

**B Y G O N E**

**S I L E N T**



No. 6 'More Old Words and Sayings.'

## MORE OLD SILEBY WORDS AND SAYINGS

In this booklet we look once more at the speech in bygone Sileby. Villagers who in Victorian times had endured many hardships and experienced real poverty, were in their old age, strong characters of an independent outlook and forthright in their views.

### Conversations with the "Good Owd Uns."

The generation mentioned above has now passed away, but a dozen years ago, there were still a number of aged people in the village who were born about 1870 - now a hundred years ago.

It was strangely difficult to discuss old Sileby with some of them because of their Victorian style of conversation and unusual mannerisms. For example, when making inquiries about some interesting person who dwelt in the village when they were young, they were asked, "Did you ever know old "Belter Bloggs?" The answer was never simply "yes," or "no." There would be a long silence, during which the villager stared - or glared in what appeared to be annoyance or indignation. He would then repeat the question, "Did ah know Belter Bloggs?" Then, with a solemn shake of the head said with feeling, "Ah should think ah DID know 'im!"

This manner of reply so alarmed and deflated the questioner, he was ready to abandon the subject - only to be surprised a moment later by a flood of humorous memories about that character from the past. In some later issue, stories about interesting characters of yester year will appear in these booklets.

Some of the old words and expressions which appear in the following pages may be familiar to our readers, but there are some which have now passed out of use, and are never heard today.

Our purpose remains the same, that is, to record this old manner of speech before it is forgotten and replaced by modern standard English.

OLD SILEBY WORDS AND HOW THEY WERE USED

GOLLOP (eat quickly)

" Stop gollopin yer food, yowl gi yersel the bellyache!"

POFENOLE (a bump on the forehead, a bruise)

To a child, "Yowve got a rale owd popenowle ere, eencher?"

AFTER (in search of something)

Men standing on a street corner, observing someone from the other side of the village:

" Wots ay after up this end?"

YORPING (speaking loudly in anger)

Someone describing a quarrelsome parent who gave the National School staff little peace:

" Shay uster run after the taycher yorpin."

WET (foolish)

" Doont bi such a wet epporth!"

" Tek no notice of 'er, shay's wet!"

SPOT (recognise)

" Yer cud spot ar Ted a mile off wi is new cap on!"

BARROW (suitability)

" Eeent yor Alf gone into the shoein?" (footwear factory)

" Ar, its just is barra."

MUCK-HILL (home)

After being away from the village a few days:

Wife, "It's good t'bi um!"

Husband, "Ar, theer's nowt loike bayin on yer own muckill!"

STRAIGHT-JACK (a straight surface, horizontal or perpendicular)

A description of a building:

" It wornt fancy at all, it wor proper stretjack!"

2. MOTHER (as a term of derision)

Referring to a difficult neighbour:

"Owd Muther bizzybody's bin mekin truble agen!"

HIND-AFORE (back to front)

"Oo, av got mi skirt on hindafore!"

KNOWLING (tolling a church bell)

"Ark, theer knowlin th'bell fer th' fooneral."

THRAPE (thrash)

"Ef yo doont get them wet boots off, al thrape yer."

CLACK (tell, or repeat)

"Ey, doont yo tell her nowt, - shay'll clack!"

TANK (punish)

"Ef yo do that agen, al tank yer one!"

BASSES (hassocks)

"Ayer sane them new basses in church?"

GOB (mouth)

Argumentative - "Ays allus upnin is gob abowt summut!"

A large round sweet which changed colour when sucked, was known as a "gob-stopper."

MAULERS (hands)

"Yo kids kape yer maulers off them buns!"

PALM (handle, touch with the palm)

Butcher to woman in shop:

"Ere missis, doont pawm that mate if yer not tekin it!"

DOLLOP (great quantity)

"Yo eent arf gen may a dollop o' puddin!"

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KNAT (knitted)

Proud mother telling a neighbour about her daughter's new scarf:  
" Shay knat it ersel !"

SWILLOCK (spill)

" Yo ius watch yo doont swillock yer tay inter yer sorcer !"

To someone carrying a bucket of water :  
" Ayup, yowl swillock it uver yer boots !"

BIZZ (be's)

" Shay bizz on the market."  
" 'Im an 'er bizz theer."

MORTAR ( spread over a surface, particularly mud)

" Scrape yer fate, doont yo mortar all uver mi clane floor !"

THE NEVER (payments by instalments)

" Shay got a new coat on the niver."

It was also known as "a bob a wik an a miss."

A CARD (lively person)

" Ay wor a rale card, ay wor."

ROARING (crying)

" Ah sane yer runnin away from im. Wot ayer bin dooin at im ?  
ays roarin is ed off !"

STRYME (step out, walk quickly)

" Look at that bloke uver theer, ay eent arf strymin out."

STRYME (step over)

" Doont tread in that muck, stryme uver it !"

REPETITIONS

Sometimes in conversation, the last word in a sentence was repeated:  
" Ef this wind kapes up, ah shall av ter get the leaves up agen, agen."  
" Look yer, it's uver theer, theer."

4  
PES SOCKS

(feet)

" Ays walked all uver mi gardin wi is gret pessucks !"

PACKING

(food)

A Sibley father used to say to his son:

" Yer want ter get plenty o' packin down yer, mi lad, yer can't wuk if yer doont get plenty o' packin !"

HUMOUR

(pamper)

Someone referring to a man who in his childhood received too much attention from his mother :

" Shay yummerd im. "

CODDLE

(pamper)

" Way doont coddle ar kids, it duz um good ter ruff it a bit."

GUZZLING

(drinking frequently)

" Ef yer kape guzzlin at 'erb beer, theer'll bi none left."

SCRUMPING

(stealing apples)

Boys about to raid an orchard, "Weer gooin scrumpin, ayer cumin ?" Some forty years ago, the Vicar, the Rev.F.L.Burrow, had most of his apples "scrumped" from the vicarage orchard. The next Sunday, he announced in church, "Someone has borrowed my apples, and I will be glad to have them back when they have done with them !"

Scrumping by schoolchildren has been part of the country way of life, but adults who clear an orchard cannot claim the excuse, as it is simply theft, motivated by greed.

GABBING

(speaking with a loud voice)

" Wot's ay gabbin about?"

" Shay's allus gabbin about summut !"

" Shay's all uver th' place gabbin."

GOBBLING

(loud humourous talk, careless attitude)

" Shay's a gobbin madam, shiz dun no wuk yit !"

NO CANDLE

(lacking common-sense)

" Ay's got no candle in is lamp !"

5  
BELL-TINKER

(use a hammer with vigour)

" Ark at ar Fred in the cowlus, ay eent arf geein that lump o' coal  
a belltinkerin - theer'll bay nowt but slack left !"

MOON

(idle, daydream)

" Ey, stop moonin about, an get sum wuk done !"

BELLASING

(drink heartily)

A man with a stomach disorder was told to drink much water:

" Wot yo want is a good bellasin o' wetter !"

BOLT

(eat quickly)

" Stop boltin yer food, chew it proper !"

BOLT

(run quickly)

" Ah jus sane yer dug bowt uver th' road."

BELLOWS

(lungs, crying noisily)

" That child o' yorn sounds as if its got good bellas !"

MY DUCK

(expression of friendliness, affection)

First neighbour, "Cum in an av a cuppa tay, miduck."

Second neighbour, " It's good on yer, miduck."

SCRAWK

(scratch, drag)

" Be quiet, doont kape scrawkin yer boots all uver the floor !"

SCRAWP

(scrape)

In the sense of "gather together,"

" Yer muther uster scrawp yer 'air tight back."

DROPPED-ON

(surprised)

" When shay towd mi, ah wor proper dropped on !"

SPRUCED

(special attention to appearance)

" Wot's ar Jack all spruced up for, weer's a gooin ?"

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SMOCK-RAVELLED

(confused)

" This ere fancy knittin pattern gets mi all smockravelled !"

RUM

(strange)

" They wor a rum lot in Sileby in the owd days !"

AND ALL

(as well, also)

Mother having given a child a sweet, another rushes in to ask:

" Mam, con ah ev one anorl ?"

US

(used as "our")

Mother to children knocking on the back-door:

" Ar kids cant cum out, weer goin tav uz dinner !"

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SOME LOCAL EXPRESSIONS WITH VARIOUS USES

AY- UP used as a warning:

" Ayup, get yer weshin in, its startin t' rain !"

AY-UP used as a greeting:

In this form, it was accompanied by a wag of the head. Similarly, people on their way to work greeted each other with a condensed version of "how do you do ?" which was "Ar dew."

YER-WOT was an expression which could be applied in several ways:

(a) When failing to catch a remark made by someone with a mouthful of bread and cheese, the customary request for them to repeat the statement was, "Yer wot ?"

(b) It could be used as an expression of surprise and anger. If a young member of the family ran into the house, and breathlessly exclaimed, " Av bin an bruk next door's winder!" - the parent would respond with "Yer wot ?"

(c) If used with emphasis, it could convey the meaning, " try it if you dare !" During an argument, if one party threatened, " Ef yo dow that agen, al thump yer earole !" - the other would reply "yer WOT ?"



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OO-AR a curious expression which was used in a number of ways:

(a) Agreement with a remark -

" Yowl bi better when the sun shines on both sides of the 'edges, wooncher ?"  
" Ooar."

(b) A statement of surprise -

" Thi say shay's gon off wi that bloke from 'Sorrel !"  
" Ooar ?"

(c) Employed as a challenge -

" Ef yo doont kape yer dug off ar gardin, al belt it !"  
" Ooar ?"

(d) As an expression of doubt -

" Theer geein away gowd watches on a stall at th' Wakes."  
" Ooar ! "

### SOME OLD SILEBY SAYINGS

#### A VERSE

" Sally Riley sells fish,  
Thray eppunce a dish.  
Ef yo want any more,  
Goo t' Sally's back-door."

#### THE CHURCH TENOR BELL

" When the big bell sounds heavy, it's a sign o' death."

#### A DAMAGED COMB

" This comb's jus like oss rake !"

#### A DRESSMAKER'S WARNING

" Tack it wi black,  
An it's sure to come back !"

#### APPETITE

Seeing a stout man enjoying his food :  
" Ad sooner kape im a wik thon a fortnit !"

#### PROSPERITY

Watching a gang of workmen repairing a road:  
" The labourers ul niver bay out o' wuk agen !"

### AN ORDER TO HURRY

There was a curious saying, once in popular use :  
" Mek 'aste, ays dead"

### AFTER A TIRING DAY AT LEICESTER MARKET

" Oo, mi fate cud do wi a sit-down !"

### VILLAGE CONCERT

After a contralto ended her solo:  
" Shay's got the best voice av ivar sane !"

### UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Little boys were told:  
"Yowl niver mek a soldier, yer nose aint big enuf."

### MISSING WHEELBARROW

A man who took a wheelbarrow which had been left near the cemetery,  
explained to the constable:  
" Ah thort the bloke wot owned it wor ded."

### HOMELIFE

" Ivry toime ah upon ar back-door, ah wunder wot am  
lettin misel in fer !"

### HIGH PRAISE

Woman to new Vicar:  
" Ah loike yer sermons passun. Way dint know wot sin wor, till yo cum."

### FINANCE

" Thi say money talks."  
" Ar, all it sez t'may is tarrar !"

### ROOM AT THE TOP

" Theer's ony one job weer yo con start at the top - grave diggin !"

### A WET SUMMER

A gardener looking at his saturated plot:  
" The ony stuff way got growin is say-wade !"

## ROMANCE

It is said that a young man in the village once hinted to his young lady that he would soon be proposing marriage. Anxious not to appear too eager, she said, "Ad wed no bloke wot dint av fifty quid in is pockit." The young man replied, "Oo, ah eent got no weer near that !" A couple of weeks later, she asked, "Ow much ayer got now?" Sadly, the young man replied, "thirty bob." "Nemind," she said brightly, "that's near enuf !"

## LOUGHBOROUGH'S VIEW

About the turn of the century, the people of Loughborough did not have a high opinion of this village. In fact, there was a saying, "All the folks in Sileby are wappy !"

## COMFORTS

An old lady who complained of living in isolation in a cottage at the edge of the village, was visited by a friend. The visitor, pointing out that there were bee hives and poultry in the garden, said, "Yo shunt bay too quiet ere, wot wi them bays bummin an they chuckies cluckin !"

## HATS

The word hat was used in a number of expressions :  
" Well, Ah about laughed mi 'at off !"  
" By gum it's a dark night, it's as black as yer 'at outside."

## DILEMMA

A person failing in one thing, tries something else but without success :  
" Am as bad bunt as scaldid !"

## AN UNUSUAL FOLLOWING

Wife, returning home from the Sewing Class, to her husband:  
" Ey, a strange chap follered mi all the way um !"  
Husband, " Ay must a bin strange if ay follered yo !"

## A LOCAL SAYING

" Mountsorrel is a stony place,  
Sileby, it be sandy,  
Rothley has the Half-way House,  
Quorndon is the dandy."

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BYGONE SILEBY No 7.

The next booklet is called " Sileby in the Doomesday Book, " and shows how the village was described in that book in the year 1086 A.D. It contains the first written information about Sileby, nearly 900 years ago.

THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of old Sileby appear on most of the Bygone Sileby booklets. The photograph on this issue is of Barrow Road, and was taken about 1910.

A book of photographs of the village is being prepared, in which some of these cover pictures will appear. We should be grateful if any of our readers would supply any information about these photographs, or any memories they stimulate. Such information could be used in the book.

FUTURE BOOKLETS

The following are in preparation:  
No. 8. Homelife in Sileby about 1900  
No. 9. Sileby in Norman Times  
No.10. The Wakes.

If any of our readers have any happy memories about the Wakes in years gone by, we would be glad to include them in that issue.