‘fellow/chap’.

¹⁹ *OED* (online edition) records ‘sparring partner’ in sense of ‘person with whom one enjoys arguing’.

²⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘the day’ in sense of ‘today’.

²¹ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘blone’ in sense of ‘woman’.

²² *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) records ‘beag’ in sense of ‘little one’.

²³ *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes ‘bucket down’ in this sense.

²⁴ Scottish Sceptic’s blog post ‘Scots; more words for rain than Eskimos for snow’ (*Scottish Sceptic* 28 November 2014) includes ‘thrash it down’ in this sense (see <http://scottishsceptic.co.uk/2014/11/28/scots-more-words-for-rain-than-eskimos-for-snow/>).

²⁵ *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes ‘lash’ in this sense.

walkway	<i>alley; alleyway; path; the Narrows</i> (“ <i>hanging down the Narrows</i> ” suggested by interviewer as used of area of Stornoway)
long seat	<i>couch; settee; chaise-longue</i> (suggested jokingly by interviewer, not used)
run water	<i>stream; burn; allt²⁶</i> (Gaelic)
main room	<i>living-room; sitting-room</i>
rain lightly	<i>spitting</i> (“ <i>oh, it’s spitting</i> ”); <i>drizzling; drizzle; there’s a spit in it</i> (thought to be “ <i>Gaelicized English</i> ”)
rich	<i>minted; loaded</i> (used by Canadian/American friends for ‘drunk’ ²⁷); <i>got more money than sense²⁷, too rich for your own good²⁸</i> (of spending money on “ <i>stupid things</i> ”); <i>not short of a bob or two²⁹</i>
left-handed	<i>left-handed; southpaw</i> (heard but not used, “ <i>American English</i> ”); <i>sinister</i> (Gaelic/Latin for ‘left’, not used)
unattractive	<i>a bit of a growler³⁰, she had walked through the ugly forest and had been hit by every branch³⁰, minging</i> (“ <i>she’s minging</i> ”), <i>a dog, a boot³¹, “she’s not my cup of tea”³¹</i> (“PC”), “ <i>she’s repulsive to the eye</i> ”, <i>not hot, plain</i> (of female); “ <i>that guy looks like Sloth out of The Goonies</i> ” ³² (used with friends as reference to character in ‘The Goonies’ ³²); “ <i>I don’t fancy her much</i> ”, “ <i>I don’t fancy yours much</i> ” of female); “ <i>nature hasn’t been kind to him</i> ” (“ <i>slightly less offensive</i> ”); “ <i>she looks like a bulldog chewing a wasp</i> ”; “ <i>she’s a boiler</i> ” (used by friends)
lack money	<i>skint; broke; on the bones of my/your arse³³</i>
drunk	<i>pissed; hammered; trousered³⁴; steamboats³⁴</i> (“ <i>I’m steamboats</i> ”); <i>ripped³⁴</i> (“ <i>they were totally ripped</i> ”); <i>guttered³⁴</i> (of being extremely drunk); <i>mortal</i> (“ <i>he was mortal</i> ” thought to be local); <i>paraletic³⁴; rat-arsed; legless</i> ; “ <i>he’s had one over the eight</i> ” (used by father); <i>had a few too many³³</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>had a few</i> ”); <i>merry</i> , “ <i>he’s got a shot in him</i> ”, <i>he’s got a good glow about him/on him</i> ” (of being slightly drunk); <i>fall down drunk³⁴</i>
pregnant	<i>up the duff; a bun in the oven; up the spout; having a baby; expecting; pregnant</i> (most common)
attractive	<i>stunning; no bad</i> (“ <i>look at her, she’s no bad</i> ”); <i>hot</i> (“ <i>like the sun</i> ”); <i>lovely</i> ; “ <i>she pops my cork</i> ” ³⁵ ; <i>babe</i> (“ <i>she’s a babe</i> ”); <i>gorgeous</i> ; “ <i>I wouldn’t kick her out of bed for...</i> ” ³⁵ (followed by “ <i>different phrases</i> ”); <i>you beauty</i> (“ <i>oh, you beauty, man</i> ” used as general term of approval); <i>cracking</i> (also used as general term of approval); <i>wicked</i> (“ <i>oh, she’s wicked</i> ”); <i>sick</i> (“ <i>that’s a sick jacket</i> ” used by younger speakers as term of approval equivalent to “ <i>cool</i> ”); <i>rad, dope</i> (heard used frequently as term of approval by snowboarders when in Canada)
insane	<i>off his/her/your trolley; bonkers</i> (extremely common); <i>loopy-loo³⁶; off the rails³⁶; off his rocker; mad as a ...</i> (plus “ <i>slightly ridiculous object</i> ” e.g. “ <i>mad as a fish³⁶/biscuit³⁷</i> ”);

²⁶ *Am Faclair Beag* (<http://www.faclair.com/>) includes ‘allt’ in this sense.

²⁷ *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) includes ‘more money than sense’ in this sense.

²⁸ *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) records ‘too nice/clever/generous etc. for your own good’ in sense of ‘so clever/nice/generous etc. that it is a disadvantage instead of an advantage’.

²⁹ *Cambridge Dictionary* (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>) includes ‘be not short of a bob or two’ in this sense.

³⁰ *Urban Dictionary* (online) entry for ‘ugly forest’ includes ‘she looks like she ran through an ugly forest and didn’t miss a branch!’ in definition.

³¹ *OED* (online edition) records ‘one’s cup of tea’ in sense of ‘what interests/suits one’.

³² Lotney ‘Sloth’ Fratelli, fictional character played by US ex-professional American footballer & actor John Matuszak (1950-1989), in 1985 US adventure comedy film ‘The Goonies’.

³³ *OED* (online edition) records ‘have a few’ and ‘one too many’ in this sense.

³⁴ *Free Dictionary* (<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/>) records ‘falling-down drunk’ in this sense.

³⁵ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘pop one’s cork’ in sense of ‘to surrender sexually’.

³⁶ *Wiktionary* (<https://en.wiktionary.org/>) includes ‘mad as a fish’ in this sense.

mental; one sandwich short of a picnic³⁷; one tin short of the full six-pack³⁸; “he has a lot of problems”

moody *huffy; in a huff; “he’s probably got the painters in again”³⁹ (used frequently of friend who never answers phone); cranky (“cranky old so-and-so/cranky old goat” used of moody person); “who’s rattled his cage today?”⁴⁰, “he’s like a bear with a sore head” (of someone “bad-tempered from lack of sleep”); in a strop; stroppy; “they’ve got a bug up their arse”⁴¹ (of someone “unnecessarily moody/awkward/just doing your head in”⁴²)*

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³⁷ Assunta Crolla’s tweet #HarryHill is mad as a pack of biscuits (06.03.16 – <https://twitter.com/SusieCEO/status/971123533958041600>) includes ‘mad as a pack of biscuits’ in this sense.

³⁸ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘can short of a six-pack’ in this sense.

³⁹ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘have the painters in’ in sense of ‘in bleed period of menstrual cycle’.

⁴⁰ *OED* (online edition) records ‘rattle a person’s cage’ in sense of ‘to bother/agitate a person’.

⁴¹ *Wiktionary* (<https://en.wiktionary.org/>) records ‘(have a) bug up one’s ass’ in this sense.

⁴² *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘do your head in’ in sense of ‘to emotionally overload/make stressed’.