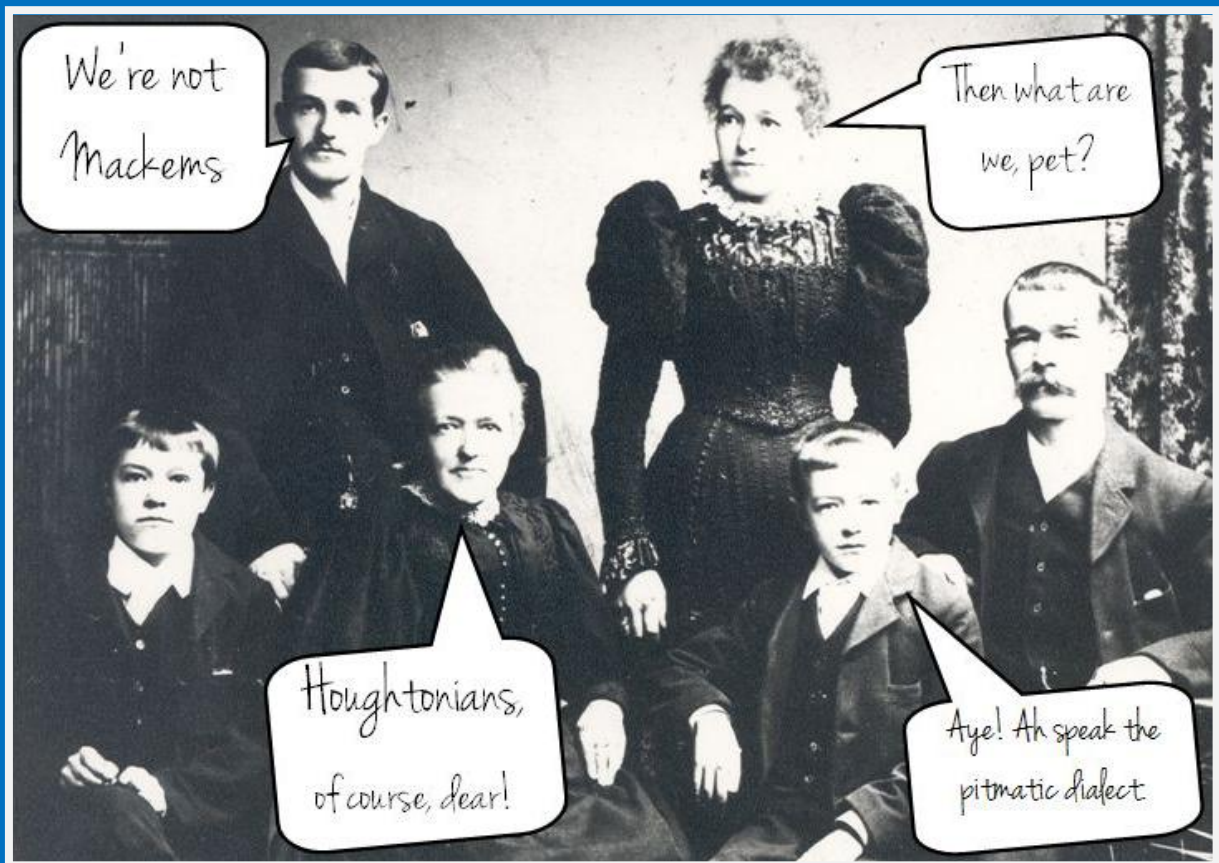


WE'RE NOT MACKEMS

A PITMATIC DICTIONARY



COMPILED BY THE MEMBERS OF



HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY

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CREATED BY THE MEMBERS OF
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING HERITAGE SOCIETY
2012 - 2017

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As a result of migration, the closure of all the collieries, and the teaching of Standard English in schools, the pitmatic dialect, which has its origins in the colliery villages, is dying out. The following list of words and phrases from the Houghton-le-Spring district was compiled in early 2012 (and added to in 2013 and 2017) by the members of Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society. Many are bound to have their origins outside the area (such as Tyneside), as the local collieries, quarries, farms and potteries acted like a magnet in pulling in immigrants from around the United Kingdom and Ireland. If you have any additions or amendments, please get in touch via the Society's website at: www.houghtonlespring.org.uk

*PAUL LANAGAN, CHAIRMAN
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING HERITAGE SOCIETY*

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A

Al reet	Alright; how are you?	MR
Anarl	And all; also; as well;	IL
Ant thuh?	Aren't they?;	IL
Anythink	Anything;	IL
Aye	Yes;	IL

B

Bairn	Child;	AL
Bait box	Packed lunch; lunch box;	PL
Bakka	Riding pillion;	RF
Blaw	Blow;	PS
Blazer	A metal shield for encouraging coal to burn on the fireplace;	PL
Bogey	Go-kart;	DA
Breed	Bread;	PG
Browt	Brought;	DC
Bullets	Confectionery; see also <i>Kets</i> ;	AE
Byuk	Book;	PL, CH
Byut	Boot;	RL

C

Cack	Not very nice; yucky;	BC
Cannit	Cannot; can't;	PL
Canny	Nice;	PP
Canny good	Very good;	PP
Catched	Caught;	DC
Chabble	Table;	PL, CH
Chatty	Potato; see also <i>Taties</i> ;	PS
Chippy	Fish and chip shop; takeaway;	PG

C continued

Chods	Lumps;	HB
Chow	To chew;	PS
Chucky out	Throwing loose change at a wedding;	ALA
Chut	Chewing gum; sometimes <i>Chutty</i> ;	AE
Clag	To stick;	PS
Clagger	Mouth; see also <i>Pyatt</i> ;	PG
Clart-en about	Joking around; horseplay;	JHI
Clart-en on	Tinkering; fixing something;	GD
Clart-ed up	Dressed smartly;	PL
Clarts	Mud;	DA
Clarty	Muddy;	PL
Clays	Clothes; sometimes <i>Claites</i> ;	PS
Clemmy	Large stone or marble;	RL
Clip	Dressed untidily; smack on the ear;	CH
Clogged	Blocked;	PS, DC
Courtin'	Courting; dating;	PL
Crackit	Stool;	PS, IL
Craic	Talking to your friend;	PS
Cuddie	Horse or pony; see also <i>Gallower</i> and <i>Hoss</i> ;	MH
Cyak	Cake;	PL, PG

D

Dee	Do;	PS
Deeing	Doing;	PS
Dinneh	Don't; see also <i>Dint</i> ;	IL
Dinnet	Don't; see also <i>Dint</i> ;	PL
Dint	Don't; see also <i>Dinnet</i> ;	PS
Down the lodden	Down the street;	IL
Draa	Draw;	PS
Duds	Clothes; see also <i>Clays</i> ;	PS
Dunch	Crash; bang together;	PS

F

Feast, The	Houghton Feast; festival; fairground; see also <i>The Shows</i> ;	PL
Flee	To fly; rush off; evade capture;	PS
Frock	Dress;	PG
Fyass	Face;	PL
Fyass Byuk	Facebook;	PL

G

Gallower	Horse; see also <i>Hoss</i> and <i>Cuddie</i> ;	DA, PS
Gan	Go;	PL, MR
Ganning	Going;	IL
Gansey	Have a go/turn;	JB
Gear	Clothes; see also <i>Clays</i> ;	PL
Gis	Give;	PS
Give owwer	Give over; stop; I don't believe you;	PS, MR, CH
Good hiding	Beaten up; smacked; assaulted;	PS
Grom-more	Grandma;	PL
Gully	Bread knife;	DA

H

Hacky	Dirty;	PS, AE
Had thee pash	Be patient;	PG
Had yer hand	Hold on a minute;	FD
Haddaway	Get a away;	PG
Heed	Head;	PS
Hell on	Trouble; disorder;	JH
Hinny	Term of endearment; see also <i>Pet</i> ;	AE
Hirrim	Hit him;	DR
Hirriz	Hit me; see also <i>Is</i> ;	DR
Hoe-tun	Houghton-le-Spring; see also <i>How-tun</i> ;	PL
Hogger	Hose pipe;	PS
Hoggers	Pit wear, trousers/pants; see also <i>Kegs</i> ;	PS

H continued

Hoss	Horse; see also <i>Galloway</i> and <i>Cuddie</i> ;	PL
Howeh	Come on;	PL
Howk	To remove or extract;	AW
Howker	Pit pick; tool;	PS
How-tun	Houghton-le-Spring; see also <i>Hoe-tun</i> ;	PL
Hoy	Throw;	DC
Hunkers	Squatting; sitting low;	PS
Hyem	Home; see also <i>Yairm</i> ;	AP

I

I haven't got a tosser	I have no money;	AP, PS
Impittent	Impudent;	PL
Is	Me;	IL

J

Jesting	Joking;	AP
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K

Keep had young 'un	Take care, friend;	RL
Kegs	Trousers; see also <i>Hoggers</i> ;	DC
Kets	Confectionery; see also <i>Bullets</i> ;	PL
Kizzend	Burnt; Well done (cooking);	DRU
Knar	Know;	PL

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L

Lass	Girl;	PG
Lugs	Ears;	PL

M

Marra	Mate; friend; workmate;	RL
Me little cocka sparra	Affectionate word for a child;	JBE
Myak	Make;	DC

N

Nee	No;	PS
Nee way	No way; disbelief;	PS
Netty	Toilet;	PL, AE
Nivver	Never;	IL

O

Owt else	Anything else;	IL
Owver	Over;	CH, AE
Oxter bund	Lazy;	HS

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P

Pet	Term of endearment; see also <i>Hinny</i> ;	IL
Pensher	Penshaw;	PL
Pinny	Apron;	HS
Pittal	Urine; to pass urine;	PL
Plodge	To walk through mud or water;	AH
Probalies	Probably;	IG
Pulled over the coals	Told off;	IL
Pyapper	Paper;	GD
Pyatt	Mouth; see also <i>Clagger</i> ;	PL

R

Rive	To tear or rip; see also <i>Rove</i> ;	PS
Rove	Torn off; see also <i>Rive</i> ;	DC

S

Sarnies	Sandwiches;	PG
Scaddin	Scalding; very hot;	PL
Scran	Food;	JHA
Seen more fat on a spuggy's ankle	Skinny;	HB
Shawlders	Shoulders;	BB
Shiney Ra	Shiney Row;	PL
Shouldda	Should have;	IL
Shows, The	Fairground rides; see also <i>Feast</i> ;	PL
Shul	Shovel;	PS
Shut your fyass	Shut your face; be quiet;	PL
Shy bairns get nowt	Being shy makes you miss out;	AL
Siddown	Sit down; take a seat;	IL
Skoo-will	School;	PL
Sneck	Nose; or sliding bolt on a gate;	RL, DB

S continued

Soft as clarts	Timid; kind/good natured; weak;	AHA
Spelk	Painful splinter of wood in the skin;	PS
Spuggy	Bird; sparrow;	HB
Spyun	Spoon;	CM
Syam	Same;	GD
Syek	Sake;	IL

T

Tak	Take;	PS, AP
Tatie Pot	Corned beef hash; food item; Panackelty;	PL, DC
Taties	Potatoes;	AE
Thee	Your;	PG
Thoo	You;	PS
Top House	Public house at top of street;	PL
Town, The	Sunderland;	PL
Townie	Person from Sunderland; insult;	PL

W

Wark	Walk;	PS
Watter	Water; H2O;	PL
Well yer bloke!	Exclamation;	IL
Wer wer?	Were we?;	KR
Wesh	Wash;	PS
What do they call you?	What is your name?;	PL
Whee's?	Who is?;	PS
Why aye	Yes, please;	PS
Winnet	Will not; won't;	JM
Wrang	Wrong;	PS, IL

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Y

Yairm	Home; see also <i>Hyem</i> ;	AP
Ye	You;	KH
Yersel	Yourself;	AE
Yew-er	Your;	IL
Yummer	Bad mood;	HB

CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks are extended to the following contributors for helping to draw up the list of pitmatic words and phrases:

AH = Alan Hewison

AHA = Auriol Hayes

AL = Annie Lee

ALA = Alan Laidler

AP = Anne Peel

AV = Avril Elliott

AW = Andrew Watson

BB = Beverley Bainbridge

BC = Beatrice Coyles

CH = Colin Hughes

CM = Collin Moore

DA = David Annand

DB = David Bolton

DC = Dennis Cutts

DR = David Richardson

DRU = Dave Russell

FD = Freda Doyle

GD = George Davison

HB = Helen Bartlett

HS = Harry Smith

IG = Ian Green

IL = Irene Lanagan

JB = June Brownlee

JBE = Jackie Bell

JH = Jo Hutchinson

JHA = John Harvey

JHI = Jude Hill

JM = Jane Melvin

KH = Kathy Heyworth

KR = Ken Rewcastle

MH = Margaret Hill

MR = Margaret Ritchey

PG = Pauline Guerreiro

PL = Paul Lanagan

PP = Peter Parkinson

PS = Paul Sykes

RF = Richard Chuck Fletcher

RL = Richard Leadbitter

FURTHER READING

The following publications make interesting reading:

- Hetton-le-Hole Pitmatic Talk 100 Years Ago: A Dialect Dictionary of 1896
F.M.T. Palgrave, 1997
- Pitmatic: The Talk of the North East Coalfield
Bill Griffiths, 2007
- Glossary of Mining Terms & Pitmatic
http://www.durhamintime.org.uk/coal_mining/cd_rom/glossary.htm



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FRONT COVER: The Cross family of Houghton-le-Spring, circa 1890.

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