

Words & Expressions

The following is a collection of some useful words and expressions commonly used in the Donaghmore and surrounding areas during the 1940-1950's, some of which are widely spoken today.

Accoutrements -----tools or equipment

Aftergrass-----new grass that follows the hay-cutting.

At---not feeling at oneself. Not feeling well. I'm not feeling at myself at all, doctor.

An ashepelt----a weakly child

An awl-----a gadget for making holes in leather

Aye---yes

A bad article----a really devious person.

Airs-----light clothes. Why are out in your airs on such a bitterly cold day ?

And yet in all ----although. They have plenty of money and yet in all their children are poorly dressed.

As quick as a lamplighter. Very fast on one's feet.

As thick as a bull's lug.

As awkward as a pig packing delft.

As awkward as a hallion.

Balderdash----nonsense. You are talking a lot of balderdash. You are talking nonsense

A band-box---You'd think he'd been reared in a band-box. This expression was used to express impatience with an adult who was unaware of the everyday responsibilities of life.

Banter----good natured jibes.

The bap-----to loose the bap---to loose control of ones temper. When he heard about the broken window, he lost the bap straight away and hit his youngest child on the head, leaving him unconscious.

To barge----to scold.

A barger----a scolding woman. (She barged and she barged.)

A battleaxe---a really formidable woman.

To beal/beel---to suppurate This cut on my leg has started to beal. (This cut has gone septic. It is suppurating)

Beeslins---milk from a freshly calved cow.

A blackfoot---- a matchmaker

A blad-----something shapeless. They have built a big blad of a house in the back of beyond. There is no sense in it. He married a big blad of a woman from the County Monaghan

A belly bachelor--- a single man who visited a girl's home one a long-term basis to consume her food but with no intention of marrying her.

Between the lights----between daylight and dark.

Black---bigoted against another religion or another political viewpoint. That family are as black as your boot.

A blade----a sharp girl or woman.(She's a sharp blade, that one.)
The hardened briars of the wild rose.

The Black Market----common phrase in the 1940s. It referred to goods that had been smuggled in from across the border and that could be bought from under the counter without ration coupons.

A blether-----A talkative person. He is only a blether---He doesn't know what he is talking about. He is talking through his hat.

Brock -- a mixture of waste household foods used for feeding pigs.

Bruckle --- easily broken. The cake disintegrates while you are cutting it. It is very bruckle.

Bunkum----nonsense. You are talking a lot of bunkum.

Burl---to burl---to spin round

B'is or bees---is or does be. He bees or bis very busy in his workshop.

He doesn't know B from a bull's foot. (description of someone with little general knowledge)

A bisom-----a broom or sweeping brush. (Besom?)

Black soft soap or green soft soap----- used for shampooing hair.

A blow-down----when smoke blew back down the chimney into the kitchen or room. It depended on which way the wind was blowing. It was a common problem in country houses. It often blackened the faces of inhabitants!

A blert-----a child who cries a lot. Stop that blerting!

Britches----trousers

A blether----A talkative person

A bottom----a meadow. There is hay cut in the wee bottom below the road.

Buckie briars----the briars of the wild rose.

Bumpers----brown, thick soled, laced, canvas shoes worn in summer in the 1950s.

To cap----to herd animals. Give me a cap with cows---Help me to put the cows into the byre.

Capers---fun and games. Quit your capers. Stop carrying on. Stop fooling around.

Carbide----a flammable powder that was used in carbide lamps for bicycles.

A carn---a rude, uncultured person (So and so is only an ignorant carn) (Carrion?)

Carr, cearr?----an insolent look. You can't have the doll, so you can take that carr off your face.

To carr or cearr at someone-----to stick your tongue out at someone to indicate rage or jealousy.

Carried away----very foolish. Living in fantasy- land. She always has the face done up, every time you see her. She's very carried away.

A catchpenny----goods that are not the genuine article. They are just a catchpenny.

Ceiliers----regular evening visitors to a house—usually neighbours.

A ceilihing house----a house where people were made welcome each evening.

Champ---potatoes mashed with milk and chopped scallions, served with a hole in the centre for butter.

Chander---to chander---to scold. She gave him an awful chandering. She's an awful chanderer.

Clabbar----mud (He was covered in clabbar)

A clashbag----one who repeated confidences that they had heard.

A clift--- a fool, a clown Take no notice of him, he's only a clift.

A clipe ---- a piece. a lump. He owns a large clipe of land at the back of the mountain. They've built a big clipe of a house right on the roadside.

Clobber----to clobber---to give someone a hiding or to hit a person

Coinin' coining ----making money in both senses of the word ! Every time you see her she has a new outfit. The husband must be coinin' in that shop.

Coup—(cowp)-to overturn (The cart couped with the load of turf)

A cornerboy-----a lout.

Cement-wash---A mixture of powdered cement, water and cow-dung that was used for painting the out-side of dwelling-houses and out-offices.

Clappers---to go like the clappers means to go really quickly.

A clouster—a clumsy or untidy person.

To coddle---to pamper. (A coddled apple was a baked apple) That lad has been so coddled by his mother that if a breeze got at him he would catch pneumonia.

A cuttiful -----a measure ? She has permitted those small children to carry her baby around. That woman hasn't a cuttiful. She hasn't an ounce of sense.

Craw---cropping. If you have something stuck in your craw get it off your chest.

Crig---stub She crigged her toe as she went up the steps.

A cuff---a blow. A cuff on the ear. A blow to the ear, usually for mis-behaviour.

A curr---a rough, ignorant fellow. He is an ignorant curr.

A clout---a slap. (He gave the boy a clout on the side of the head.)

A clout—a cloth (a dish-clout)

A clart----a woman who does not know or practise the basic rules of hygiene in her home. E.g. Some one whose dishcloths are smelly.

To be churchd---a blessing for new mothers

A clatter---a lot of something (That woman had a whole clatter of children.)

A clift----an irresponsible person. He's only a clift.

To cog----to copy from someone during a school exam.

Collogin----plotting to do something together. The pair of them were collogin. (They were in cahoots.)

Combinations---a one piece woollen undergarment, combining a long sleeved vest and long legged underpants. There was a cotton version for summer.

Cow-tow---to cow-tow to someone, to give in to a domineering person.

A cuff--- a blow. That boy needs a cuff on the ear.

A cudgel-----an awkward person, a thick-witted person. (He is an awkward cudgel)

A cobbler---a shoemaker. (A cobbler's son is always the worst shod.)

Consumption---T.B—tuberculosis. Often mentioned in the 1950s.

A coppie-----a sickly piglet. (They had a wee coppie pig in the kitchen.) (capie?)

Champ----mashed potatoes with milk, butter and chopped scallions added. It was served on a plate with a hole in the centre to which butter was added. Each forkful of champ was dipped in the melted butter and eaten.

Craving the poor mouth-----pretending to be poor. He is always craving the poor mouth.

A crock----a large earthenware container in which milk was thickened prior to churning.

A crock----a sickly person
Crockery-----household delph

The arse of crockery-----the well off. The high and mighty. (They think they are the arse of crockery.

He's as crooked as the hind leg of a dog. He is an awkward or contrary person.

A cuttie--- a young lassie, a young girl.

A cuttiful----an ounce of sense. She hasn't a cuttiful. She hasn't a clue about anything.

Dalkins / dockens ---Dock, dock leaves

Dam the that --“He will give his nephew the farm.” “Well dam the that. He'll leave it to the church, if he does anything.”

To dander---to walk at a leisurely pace.

To go for a dander---to go for a short leisurely walk.

Dear knows-----Dear knows where he put his pipe.

Distemper----a cheap yellow, oil-based wall paint which succeeded whitewash as an interior paint.

A down-drop---a leak in the roof

A bad drop----an inborn evil (That boy has a bad drop in him)

A drowndin' ----- a wetting. He got an awful drowndin' on the way home from the fair. He was drownded ---- he was soaking wet.

He has blotted his copybook. He has done something that has displeased a person in authority.

A brave while ----- a long time. It took him a brave while to get his homework done.

To blubber---to cry

A copy book ----- a school exercise book

A clout---a blow from someone. I'll hit you a clout if you don't behave yourself.

A clout-----a cloth. A dish-clout

Clout----- power He has no clout----He is powerless.

A cotter---a tenant

A cotter house----a rented house

A dander----a slow leisurely walk

The dickens----a difficulty. He had the dickens trade trying to get his car going again.

The dickens---What the dickens did you do that for?

The dickens----Why the dickens didn't you close the back door when you knew full well that there were mice around?

A dindge ----a bruise or a dent. He got an awful dindge in the back of his car when he hit the gate while reversing. This apple has just fallen so there will be a few dindges in it.

A doing---a hiding or a beating. The man and his son leathered into the two boys for breaking the window and they gave the pair of them a terrible doing.

Dreuth----thirst. A terrible dreuth----a terrible thirst.

Dryndl----a dryndl skirt (a cotton skirt with gathers at the waist) A gathered skirt.

A drubbing---a beating (The men gave the bad lads a good drubbing.

A duhill----- a dunghill

A dunder-head----someone slow to learn. (A dunce)

A dwam----a weak-turn or a fainting fit

The evenings are dropping down.-----The days are getting shorter. Winter is approaching.

Falling sickness----epilepsy

A far out friend----a distant relation

Feather-----That's another feather in his cap. That is another promotion or step up for him.

Feather----He's busy feathering his own nest. He's helping someone for his own benefit.

Fettle----feeling in good fettle means feeling in good form.

Figaries---extra ornamentation or features on something. I didn't buy the machine because it had too many figaries on it. It had too many extras to go wrong.

Flahool---irresponsible with your money. Throwing your money around you.

A flailing----a beating

Fits find other----similar types are attracted to each other.

A fingerstall---a protective cover in cotton or leather for an injured finger.

Flourbags----large cotton bags for flour. These were recycled by housewives who made them into sheets, dishcloths, towels etc.

Foasie---spongy, light. Her cakes are always lovely and foasie.

Fornenst/fornent----opposite to. They live in that big house fornenst the station.

Fornent---you can have this chicken fornent the goods you gave me.

A footer----an unhandy person

Footie --- small and insignificant. (He brought in the coal in a wee, footie bucket)

A fooster----a disorganised person

Forby – as well as She left him all her money and he got the farm forby.

Foundered----very cold. That day would founder you. He got an awful foundering at the funeral and he took pneumonia out of it.

A gabbler---a talkative person.

Gallases----trouser braces

Gallivanting----out roaming about instead of being at home working. He was always away gallivanting, no wonder he got into debt. She's never done gallivanting.

Garters----elastic bands for holding up stockings

I'll have your guts for garters! If you do that I'll be very annoyed with you.

A gaupe---One who stares. What are you gauping at? (What are you looking at?)

Gern---to cry. What are you gerning about? Take that gern off your face.

A gillgowan-----a green or yellow weed. He was as green as a gillgowan

Glar ----thick, sticky mud

A gleed----a small amount She hasn't a gleed. She has little or no common sense.

A gull----a gullible person.

A gulpin----a rude uncultured person (That man is only an ignorant gulpin)

Gumtion----commonsense/initiative. Have you no gumtion?

A gadderman---someone who related stories or gossip they had heard. A man who talked too much.

A galloute----a rough person (He's only a galloute.)

A gansey-----a woollen jumper

A gipe ----a gullible or giddy person.

A gench or gaunch----an ignorant male person.

A gaam---a gullible' empty-headed person

A gander----a look. Give us a gander at the letter.

A geek-----a peep. Give us a geek at your newspaper, please.

To get above your station-----to imagine that you are better than your neighbours.

To get round somebody ----- to befriend a vulnerable person in order to inherit their property or money. He got round him and got the whole prog when he died.

A gleed--- a clue. She hasn't a gleed. She is a foolish person who has no idea about ordinary, everyday things.

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To glower ---- to stare. Stop glowering at me. Would you stop your glowering.

Give my head peace!----Keep quiet and stop annoying me!

The guts of----almost. It is the guts of a mile to John's house.

Good fences make good neighbours. It was important for farmers to keep their animals within their separate boundaries if there was to be friendship between neighbours.

A gopin---two hands cupped together, full of flour, oats etc.

A gorb----a glutton (He is a greedy gorb)

The grab----the house and money of someone who has died. He got the grab.

Great----friendly. She was very great with her neighbours.

A gulder---a shout (He let a gulder out of him when he saw the broken window>)

A gunk----a let-down or disappointment. He got an awful gunk when he heard that he wasn't mentioned in his uncle's will.

Gutters---mucky soil (The gap was in gutters----The entrance to the field was very mucky.)

A grass rope----a hand twisted rope made from hay using a twist implement. The hay cocks were secured with these. Some grass ropes were imported and could be bought.

A guinea----21 shillings

A guinea hunter-----someone looking for a wife with money.

A guttersnipe----a mean, devious person

Gutties-----white or black canvas slippers. (Plimsolls)

It gives rain---rain is forecast

It ill behoves you ----It ill behoves you to talk about your uncle who did so much for you. To be ungrateful.

Haerum scaerum---harum scarum---very untidy. Very disorganised.

A hames---a mess. To make a hames of something means to destroy something that you have been making or trying to fix.

Handmedowns---second-hand clothes

He hangs up his violin at his own front door. He is a nicer character when he's out than he is at home.

Hap---wrap Hap yourself up well before you go out in that frost.

Ha'penny---a half penny. You talk like a ha'penny book. You are not making sense.

The ha'penny place---a place or position of little importance. Compared to him, we're in the ha'penny place

A hare /hair---- a jot Divil the hare /hair he cares about anybody as long as he's alright himself.

A hate----a thing. He went out into the snow and not a hate on him. He went out into the snow without his clothes..

Haughin and spittin---coughing and spitting

Haughlin---haughlin about---shuffling around. Not good on ones feet.

Have a titter of wit---Have a bit of sense.

To hawk---to carry heavy burdens. How do you manage to hawk that heavy bag around?

A hawker----someone who sold goods from door to door.

Headrig----the top of a field

Heart of corn---very kind. John is the heart of corn.

He'll neither work nor want.

Hemp---- strong linen thread

Hippins----nappies

Hiving----alive with something.(Crowded) The fair was hiving with people.

Hobnail----hobnail boots. Strong hard-wearing boots with studs in the soles.

Hodge—a heavy person. She was a big hodge of a woman.

A hoaga----a bad smell

Hotfoot----speedily. He came home hotfoot from the fair and tarred the roof of the byre.

Houl your whist --- shut up / keep quiet

Houl on – hold on

A houl of ----a hold of. Take a houl of the other end of this bed.

Hungry grass---fairy grass near hawthorn trees. If you get into hungry grass late you will have difficulty finding your way out of it.

If you want the kitten you have to court the cat. A young man who wants to wed a girl should always be extra nice to her mother.

Indeed in doubles---for emphasis. “I’m going to the pictures.” “Well in deed in doubles you are not going there, when there is so much work to be done.”

Insensed into----understand. It is very hard to get the children insensed into the importance of looking after their belongings.

Inunder----underneath. He left his pipe inunder the pillow.

It’s telling you-----Aren’t you lucky. It’s telling you that is fit to eat for I have no appetite at all. I have no interest in food of any kind.

It wasn’t the day or yesterday -----it was a long time ago. It wasn’t the day or yesterday that she got that hat, she’s had it for years.

A jamb wall----an inside wall that shields the inhabitants from draughts from the half door as they sit round the fire.

A jigger coat----a loose three- quarter coat popular in the 1950s.

A jinny----an effeminate male.

A jinny lamp----a small oil lamp

A jobber----

Keep-down ----to keep down, means to keep someone under subjection. Children need to be kept down. Children should be kept under control. They should get plenty of the rod.

Kernaptious-----bad tempered.

Killeary-----skittish, a dreamer, dithery, not grounded

A kiltie-----a bands man in a Scottish pipe band

A kinovlin-----an assortment of cakes and buns etc. The table was covered with a whole kinovlin of foods. (Sligo origin)

Kitlins----Kittens. The cat kittled last night.

A kitterdy----a giddy young person

Kitter-fisted----awkward at doing practical tasks

A knock came to the door. Someone knocked at the door.

Knuck/nuck-----to knuck something-----to swipe or steal a small item.

Lamplighter----She's like a lamplighter, very quick on her foot.

A langel----a tall thin person. (He married a big tall langel of a woman.) (Or lingel.)

A laughing stock-----a figure of fun or ridicule

Lay into ----to scold or beat. Did she lay into him when he got home !

Leather into ----to give someone a tongue-trashing or a beating. She leathered into him like a day's work and take what he got for coming home without his Sunday coat.

A liberty bodice---a short waistcoat type vest made from thick interlock cotton and fastened with rubber buttons.

Like a hen on a hot griddle----to be very restless. Settle yourself, you are like a hen on a hot griddle.

A lilty---a giddy person.

Lisle or lyle---a type of brown cotton stocking suspended by garters or suspenders.

A lig---a silly girl

A little Come Quickly -----a baby born shortly after its parents wedding.

A loaning----a quiet country laneway

A lug----a silly young man.

Make strange----to be afraid of a stranger.

A march ditch----the demarcation line between two neighbouring farms. The Smiths and the Whites farms march each other. The ditch being a quick thorn hedge usually.

Measled shins----shins that were measled by too much exposure to an open fire. Kitchens were cold and women often sat too close to the hearth.

To miss your foot-----to trip and fall.

She missed her foot-----She had an illegitimate baby.

Naw----no

On the never, never----to get goods on the never, never meant that you obtained goods on hire purchase.

Nissan huts----semi-circular tin huts used during and after the Second World War.

Not right wise----not the full shilling. A foolish person.

Offerings----money offered in church at the funeral of a relation or neighbour. The money went to the church. The better-known the person the more offerings were contributed. Offerings were a relic of penal times.

One years seeding is seven years weeding. Warning to people to destroy their weeds before they come to seed.

On the tare (tear)---on a drinking spree

Oul' lip --- cheeky or insolent back chat from a child. If you give me any more of that oul' lip you will go straight up to bed.

Ouncles----a small hand held weighing gadget

Very pack----very friendly, very close. Tom and his brother were always very pack.

A packing needle-----a very large needle used for sewing up hopsack bags of potatoes.

A pahal----a lazy, untidy housekeeper.

A palaver----an incomprehensible story. He came out with a whole palaver about a neighbour's sheep, that you could make neither head nor tail of.

Panada----a pudding made from stale bread boiled in milk with sugar and raisins added.

Paper nylon petticoats----very stiff petticoats used to make skirts more bouffant.

Past cure---beyond redemption.

Pasty---pale. The little daughter was very pasty looking.

Peg-----to take someone down a peg. If someone was getting above themselves, there was always a neighbour ready to remind them of who they were, by raking up something about their past or a relative's past.

Pertas---potatoes

Perta pudding---a potato and apple pudding that was cooked at a very slow heat in a pot oven. It was eaten at Hallow'een.

Peruse—search Why were you perusing through my drawer?

A physic----a purgative

A physic ----a sickening person

Pickle---in a pickle. To be in a difficult situation.

The Poor House----The Workhouse. Warning to the young---“ If you squander your money you could end up in the poorhouse.”

Pop above buttermilk----delusions of grandeur. He thinks he's pop above buttermilk.

Poverty-----When poverty comes in the door love goes out the window. Frequent saying in the 1940s, when poverty was a recent memory for most people.

Pracus----an untidy person. She's only a pracus.

Pre-fabs-/ orlits---temporary homes erected during and after The Second World War.

Press-studs----metal fasteners used on clothing.

Prig----to prig---to question the price of something.

A prig----one who constantly complained to the shopkeeper about the price of his goods and who beat the price down.

Put that book away and get out and do something useful. Mrs So and So read novels all day and the next thing they were out of their place. (out of their farm)
In later years (1940s and 50s) teenagers were discouraged by one parent or other from participating in after school games lest they take become distracted from farm work and become wastrels.

Quare mate – very deserving He was quare mate for a good hiding. He had done something so bad that he deserved a good beating.

A quilt ----a useless person. You broke the glass, you quilt you!

Ram-stam----recklessly He ran ram-stam into a lamppost.

A rapsallion----a rascal. A naughty boy.

Rattlin going--- a lively, good humoured person who is a willing but not too tidy a worker. She is very rattlin going. (Rattling going)

Reddin up----clearing up, tidying up. I gave the bedrooms a great reddin up yesterday.

Reddin out-----clearing out unwanted things.

Reddin up-----criticizing. The two women gave their neighbour a great reddin up.

Reek---to reek of something---to smell of something. Previously pertaining to the smell of turf smoke. He was reeking of whisky. His clothes were reeking of perfume when he got home.

A roughage----a surplus of goods about a house. They were never caught out when visitors called as they always had a good roughage of everything.

Ruptions-----trouble. There will be ruptions when your father discovers that you have broken his best billhook.

Rumboldy thump---very untidy. His place is always rumboldy thump.

Runnagate----a runnigate---an unsettled person. Someone who likes to be out all the time.

A sally oiser-----a sally rod used to reprimand children, or used as a threat. I'll lift you on a sally oiser if you don't conduct yourself.

Salve /saave----ointment

Save for the rainy day.

Savings---inscription on a tombstone. "Here lies a man who saved his all for days when the rains and snow would fall. He worked all day and n'er did play and died before the rainy day."

Scaldies ----- baby wild birds.

Scallions ---- spring onions eg. White Lisbon

A scamp----a forward person.

A scourge----a terrible nuisance. That lad is a scourge on his poor mother. He has her heart broken.

The scruff of the neck----He caught the boy by the scruff of the neck and put him out onto the street.

Scundered-----fed up, disgusted

Shannagh – to chat. Come round to the house next week for a bit of a shannagh. Quit your shannaghin and get on with your work.

She has taken her pigs to a bad market. This is said about a girl who has agreed to marry a man who unknown to her, is a bit of a rogue.

A sheugh----a open drain in a field

Shimmy---a vest made from cotton flourbags.

A shine----a fancy. To take a shine to someone: - to take a liking to him. To fall in love in love with someone.

Short accounts make for long friendships. If you owe someone money pay them straight away.

Shoughs---the hulls of flax. Often used as fuel on open fires. (Shoughs)

A simmit--- a warm vest

A skelly----a quick look. Give us a skelly at your newspaper.

A skelly----a squint. He had an awful skelly in his eye.

A skift----a light shower of rain.

A skitter----a badly behaved child.

The skitter----diaorrea

A skivvy---someone who did menial tasks. (A slave)

The skreak of day---daylight. He was up from the skreak of day.

A slavey----usually an unmarried daughter who remained at home and ended up being a slave to the brother and his wife who inherited the farm.

A slabbar/slobber----someone who talked a lot.

A slabbering-bib-----a baby's bib.

Sliggins-----large loose shoes. She was wearing old sliggins of shoes that wouldn't keep out a drop of rain.

A slippery tit----a slippery tit, a sly or cunning person.

A smig ---- a smirk. You could see the smig on his face, a real smart fellow.

Sneddin' turnips ----cutting or harvesting turnips

A snorter-box----a very cheeky child

Soup---to take the soup---to convert to Protestantism. With a name like O'Brien you'd expect them to be Catholics. Somebody belonging to them has taken the soup. This referred to the time of the Famine when some Catholics converted to Protestantism just to get soup.

Souple-trot /supple trot-----diarrhoea

Spank new-----brand new. He's bought himself a spank new car today.

Spliflicate---to throw or wreck. I'll spliflicate you if you don't behave yourself.

A spivv----someone very trendy or way out.

A spraghle----a poorly co-ordinated person who doesn't walk well. To spraghle---to clamber or walk awkwardly. He was badly scratched as he spraghled through the gap in the hedge. She is spraghling in the water as she learns to swim.

A stave ----a walking stick.

Stint - -indulge Take plenty of food. Don't stint yourself.

In stitches---in fits of laughter.

Stitched up----They had him all stitched up. They had got the better of the man. They were too smart for him.

A stour----a dust. You are raising a stour jumping on that old mattress!

A strunt ---- a tantrum or a huff. When he didn't get what he wanted he started to strunt and wouldn't move for his mother.

A styme----a single thing. I can't see a styme. I can't see a thing.

Sweetie coupons----included in war-time ration books.

Take into -----to scold or beat. She took into him as soon as he got home and take what he got. He didn't forget his coat the next time !

Tether----She was at the end of her tether. She was completely exasperated. She didn't know what to do to get out of the situation.

Thinking long-----looking forward to an event.

The other side of the house-----used to describe the religion of someone new. He's the other side of the house. Be careful what you say.

A tick---a mattress made from horse-hair or feathers or even chaff.

On tick----to get goods on tick. To get the goods and pay later.

A titter of wit --- some commonsense. That fellow hasn't a titter of wit. That fellow is a fool. He has no sense - no commonsense

Traan-----stubborn.

Throng----busy. The town was very throng today.

Throughother---- very untidy.

Trevally----a number of. There's a whole trevally of women at the Police Station door. That couple had a whole trevally of children.

A twitter---a very skinny person. She was a wee twitter of a woman.

Have a titter of wit---Have some sense.

Hot/cold compresses----hot poultices or hot/cold pads applied to an area of pain.

Hold your whisht----- houl' your whisht ---keep quiet

Three quarters tore----very drunk

The Mrs.-----the wife

Traan----stubborn.

Troth and soul----an emphatic. I'm going to buy a new bicycle. Well troth and soul you are not.

Throughother----careless/ untidy. She isn't much of a housekeeper. The place is very throughother.

To be at yourself ----to be in good health. He's not at himself today because his head is really sore.

To be well at yourself ----to be in a good way of going. To be prosperous. That man is well at himself. He's worth a fortune.

To take the Queen's shilling----to join the British army. Frowned upon by Irish Nationalists.

Tuppence----He not worth tuppence. He is unreliable or useless. I wasn't worth tuppence when I got home from work. I was exhausted.

A turncoat----Someone who deserted his religion and went to the other side.

Twistin' and traa'in----being stubborn and difficult. She is always twistin' and traa'in. I don't know how her husband puts up with her.

Unaisy about someone----not having any care for them. He was unaisy about his father, all he cared about was himself. (uneasy)

To take umbrage ----to take offence at something.

A wastrel -----a useless or feckless person.

What ever you say, say nothing. A warning to be careful what you say in the company of someone you don't trust.

What you don't know will do you no harm.

A waster----a good for nothing man.

Whaley---whalebone.? As tough as whaley. The meat was as tough as whaley.

Where there's a will there's a war.

Whirligig----a spinning toy

Where there's a will there's a relative.

Wildfire ----a rough, red, patchy skin condition of the face.

Wind in May and a drop in June, makes the farmer whistle a happy tune.

Wringin wet ----very wet. His clothes were wringin' when he got home from school.

You are neither sugar or salt so you'll not melt. Advice to a child who is reluctant to venture out in the rain.

You are only in the ha'penny place compared to them.

You are talking like a ha'penny book. You don't know what you are talking about.

You couldn't see your finger before you. The place was so dark that you couldn't see your finger before you.

You can go all round the orchard and come home with the crab. A young man may court many girls but may end up choosing a most unsuitable one as a wife.

You might as well be talking to the wall. You are wasting your breath talking to him/her because they never listen. They just do their own do.

You can't take the breeches of a heelin man. You can't get money of someone who hasn't got any. Heelin man ---- a highland man.

It is like throwing apples into an orchard. That person has more than enough so why give him more?

If you have a goose you will get two. Describing those who are well of and who are given even more.

The baby is yours but the pleasure was mine. Sarcastic statement about an unmarried mother.