

# Gamgy Talk

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*By James Brown*

The fine folk of Gamlingay do not speak a dialect; there are only a handful of words in the average person's vocabulary which could be classified as true dialect words.

Gamgy\* talk is an accent. The dictionary defines an accent as an 'individual, local or national mode of pronunciation', and what is spoken in the village is certainly individual, most definitely local in character, but it's surely much more than simply a mode of pronunciation.

The way the vowels are pronounced is a major contributor to the authentic Gamgy sound, but other factors are also involved.

In the past most of the male villagers were involved in agriculture as farm labourers and, since the middle of the nineteenth century, in market gardening. Land workers - at least the ones I knew when I was growing up - tended to speak from one corner of their mouths. Perhaps it had something to do with spending most of their lives bending over, or kneeling and bending over, eyes fixed on the ground. Talking out of the side of your mouth would be the only way to let others hear what you were saying. The habit, I believe, has resulted in the familiar lazy-sounding Gamgy drawl.

Another factor is the habit of crashing words into one another. For instance, the words 'that is a' are usually uttered as one word, 'thusser', and the reader will come across many other examples of the practice here.

## *A rewdimentry Gamgy glossry*

Behind the mangled vowels and conjoined words, the glottal stops and the drawl, lies a long and honourable past.

The documents that were written by native Gamlingay villagers from the sixteenth century onwards often reflect the way those villagers spoke, and that was not very far from the Gamgy talk recorded here. It probably wasn't much different from the way people spoke in the late medieval village either.

Like many other local accents Gamgy talk is slowly dying out and the reasons for its demise are many. They include the influx of newcomers to the village, the steep decline in the numbers employed in agriculture, and the influence of the media, particularly of television.

The wrinkles and folds of the Gamgy accent are gradually being smoothed out. Soon, no doubt, it will no longer be possible to fix a person by his accent to anywhere other than a very wide geographical area, so enjoy it while you can.

*\* 'Gamlingay' is invariably shortened to 'Gamgy', not just by the villagers themselves, but by people who live as far away as Potton.*

*My thanks are due to Alan Hibbitt, David Allen, Peter Wright and Rex Whitfield for reminding me of words and phrases I'd long forgotten, and to Christine Colbert for her helpful comments and the word 'chelp'.*

*Fenks, mole ducks.*

*James Brown*

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## A

**A-crawss** from one side to the other, e.g. *'om never come a-crawss anyfin like thut afore'*

**A-dewin** performing an act, e.g. *'waddever yew a-dewin now?'*

**Aaabertslee** small Cambridgeshire village

**Aaaraplane** a flying machine

**Aaarland** piece of land surrounded by water

**Aahlzee** a village in Bedfordshire, previously home to a mental asylum, e.g. *'yawl end up in Aahlzee'*

**Aal** a lubricant derived from petrolouem

**Aar-a-knee** figure of speech, often used to highlight an incongruity

**Acker-puncher** treatment for ailments using needles to puncture the skin

**Ackr't** precise, exact

**Add up** prosecuted by the police, e.g. *'yawl gid add up dewin thut in public'*

**Affledicks** sports that require physical skill or stamina

**Agin** once more, anew, e.g. *'tullus agin, om forgot a-ready'*

**Aincher** question, often robustly expressed

**Ain it real?** response to an unexpected, usually bad, happening

**Air** mammal with long ears; or threadlike pigmented filaments growing from follicles under the skin, e.g. *'yaw letter gitcher air cut, thut tew l'ng'*

**Ale** meteorological phenomenon

**A-limpicks** sporting competition held every four years

**Allwus** without fail

**Amblents** vehicle for conveying patients to hospital

**Andle** a German composer

**Ansom** good, esp. of crops, e.g. *'thussen ansom bidder Primo'*

**Ardyfishel** fertiliser

**Arpus** thirty minutes past the hour, e.g. *'thus arpus stew'*

**Arf-sharp** dull-witted, e.g. *'yew ainer 'bove arf-sharp'*

**Arfrtruck** type of vehicle with cut-down rear section used for carrying market garden produce

**Arn** ferrous metal; heated appliance for pressing wrinkles out of fabric

**Arp** large stringed instrument

**Arrert'n** a Cambridgeshire village

**Art** an organ of the body

**Arternewn** the hours after midday

**Atlee** any one of three neighbouring villages

**Awdeppens** undecided, e.g. *'wull, thut awdeppens'*

**Awstin** make of motor vehicle

**Awt** nil, zero. e.g. *'Gamgy won free awt'*

**Ayetullian** native of Italy

**Ayetullick** sloping type

**Axxerd'nt** an unforeseen incident, e.g. *'dint mean it, ref, thut wore an axxerd'nt'*

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## B

**Baackerds** in reverse, facing the rear

**Baarb-wahr** type of wire fencing with sharp spikes

**Ban Collar Day** a national day off

**Barrert'n** village in Cambridgeshire

**Baydovan** German composer, e.g. *'Baydovan were st'n deaf'*

**Be by**, e.g. *'four be tew'*

**Beeyemdubbleyew** type of German automobile, e.g. *'never adder Beeyemdubbleyew behind us that dint warner be in front'*

**Bedder** an improvement

**Berminnem** city in the English midlands

**Be-trewt** vegetable with a bulbous, dark-red root.

**Bewdiful** attractive, good looking, e.g. *'thusser bewdiful bidder brussels'*

**Bewdy** possessing the qualities that give pleasure to the senses

**Bewgle** a brass musical instrument

**Bewts** heavy-duty footwear

**Bid** small portion, degree or amount

**Bigglezid** nondescript Bedfordshire town

**Billdin** the construction industry, e.g. *'Ullen works on the billdin'*

**Bin** past tense of 'to be', e.g. *'weir yer bin?'*

**Black Brie** the fruit of the bramble; type of mobile phone

**Blew** a colour

**Blewbul** woodland flowering plant

**Blewn** a flexible bag inflated with gas or hot air, designed to float in the atmosphere

**Bluss** a benediction, e.g. *'wull bluss my sammy-oh!'*

**Blustid** a mild imprecation, e.g. *'me blustid oss lorst onner foder-finish!'*

**B'nged up** blocked up, esp. the sinuses

**Bobbertew** large sum of money, e.g. *'thut muster cawst a bobbertew'*

## C

**Caaafy** restaurant where food is served at a counter

**Caarful** attentive to danger; mean with money

**Call** say, e.g. *'I call, yew are a tool'*

**Canner** may one?, e.g. *'canner evver canner beans?'*

**Carncher** are you unable?

**Carl** Kyle, a male Christian name

**Car-pit** a type of floor covering, e.g. *'weir godder car-pit in the tore-lit'*

**Cawjit** type of baby marrow. e.g. *'yew dunno a cawjit from a zewkeenee'*

**Cawst** price, e.g. *'thut'll cawst a tunner money'*

**Chank** talk, gossip or chat, e.g. *'specked she's bin chanking t'Sully agin'*

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**Charf-inch** small garden bird

**Chawk-tup** a singular action that should be made more widely known, e.g. *'thut order be chawk-tup!'*

**Cheer** a seat, e.g. *'pull upper cheer'*

**Chimble** to break something into small pieces; to crumble

**Chinks** name given by Potton people to The Cinques prior to the Second World War

**Chinkite** someone from The Cinques

**Chocklit** a sweetmeat made using roasted ground cacao beans, e.g. *'me wife likes thut French film 'Chocklit''*

**Chroniggle** the *Biggleswade Chronicle*, a local weekly paper, e.g. *'there's nayink wuth readin in the Chroniggle agin'*

**Chuller** large stringed musical instrument

**Chulling** invite to take part in a contest, e.g. *'We allwus watch Yewneyversity Chulling on tully'*

**Chullis** a cup or goblet

**Chulp** to talk back or argue

**Chulsy** expensively-assembled football team in west London, e.g. *'Chulsy's cawst thut Abraammervitch a bobbertew'*

**Cinder kit** a number of people joined together to undertake a specific enterprise

**Claacton** holiday destination in Essex

**Claarnt** business term for a customer

**Clanker** of a size worthy of admiration, e.g. *'thut pike I cort wore a clanker'*

**Claw** rush or hurry, e.g. *'yew doan efter to claw about woman, the bus ain't gooin till twenny arter free'*

**Clawth** piece of fabric or material

**Clew** hint, e.g. *'dunno - yaw letter gizzer clew'*

**Collchister** garrison town in Essex

**Come yew ear** an order to advance towards the speaker, e.g. *'come yew ear this instant!'*

**Compewder** data-processing electronic device

**Cord** I say!, e.g. *'cord, thut were a l'ng, l'ng while agoo!'*

**Crawss** angry, upset

**Crawss, The**, Gamlingay crossroads

**Crews** holiday taken on board a ship, e.g. *'weir gooin onner Meddytrainyin crews'*

**Cullender** a receptacle with holes in for drainage, used in the kitchen; also a table showing the days, weeks and months of a specific year

**Cangerew** A large marsupial, e.g. *'godder lodder cangerews in Orsetrailer'*

**Culler** appearance of objects in terms of one's perception of their hue, brightness and saturation, e.g. *'thusser muller yuller culler'*

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## D

**Dartmoor** North Lane, the Cinques

**Dead as a nit** used to describe something that has died, e.g., *'this injun's as dead as a nit'*

**Dear-oh-pray** a heartfelt lament, e.g. *'dear-oh-pray, man, is thut the best chew can dew?'*

**De Bewcy** French composer

**Deck-rating** refurbishing a home

**Dew** to perform deed or action

**Dewks** clenched fists, e.g. *'putcher dewks up!'*

**Dewpick't** an exact copy

**D'g** domesticated animal

**Did?** expression of surprise, e.g. *'oh did?'*

**Died upright** a reaction to a huge surprise, e.g. *'Wull I nearly died upright'*

**Dincher** question, often rhetorical, e.g. *'yew see us, dincher?'*

**Dinner** question, often rhetorical, e.g. *'I ad me dinner, dinner?'*

**Dint** failure to perform an action, e.g. *'we dint goo in the end'*

**Divullup** to evolve, grow or elaborate

**D'nky** an ass, e.g. *'thut osser yawns a d'nky'*

**D'nky aarland** Gamlingay Heath

**Door-ter** one's female offspring

**Driiyy** lacking water, e.g. *'th'oll ground's ser driiyy'*

**Driv** Past tense of to drive, e.g. *'we driv to the sewermaarkit yisty'*

**Dullickit** easily broken or damaged, e.g. *'feelin a bit dullickit arter larss night'*

**Dulligate** to transfer power to someone

**Dully** City in India

**Dutt'rend** the eastern end of Gamlingay village

**Dulve** to search deeply

## E

**Eddake** a pain in the head, e.g. *'weirs them eddake tablitts when yer warn em?'*

**Edge-yew-cayshun** schooling, learning

**Eevanjullickle** marked by an ardent or zealous enthusiasm for a cause, e.g. *'one o'them eevanjullickles come round an warnid t'chank about the Booker Dewderonomy fer free ours'*

**Eftew** must

**Emsby** Norfolk holiday resort

**Ennus** poultry shed

**Enny** being the only one, e.g. *'om enny godder quid'*

**Erdy-gerdy** medieval stringed instrument

**Ev** to be in possession of, e.g. *'waddle yer ev?'*

**Ew** which or what person?, e.g. *'ew the uller yew?'*

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**Eye up** a greeting (informal), e.g. *'eye up, mole duck!'*

**Ezzertate** delay, e.g. *'ee 'oo ezzertates is lorst'*

## F

**Fairy nuff** an equitable statement or solution

**Far** a conflagration, e.g. *'cummen sidderside the far'*

**Far Injun** a large truck that carries firemen and equipment to the site of a fire

**Farmer-Suit-Tickles** drugs or medicines

**Far work** pyrotechnic device

**Febrewairey** second month of the year

**Fenks** an expression of gratitude

**Fergit** unable to remember, e.g. *'I fergit when it wore'*

**Fink** to reflect or ponder

**First** a longing for liquid refreshment

**F'k** people or villagers, usually specific to a place, e.g. *'Graansd'n f'k are p'kewlyer'*

**Flarn** moving through the air

**Flew** influenza

**Flewent** able to write and speak well in a foreign language

**Flewt** woodwind instrument

**Flossiffee** any set of ideas or beliefs ending in 'ism'

**Flossiffer** one who follows an idea or belief that ends in 'ism', e.g. *'Play Dough were a Greek flossiffer'*

**For-chewn** more than £1

**Forty fits** Potential reaction to a piece of unexpected news, e.g. *'lffy did, l'd ev forty fits!'*

**Frayed knot** unfortunately, no

**Froat** anterior portion of the neck, e.g. *'Om godder saw froat'*

**Fust** the number one; foremost, e.g. *'Thus the fust o'Jewn terday'*

## G

**Gamgy** large village in west Cambridgeshire, oddly invisible to compilers of county guides

**Germ-knee** European country

**Give** gave, e.g. *'ee give up his bidder ground c'z that were fuller weeds'*

**Gid** obtain, e.g. *'gid orff'*

**Glew** adhesive, e.g. *'th'oll ground's like glew arter thut rain'*

**God** have possession of, e.g. *'om god flew'*

**Godmanchester** Roman town in Cambridgeshire

**Goo** energy, e.g. *'aint got n'goo in me'*

**Goo** depart, leave

**Goo it!** a phrase used to encourage someone to do something

**Goo to sea** an exclamation, e.g. *'wull I goo to sea!'*

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**Gorn** no longer here

**Gorn wollop!** expression signifying that the market has suddenly declined for a particular market garden product, e.g. *'sullery's gorn wollop!'*

**Graadge-lee** slowly, in stages

**Graansd'n** either of two neighboring villages

**Gran Pee-anna** keyboard instrument standing on three legs

**Gret** large

**Griller** a large ape

**Ground** market garden

**Gull** young female

**Gullen** measure containing eight pints

**Gullerpin** running at pace

**Gullery** building where paintings and sculptures are exhibited

**Gullivaantin** roaming around in search of pleasure

**Gullixy** a chocolate bar, e.g. *'oliver gullixy anna maars'*

## H

**Hevvent** have not, e.g. *'hevvent chew?'*

## I

**Iggzaacked** precise

**Iggzawst** to tire out

**Inclewdid** contained within e.g. *'vullyew added taax inclewdid'*

**Injun** internal combustion engine e.g. *'a nunderd antwenny oss power injun'*

**Injure** Asian country

**Institewt** building in Waresley Road, e.g. *'add our annerversry dew at the Institewt'*

**Inter-leck-chew-all** anyone who reads a book

**Intire** complete, e.g. *'Om read the intire Chroniggle an there's nayink in it'*

**Intullerjint** having a high IQ, e.g. *'ease not p'tickly intullerjint'*

**Invaarer-mental** relating to external conditions or surroundings, e.g. *'them self-appointed invaarer-mental f'k gidдон yer wick'*

**Istry** study of the past

**Ixplane** to make comprehensible, e.g. *'thut ixplanes it!'*

**Ixzert** make a strenuous effort

## J

**Jappknees** citizens of a far eastern country

**Jarnt** excessively large; huge, e.g. *'thus almost as big as a baby jarnt!'*

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**Jenyewaurey** first month of the year

**Jenyewin** real or actual, e.g. *'thusser jenyewin Pickasser'*

**Jew** lit. 'do you?', e.g. *'jew warner bidder baaatenberg cake f'yer tea?'*

**Jewberlee** a pointless celebration of the passage of a number of years

**Jewce** petroleum spirit, e.g. *'mole artruck's yewsing a bidder jewce'*

**Jewel** two, having a double purpose, e.g. *'we driv on a jewel caaridgeway'*

**Jewlian** male Christian name

**Jewlie** seventh month of the year

**Jewn** six month of the year

**Jewnyer** lower in rank; younger, e.g. *'mole boy's in jewnyer school'*

**Jinnyren** dimuntive bird

**Jist** almost or nearly, e.g. *'enny jist god ear'*

**Jistly** rightly, e.g. *'aint jistly sure when it wore'*

**Joanne S'bastyin Bark** German baroque composer

**Job** a difficult task

**Jully** a preserve made from the juice of a fruit, e.g. *'I dew luvver bidder blaack brie a napple jully'*

**Jullus** envious

## K

**Keir** to be concerned or interested, e.g. *'doan keir was made to keir'*

**Kenya** a direct question, e.g. *'kenya tullus the time mole duck?'*

**Ketch** small two-masted sailing boat; to capture or seize, e.g. *'you wunt ketch me onner ketch!'*

**Kew brute** a number that when multiplied three times equals a given number

**Kibble** halt or limp, e.g. *'twisted me yankle, so I c'n enny kibble about'*

**Kneeleckshun** a vote to select the winner of a position or political office

**Kneemail** electronic communication from one computer to another, e.g. *'send us a kneemail'*

## L

**Larm** a warning of danger

**Larn** large predatory cat from India and Africa

**Lastick** stretchy; a rubber band

**Lecktrick** a form of energy, e.g. *'weir godder lectrick warder eater'*

**Levven** number after ten

**Lewd Tenant** a rank in the services

**Lewssen** to untie or make less tight

**Lewt** stringed instrument

**Lewton** town in Bedfordshire, formerly the centre of the straw hat trade

**Lewz** to be unsuccessful in a contest; to mislay something, e.g. *'yawd lewz yer ed if it warnt screewed on'*

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**Liddle** a small amount or thing, e.g. *'thus a priddy liddle d'g'*

**L'ng** extending beyond an average or standard

**L'ng Taaled Tit** a small bird

**Lorst** failed to win; unable to be found, e.g. *'Gamgy lorst tew Ulmden on pennaltiz'*

**Lotm'nt** small rented piece of cultivated land

**Lotree** national sweepstake

**Lowisstawft** seaside resort in Suffolk

## M

**Maaassey** a tractor

**Mad** lit. 'I have had', e.g. *'mad enouger yew'*

**Manchister** city in the north west of England

**Marl** a measure of distance

**Marled** moderate; not extreme, e.g. *'gizzer marled an bidder'*

**Marls** beyond a comfortable walking distance

**Marn** belonging to me

**Medder** an area of enclosed grassland

**Meddysin** treatment to alleviate or prevent symptoms of disease

**Merry kin** from North America

**Mewn** eighteenth century folly near Drove Road; in a listless manner, e.g. *'yew gonner mewn about all day l'ng?'*

**Mewzick** artform consisting of the arrangement of sounds in time

**Mick-annick** someone skilled in maintaining and repairing machinery

**Minks** the surname Meeks

**M'man** title, often used when addressing a young boy, e.g. *'football's orler bout momentum m'man'*

**Mole bewdy** term of endearment

**Mole duck** term of endearment, e.g. *'wossup mole duck?'*

**Money** one is merely, e.g. *'money ear fer the beer'*

**More-gidge** a loan, usually for a house, repayable over a long term of years, e.g. *'this ear more-gidge'll never be paid orff'*

**More-ren** a water bird

**Morph** one is leaving

**Mow-der** a vehicle, or a vehicle's engine

**Mowed-zaart** Austrian composer, e.g. *'weir jist bought summer them chocklit Mowed-zaart balls'*

**Mulb'n** a large Cambridgeshire village; city in Australia

**Muller** easy-going; soft; gentle

**Mullerdrama** a play or film with extravagant emotion and action

**Mullerdy** a tune

**Mullis** evil intent

**Mult** become liquified by heat, e.g. *'snuffter mult yer innear'*

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**Mussen grumble** standard reply to the question *'our yew?'*

**Muster** employer, usually a farmer

**Musterdun** ought to, should have, or probably did, e.g. *'I never brook it, so yew musterdun'*

## N

**Ns** poultry

**Nashullelf** the National Health Service

**Nashnullidy** the status of belonging to a particular nation

**Nayfen** male Christian name

**Nayink** something that has no existence, e.g. *'thus nayink ter dew with me'*

**N'bdee** no-one; an insignificant person

**Nemmind** an expression of (often feigned) concern or condolence, e.g. *'still, nemmind day?'*

**'nkle** mother or father's brother, or the husband of an aunt; also a greeting, e.g. *'Eye up, 'nkle'*

**Nod** in no way, e.g. *'nod if I c'n nellpit'*

**Node-iss** advertisement, e.g. *'sorer node-iss in the co-awp'*

**Nully** female Christian name

**Nuss** a carer of the sick, e.g. *'yewce ter be fritter Nuss Pepper when I wore y'ng'*

## O

**Oba** woodwind instrument

**Ockerd** see *Orkerd*

**Of Goddit!** I understand

**Oh** an implement with a metal blade on the end of a long wooden handle, used to eradicate weeds

**Oll** in existence for many years, e.g. *'enny godden oll payer of trowziz'*

**Oller** to shout; having a space within

**Ollywood** East Lane, the Cinques

**Olt** a town in north Norfolk, e.g. *'Olt - 'oo goos there?'*

**Om** I have or I am, e.g. *'Om a-cummen, mole bewdy'*

**Omlit** beaten eggs cooked in fat

**On** of, e.g. *'some on em ev, some on em hevvent'*

**'oof** uncoordinated person, e.g. *'yew clumsy gret 'oof!'*

**'oogey** in a bad mood, e.g. *'say nayink, ease 'oogey!'*

**'ook** species of tree; curved piece of metal for hanging things from, e.g. *'take yer ook!'*

**Oover** finished

**Oppin On** growing quickly, e.g. *'them cawjits are oppin on'*

**Ordergraaf** a person's signature, esp one considered to be a collector's item

**Orff** to go away; also a German composer, e.g. *'om gorn orff Orff's 'Calm in a Bew-rarner''*

**Orkerd** upset or angry; difficult to handle or manage, e.g. *'Yaw jist being orkerd fer the saker being orkerd'*

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**Orphan** frequently

**Orphan On** intermittently

**Orse spittle** institution for the care of the sick

**Orsetrailer** continent between the Indian and Pacific oceans

**Orstria** central European country

## P

**Paarer dice** heaven; nirvana

**Pagger Knee-knee** Italian violinist and composer

**Parky-staaan** country in the sub-continent

**Parl** to put into a heap

**Parls** hemorrhoids, e.g. *'carn siddown, me parls are givin me gyp'*

**Parlit** a person who flies an aeroplane

**Parlour** lots of, e.g. *'ease godder parlour money'*

**Paatch** not worthy of comparison, e.g. *'Podden ainer paatch on Gamgy'*

**Payer** two of anything, e.g. *'Om god free kings anner payer o' dewces'*

**Pee-anna** keyboard instrument

**Peeda** a male Christian name

**Peedaburrer** cathedral city in north west Cambridgeshire

**Penshner** someone in receipt of an old age allowance

**Pewcheenee** Italian operatic composer

**Phoney** an expression of regret, e.g. *'phoney I ent got married I'd be wull orff now'*

**Pillar** a type of cushion for the head

**P'kewlyer** odd, strange

**Plan-t** seedling, e.g. *'bin planntin plan-ts all day l'ng'*

**Plittickle** of or involving politics, e.g. *'carn stick them partly plittickle broadcaasts'*

**Podden** small Bedfordshire market town; see *Paatch* above

**Pollerticians** people elected to run local or national government, e.g. *'we ainters stewpid as pollerticians fink, although sumdy muster voded Libral Demmercraat'*

**Poplar** well-liked

**Praarl** (prial - from pair-royal) Three of a kind in cards, e.g. *'a praarl 'o freeze'*

**Praises-er-sake** an invocation or warning, e.g. *'praises-er-sake be caarful, man!'*

**Priddy** good-looking, attractive

**Proggled** to wriggle out or poke, e.g. *'proggled the drain wivver stick'*

**P'tickly** to a distinctly greater extent

**Pud** to place in a specific location, e.g. *'weir didder pud the Daily Tullygraaf?'*

**Pulliss** a well-maintained dwelling

**Pullisstreener** Italian Renaissance composer

**Pullyken** species of bird with a long beak

**Push-oh** agricultural implement with adjustable blades and one or two wheels that can be pushed by means of handles; used for hoeing market garden crops

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## Q

**Quart** not noisy; peaceful

**Quickside** the Cinques crossroads

**Quollidy** high standard of excellence

## R

**Raahl** to upset

**Raahn** Male Christian name

**Rack-man in-orff** Russian composer and pianist

**Ravel** French composer

**Reddish** fleshy, pungent root crop

**Resslin'th** a village in Bedfordshire

**Restrawnt** a dining establishment

**Retard** no longer working

**Reuwinned** spoiled or destroyed, esp. of a crop, e.g. *'thut ale reuwinned me be-trewt'*

**Rewbub** edible garden plant

**Rewd** coarse, uncouth

**Rewm** space, e.g. *'maker bidder rewm fruss'*

**Rewt** part of plant below ground; a means of reaching a destination

**Ritson** the surname Richardson

**R'ng** incorrect; past tense of verb 'to ring', e.g. *'Om r'ng the blusted bul but there's n'bdee a-t'm'*

**Roar-in** crying

**Rode-a-Vader** motorised cultivator with rotating blades

**Rubbish** weeds in a crop

**Rullygaytid** demoted

**Rullyin** a motorsport

**Ruttle-arse** a fidget

## S

**S'jist** to express a thought

**Saarnce** the systematic study of nature and the universe

**Saartist** an expert in science

**Satdee** the day after Friday

**Saul gorn** there's nothing left

**Sawft** yielding to the touch; dopey e.g. *'yaw sawft in the ed'*

**Sayink** an undetermined or unspecified thing, e.g. *'I know yaw bin uppter sayink'*

**Scuffle-oh** a Dutch hoe

# Gamgy Talk

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**Screwed-inny** close observation

**Scribblin Lark** the Yellowhammer, also called Yellow Bunting; from the squiggly markings on its eggs

**Seckerterry** a person who does clerical work for a business or organisation, e.g. *'ooze Ohm Seckerterry now?'*

**Semitree** a burial ground

**Senny** only, e.g. *'senny free quid'*

**Sepped** other than, e.g. *'yewken ev orl onnem sepped that one'*

**Serjist** propose or prompt

**Sersaarty** a formal association of people with similar interests, e.g. *'Gamgy an Districked Istry Sersaarty'*

**Serstiffic't** official document

**Sewper-glew** an adhesive, e.g. *'om sewper-glewed me fingers together'*

**Sewper seeded** outmoded

**Sewzun** female Christian name

**Shadder** dark shape cast by light rays on an opaque body

**Sheews** footwear

**Shell** something that will take place in the future, e.g. *'shell I tull yew a thingertew?'*

**Share-in-em** town on the north Norfolk coast

**Shewb't** Austrian composer

**Shletter** must; have to, e.g. *'shletter gidder a nair cut'*

**Shooky D'g** lane leading off Cinques Road

**Showpaan** Polish-born pianist and composer

**Shull** hard outer casing

**Shuller** not deep; also 'shall I?' e.g. *'shuller or sharner?'*

**Shully** small wooden holiday home

**Shulter** cover or protection, e.g. *'yew bin angin round that bus shulter agin?'*

**Shulves** flat rectangular pieces of wood or metal hung at right angles on a wall

**Simla** city in India; almost alike

**Singer dew** a strong affirmation, e.g. *'cord, singer dew!'*

**Singer don't** a strong negative, e.g. *'cord, singer don't!'*

**Sitch** of the sort specified; for example

**Sitchlike** of the same kind; similar

**Skullert'n** internal bone structure

**Sleked** specially chosen; superior

**Slep** past tense of the verb to sleep, e.g. *'I slep liker log - w'k up in the far place'*

**S'lewshen** the answer to a problem

**Slewt** a salutation in the military

**Sly drool** instrument with engraved scales for making complex calculations

**Smewth** having an even surface

**Sment** grey powder mixed with sand and water to form concrete

**Sm'k** vapour resulting from burning organic material

**Smull** fragrance or odour, e.g. *'them sockser yawn smull like they've jist died'*

**Snaal** terrestrial mollusc, e.g. *'a snaal's quickeren yew'*

# Gamgy Talk

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**Snandrews** golf course in Scotland

**Sneerts** a town in Cambridgeshire

**Sneery nuff** it will do

**Snives** a town in Cambridgeshire

**Snotes** alternative name for Sneerts

**Snuff** a sufficiency, e.g. *'snuff stuff ear, aint the?'*

**So l'ng** farewell

**Sparl** to mar or damage

**Specked** probable or likely, e.g. *'specked thus me woss r'ng agin'*

**Specktackler** impressive or sensational

**Spewn** utensil for eating or preparing food

**Sp'k** conversed with, e.g. *'ent sp'k tewwer fer rages'*

**Spull** the constituent letters of a word; words believed to have magic powers, e.g. *'ee carn spull N-A-Y-I-N-K proply'*

**S't** Black deposit mainly consisting of carbon, formerly used as a fertiliser, e.g. *'om ser blaack c's om bin s't sowin agin'*

**Stahl** the form or appearance of something, e.g. *'me jaackit's godder bidder stahl abowd it'*

**Stewpid** not very clever

**Stiddy** firm, stable, e.g. *'stiddy on ulse yawl spillit'*

**St'n** pebble or small piece of rock

**St'ng** to be bitten by an insect, e.g. *'blusted worsp st'ng me on the backer me leg'*

**Street** Church Street in Gamlingay, e.g. *'yer Dad's gorn down the street'*

**Stroll about** exclamation of mild surprise, e.g. *'wull, stroll about!'*

**Stuff** any market garden produce, e.g. *'stuff aint sullin'*

**Sulf** one's own identity, e.g. *'om sulf-employed'*

**Sull** exchange for money

**Sullerd** dish of cooked or raw vegetables and other ingredients usually served cold

**Sullery** vegetable plant with blanched stem

**Sully** female Christian name

**Sullybrate** to mark an occasion or event with festivities and rejoicing

**Swoller** migrant bird of summer

**Swultrin** hot weather

## T

**Tambreen** a percussion instrument

**Tar** a rubber ring with an inner inflatable tube, placed over the rim of a wheel on a vehicle or bicycle

**Tarred** worn out or sleepy, e.g. *'Doctor Johnson reckoned when a man's tarred o' London, ease tarred o' life'*

**Tawft** a village in Cambridgeshire

**Termurrer** the day after today

**Tewantwenny** the number 22

# Gamgy Talk

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**Tewber** large brass instrument

**Tew-fake** an aching pain in or near a tooth

**Tewn** a succession of notes forming a distinctive sequence, e.g. *'the mewn in Jewn's a nice tewn'*

**Tewsdee** the day after Monday

**The** they, e.g. *'dunno weir the are'*

**Them** spouse or spouse's family, e.g. *'Jen an them are coming round Satdee'*

**Theyar** lit. 'there you are'; in or at that place, e.g. *'I pud it oover theyar'*

**Threw** from beginning to end, e.g. *'bin right threw the Chroniggle and aint found nayink to read yit'*

**Thus** that is, e.g. *'thus it iggzaackly!'*

**Thut** that e.g. *'is thut wotcher fink?'*

**Tibbles** the surname Theobalds

**Tidy** a large amount or sum, e.g. *'tidy mess yaw made'*

**T'm** indoors, at home

**Tool** idiot; dimwit

**Tore-lit** lavatory

**Traffulgger** battle between English and French fleets in 1805

**Tret** past tense of treat

**Trew** factually correct

**Trewth** veracity, e.g. *'Om tulling yer the trewth'*

**Tud-dar** farewell

**Tudor-lew** a 16th century toilet; a farewell

**Tull** inform, relate

**Tullent** ability, skill, aptitude

**Tully** to correspond or agree

**Tullygraaf** national daily newspaper

**Tullyphone** instrument for transmitting speech

**Tunnermunny** description of immense wealth, e.g. *'Ease godder tunnermunny'*

**Twulve** a dozen

## U

**Ulba** a Mediterranean island; joint between fore and upper arms, e.g. *'yew dunno yerrarse from yer ulba'*

**Ulben** the surname Albone

**Ulbert** male Christian name

**Ulfrid** male Christian name *'I like them films be Ulfrid Ditchcock'*

**Ull** the nether world; Hades

**Ullen** a male and a female Christian name, as well as a surname

**Uller** female Christian name

**Ullerf'nt** large pachyderm; clumsy person, e.g. *'yaw liker clumsy gret ullerf'nt'*

**Ullerg'nt** refined, tasteful

# Gamgy Talk

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**Ullerqu'nt** expressing oneself in clear and fluent speech, e.g. *'easern ullerqu'nt liddle bleeder, enny?'*

**Ullick** male Christian name

**Ullimentry** fundamental, basic

**Ulliss** female Christian name; also the surname 'Ellis'

**Ulligzarnder** male Christian name, e.g. *'Ulligzarnder the Grade were enny a liddle chap'*

**Ullycobder** flying machine

**Ullygayder** large reptile, e.g. *'see yer laid her, ullygayder!'*

**Ulm** species of tree, e.g. *'we lorst orler ulms threw Dutch Ulm d'sease'*

**Ulse** besides, in addition, e.g. *'wod ulse dew yer warnt?'*

**Ulsie** female Christian name

**Ullerslee** a village in Cambridgeshire

**Unstaanton** holiday resort in north Norfolk

**Umbruller** collapsible, circular canopy mounted on a central pole

**Untind'n** town in Cambridgeshire

**Unyen** vegetable plant with pungent rounded edible bulb, e.g. *'unyens gorn wollop!'*

**Unyewze-you-wall** out of the ordinary, unexpected

**Us** oneself, e.g. *'give us a fag, mole duck'*

**Utson** the surname Hutchinson

## V

**Vaarlin** stringed musical instrument

**Varlet** springtime flower, e.g. *'ee aint iggzaactly a shrinkin varlet'*

**Varl'nt** characterised by force or bloodshed

**Vocab-yew-lairey** all the words of a language, e.g. *'Om godder wide wosname... vocabyewlairey, thus it'*

**Vullike** in all probability, e.g. *'year, vullike I shull'*

**Vullyew** monetary or material worth

**Vulvit** smooth material, e.g. *'Lizb'ff Taylor were in thut film 'Blew Vulvit'*

## W

**Waagtaal** a small black and white bird

**Waarliss** the radio, e.g. *'we allwus listen tew 'Jisterminnit' on the waarliss'*

**WaaHzlee** small Cambridgeshire village

**Wad** what, e.g. *'wad are yew tew dewin in thut tullyphone box?'*

**Waddever** intensive form of what

**Waddo** a greeting (informal)

**Wahl** a period of time

**Warder** clear, colourless, odorless and tasteless liquid, e.g. *'I like warder - jist so I'ng azzit's got a bidder whisky in it'*

# Gamgy Talk

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**Warder-lew** London railway terminus

**Warn** desire or like, e.g. *'jew warn a cupperetea?'*

**Warncher** require you, e.g. *'warncher t'aarrer thut bidder ground om jist row-der-vaded'*

**Warnt** was not, e.g. *'thut warnt me wot dunnit'*

**Warnts** needs, e.g. *'thut warnts twenny minutes to free a clock'*

**Was** were you, e.g. *'oh, was?'*

**Wawer** a major conflict, e.g. *'me graandaad fort in the fust world wawer'*

**Weakertew** up to a fortnight

**Weir** we are

**Weir** where, e.g. *'weir didder leave me wullertons?'*

**Wessmedderbaanks** area of meadow south of Gamlingay brook and west of Potton road.

**Wevver** meteorological conditions

**Willer** might one?, e.g. *'willer or wunner?'*

**Willer** species of tree

**Wimmy** literally 'with my', e.g. *'I wen orf wimmy trowsers round me yankles'*

**Wollop** a sudden crash in the price of market garden produce; or to hit, e.g. *'doan jist stand theyar, wollop 'im!'*

**Wolnut** a type of edible nut

**Woman** wife

**Woostened** idiot, e.g. *'yew woostened yew!'*

**Wop me** a greeting (informal), e.g. *'wop me, Jimmy!'*

**Wore** was, e.g. *'wore it thut l'ng agoo?'*

**Wornid** required, needed, e.g. *'fied wornid tew, I wooder dun'*

**Worsp** an insect

**Woss** what is, e.g. *'woss the time?'*

**Wossname** unspecified object, behaviour or attitude, e.g. *'yew carn wossname canyer?'*

**Wossup** is anything amiss?

**Wulks** edible shellfish

**Wull** satisfactory; in good health, e.g. *'saul very wull, budder warnt wull'*

**Wullerton** waterproof rubber boot

**Wulls** small port on the north Norfolk coast

**Wullwullwull** exclamation of mild surprise

**Wunt** refuse to do something, e.g. *'ee wunt dew watcher tullim'*

**Wuss** more inferior, less good, e.g. *'yaw wuss than nayinker tall, man'*

**Wuth** value, or deserving of, e.g. *'thus ardly wuth sendin stuff t'markit'*

## Y

**Yaw** you are

**Yawright** a greeting (informal)

**Yawn** belonging to you, e.g. *'thut aint marn, thus yawn'*

**Year** affirmation, e.g. *'year, specked so'*

**Yew** you

# Gamgy Talk

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**Yewce** capable of being used, e.g. *'yaw nyver yewce nor ornam'nt'*

**Yewkerlaylee** a small stringed instrument

**Yew-neek** the only one of its kind

**Yew-nigh-tid** combined; being in harmony, e.g. *'few listen to tew them common taters, when Newcarssel Yew-nightid play Manchister Yew-nigh-tid, there's enny one Yew-nigh-tid playin, an thut aint Newcarssel'*

**Yewnynen** combination of workers

**Yewnynen Jaack** national flag, often hung by the vulgar outside their own homes

**Yewneyversity** an institution for higher learning

**Yewrup** a continent

**Yewster** was previously

**Yewtar** state in the USA

**Yewtewb** video streaming website

**Yewth** young person

**Yewze-you-wall** normal, as expected

**Yiss** affirmative

**Yisty** the day before today

**Yit** at a future time; despite, e.g. *'en add time ter dew it yit, woman'*

**Yitterwaahl** any time soon, e.g. *'Doan specked the bus'll come yitterwaahl'*

**Y'ng** immature, youthful

**Yull** a loud cry or shout, e.g. *'yew doan etter yull in me year'*

**Yuller** a colour

**Yuller-rammer** wild bird, a type of bunting; see 'Scribblin Lark'

## Z

**Zaarlphone** a percussion instrument

**Zew** a collection of animals

**Zewkeenee** type of baby marrow, e.g. *'I tull yew I doan warner zewkeenee, I warner cawjit'*

**Zullot** a fanatic, e.g. *'nayink wuss than a plittickle zullot baangin on yer door when there's a kneeleckshun'*