

Conversation on dialect words

Crub.	Clay	Cobblers' wax.
Geddy.		
Rab.		
Radmund.	Decomposed granite used for foot-paths.	
Quarry.	A pane of glass.	
Fowst.	Crumpled up.	
Caggled.	Dirty, messed up by mud.	
Lagging in the mud.	Bedraggled.	
Glawz.	Dried cows' dung.	
Fooch.	Push through.	
Dedeta.	Note the 'ta' in - dedeta	
see me fooch my stick through that quarry?		
see me push my stick through that quarry?		
Girgow.	A bank at the side of the road.	
Cant.	Distance. Heaved a stone some cant.	
Spaal.	To make things last as long as one can.	
Spall.	To break.	
Spaller.	A labourer who breaks stones for roads.	
Qwattie and geekie.	Sit and watch. (Greekie - to peep.)	
Keemer.	Early.	
Ruster.	A small toothed comb.	
Scroth.	A hair comb.	
Trapsing up and down.	Exerting one's self hurriedly.	
Habm wust a?	Walking up and down.	
Edns?	Will you have it?	
Stippers.	Is it not?	
bdjack.	Steps.	
the triggers under it.	A poor job. (Bohjack = Poor. O.C.)	
ig the wheel.	Fulcrum.	
augan.	Tie the wheel	
	A limpet shell.	

(1)

- Terry** I remember older generations said if you'd been through mud you were "lagged and stagged" #memories
- Martyn** Some of those words I remember from my youth, used by my grandfather in the 80's
- Alice** A few of these I still use, e.g. spall which I would do with a spalling hammer.
- Cath** Some are dialect. A couple I recognise -but they might be widespread across Cornwall.
- John** all Cornish dialect but some are from Cornish language: glawz, bodjack, craugan, girgow, lagging, caggled
- Susan** The word trapsing is still in my vocabulary and probably came from hearing 'trapsing up and down' in my childhood!
- Hilary** Me too - though I can't say I recognise any of the other words. We must have 'traipsed' together up and down Hendra Rd on our way to and from St George's chapel!
- Susan** That must be it Hilary! (And I can't say I recognise any of the other words either.)
- But I should perhaps also mention that the word may not be unique to Cornwall - my husband, from Hertfordshire, says it was part of his language when he was a child - like twitchell (a little twisty path) - and he definitely did not pick it up from me! (I cannot remember twitchell).
- It has an entry in the Chambers Dictionary of Etymology - says it was seen in written sources from 1593 and is of uncertain origin though it may echo French dialect (Old French trespasser). But in the dictionary it describes it as 'walking about aimlessly' which is not how Alan or I remember our 'traipsing'.
- The Macquarie Dictionary (Australian) has a description which better fits our memory: 'to walk about so as to be or having become tired: trudge.' That dictionary also has a second meaning which fits with the Dictionary of Etymology: 'to walk around aimlessly, gad about'.
- Susan** This Australian dictionary's description is zakly right - I can still hear my Mum saying 'I've been traipsing round town all afternoon so you'll have to have your tea drekky!'
- Susan** We certainly traipsed up and down Comprigney Hill to County School a few times Hilary
- Owen** 'Traipse' is used in Australia. Also to 'have a geek' or 'have a gander' means 'to peep'.