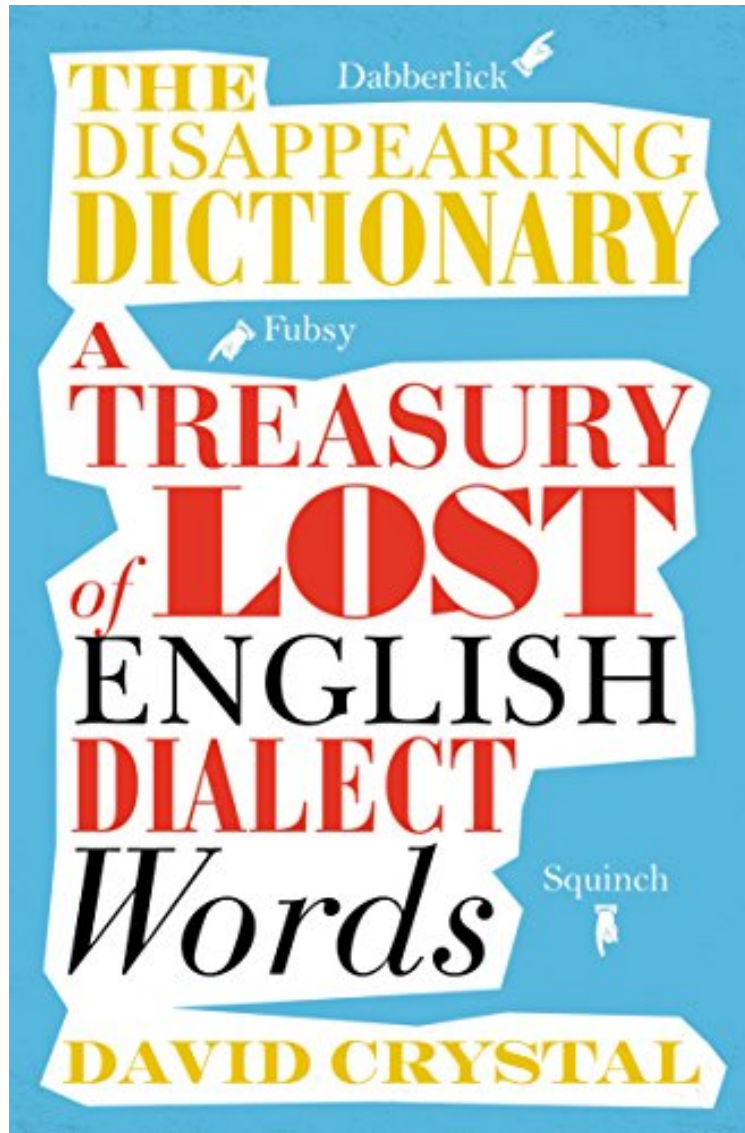


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The Disappearing Dictionary: A Treasury of Lost English Dialect Words

David Crystal

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David Crystal : The Disappearing Dictionary: A Treasury of Lost English Dialect Words before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Disappearing Dictionary: A Treasury of Lost English Dialect Words:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A delight for word peopleBy M. F. CrowlThoroughly enjoyable book. Not only does it give definitions of many wonderful words not used by everyday English speakers (though not

entirely forgotten in dialects) but it adds in sentences and phrases in which they get used. My wife and I were laughing out loud at some of these while waiting in the Eye Clinic the other day...A delight for anyone who revels in words, and the wonder of the English language.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is a work of love. It is a celebration of Joseph WrightBy Graham H. SeibertJoseph Wright was a 19th century philologist who compiled a huge dictionary of dialect words. As Crystal says in the introduction, the breadth and quality of Wright's work should place him in a category with Samuel Johnson, Noah Webster and James Murray. Unfortunately, there is simply not that vast of an interest in dialects.Although English is spoken worldwide, Crystal/Wright's focus was on the British Isles. It is there that the language has of course the longest history, and also there that regional dialects were able to differentiate themselves in the days before widespread travel and literacy.After a relatively brief introduction, Crystal goes directly into the dictionary itself. Here is a typical entry:bemoil (verb) Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire Covered in mud from a French verb meaning drench or soak. The word was probably known in Warwickshire too, judging by the way Shakespeare used it in Act 4 Scene 1 of The Taming of the Shrew. Grumio describes how Katherina fell off her horse in a really muddy place how she was bemoiled.This is not a dictionary of slang or obscenity. Even some Shakespearean usage (viz, quim-faced) is not present. It is exactly as advertised, an extensive collection of dialect words. It will be of interest to philologists and lovers of classic literature who want to know exactly what an author meant by now-obscure usages.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you have an interest in English and its development - look at this book.By Mr. James EdwardsA book of obscure and disappearing words. Whats not to love? The recipient is delight and I am sure will bamboozle her friends with some of the oddities in this book.

dabberlick [noun, Scotland] A mildly insulting way of talking about someone who is tall and skinny. 'Where's that dabberlick of a child?' fussy [adjective, Lancashire] Plump, in a nice sort of way. squinch [noun, Devon] A narrow crack in a wall or a space between floorboards. 'I lost sixpence through a squinch in the floor'. Wherever you go in the English-speaking world, there are linguistic riches from times past awaiting rediscovery. All you have to do is choose a location, find some old documents, and dig a little. Here, linguistics expert Professor David Crystal collects together delightful dialect words that either provide an insight into an older way of life, or simply have an irresistible phonetic appeal. The Disappearing Dictionary unearths some lovely old gems of the English language, dusts them down and makes them live again for a new generation.

About the AuthorDavid Crystal is a writer, editor, lecturer and broadcaster who has published extensively on the history and development of English, including How Language Works, Shakespeare's Words, Spell It Out and The Stories of English. He was 'Master of Original Pronunciation' at Shakespeare's Globe in London for its productions of Romeo and Juliet and Troilus and Cressida in 2004-5, and has since acted as an accent consultant for other such productions worldwide.