

A potted dictionary of Appledorian

This is work in progress – some words may be wrong! We welcome corrections or new words and phrases. Just send them to Nick Arnold, Appledore Book Festival. Appledorian c/o Book Festival Office, Appledore Library, The Quay, Appledore, Devon EX39 1QS

Appledore maid – a girl born in Appledore

Backsy-fore – back to front

Bake orts from another man's trencher – take another man's cast-offs.

Bolly - wretch

Boy or chiel? - is the baby a boy or girl?

(a) Cable length – any distance at all

Cat's mother – she thinks a lot of herself

Clear the decks – tidy up

Cleared decks – good reputation

Come into the wind – go in search of a partner

Cuckumber – cucumber

Daddy – an old Appledore man

Dipper – luck

Dough-dap to set 'er/'is jib aright – a beating to teach him/her a lesson

'efty wench – a large young woman

'er be – she is

(as) Fat as Ammet's cat – wasting away

Fleeting doughbake – half-witted idiot

Floating afore – thoroughly drenched

Flying false colours – being deceptive/in disguise

Fraped up – an improvised job (phrase comes from the mooring of boats)

Give stem chase – follow at a distance

Gone abroad – left the house

Hanging chain – someone up to no good

Hannah McDonald – someone dressed up (phrase refers to the old Appledore lifeboat.)

Me hanse – my handsome

Heel taps – thinly sliced fried potato

If you can't 'ave hake 'ave herring – make do with a cheaper/inferior alternative
Looking down 'er great nose – she looked down at me in a condescending fashion.
Lucifer's orlop - hell
Luff-up – mess up
Like Minter – spotlessly clean
Maze as a brish – completely mad
Mazed as a gawk – completely mad
Missledraft – small thing (phrase comes from a fishing bait)
Missledraft dipper – small luck
On the thwarts – in that area/subject
Orben – oven
Orts - leftovers
Ory tory – pretentiously grand
'Ow be knackin' vor? - how are you?
'Ow so? – Why do you say that?
Put in with the loaves and taken out with the cakes – overrated person.
Runnin' rigging – a woman's bodice
Rug – a rogue
Sal hatch – casually dressed
Scat - rain
Shove ashore – help landing a boat
Shozens – sheep's excrement
So-wester – any waterproof clothing
Takes a bearing – Makes way to
There'm be – there they are
Tid'n – it isn't
Top hamper – bosom
T'wad'n – it wasn't
Traipsing about – wandering aimlessly
Vessels Dinner/boily bake – a boiled up mixture of meat and vegetables often served on ships.
Weest – poorly
Westby Stranner – a person born at the western end of Appledore
Widdershins – twisted/the wrong way round

Wo be gwain'? - Where are you going?

Wo be too? - Where is it/he/she?

Yardarm a yardarm – side by side

Yard o' pump water - thin

zamzoid – overcooked food

zim zam – slightly off food/half-witted person