



## **Gah'n Yam**

Dave Camlin's Gah'n Yam is written in the Cumberland Dialect. Gah'n Yam means *Going Home* and the main melody was written whilst Dave was cycling through London to catch the train back to Cumbria after a stint of work in the West End. Your *marra* is someone you work with, while your *assa marra* is someone you work with who's not from your town (often otherwise known as a *jam eater* – but that's another story...)

Once you know the song, try substituting some of the *Gah'n Yam* words in the B section with actual place names of where you or your friends come from – “to Workington etc.” See how long you can keep the song going and how many places you can visit on your journey!

### Cumberland Phrases

*Where's to gaan?* (Where are you going?)

*What's to deim?* (What are you doing?)

*nobbut hofe rock't* (Daft, stupid)

*not to ride 'i watter on* (Unreliable)

as creuk't as a tip horn (Sly, untrustworthy)

### Animals and insects

*Clegs* – horseflies

*Jinnyspinner* – Daddy longlegs

*Wuzzle* Hedgehog –

*Wizzle* Weasel

### Poets and Storytellers

Poets writing in the Cumberland dialect, include Robert Anderson and Charles Graham

Charles Graham of Penrith: A Pastoral Dialogue in the Cumbrian Dialect  
(1778)

<http://wiz2.cath.vt.edu/spenser/TextRecord.php?action=GET&textsid=34924>

Robert Anderson of Carlisle was known as the Bard of Cumbria:  
Cumbria Band Striding Edge's album *Borrowdale Johnny* is inspired by  
Robert Anderson's dialect ballad in his *Ballads in the Cumberland Dialect*  
(1840).

Betty Wilson's Cumberlاند Teals were published in the West Cumberland  
Times in the local dialect.