

Terms and Occupations

| Term Used in Years Gone By | Modern Day Equivalent  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Backmaker                  | One who made tubs and vats   |
| Backminder                 | Machine worker at flax mill  |
| Backster                   | Baker  |
| Backster                   | Baker, occasionally female   |
| Backus boy                 | Farmhouse kitchen servant  |
| Backwasher                 | Cleanser of wool   |
| Badge                      | A corn dealer, so called because he was licensed to deal and wore a badge  |
| Badgeman                   | One responsible for all paupers receiving parish relief wearing badges   |
| Badger                     | Itinerant trader usually of food (corn); pauper; higgler; peddler; bagger; A corn dealer, so called because he was licensed to deal and wore a badge |
| Bagger                     | Badger   |
| Bagman                     | Commercial traveller with samples in saddlebags  |
| Bailiff                    | Administrator of farms and lands of a manor under a steward  |
| Bairman                    | Pauper   |
| Baise                      | Bastard  |
| Bajardour                  | Carter   |
| Bakester                   | Female baker   |
| Baliff                     | Administrator of farms and lands of a manor under a steward  |
| Balister                   | Man using a crossbow; arbalester   |
| Balius                     | Bailiff  |
| Balivus                    | Bailiff  |
| Balker                     | Lookout for shoals of herring for fisherman  |
| Ballatron                  | Thief; rascal  |
| Baller-up                  | One who weighed out balls of clay  |
| Ballista                   | Man using a crossbow; arbalester   |
| Ballistarius               | Gunsmith   |
| Bal-maiden                 | One who broke mined ore to small walnut sized pieces above ground  |
| Band-filer                 | Worker in gunmaking  |
| Bandsters                  | Those who, in reaping, bind the sheaves  |
| Bane                       | Murderer   |
| Bang-beggar                | Beadle responsible for controlling length of stay of any stranger; vagabond; Beggar-banger   |
| Bang-straw                 | Thresher   |
| Banker                     | Ditcher  |
| Banksman                   | Colliery worker in charge of pit top cages   |
| Bannister                  | Traveler in distress   |
| Banqueter                  | Banker or broker   |
| Barber                     | Cutter of hair and shaver of beards; until 1745 a surgeon  |
| Bareman                    | Pauper   |
| Bargain                    | Small landed property or holding such as a house, garden or plot of land   |
| Barkeeper                  | Toll keeper  |
| Barker                     | Tanner of leather; one who stands at shop door to invite customers to enter  |
| Barmaster                  | Superintendent of mines and to whom all disputes were referred   |
| Barm-man                   | Seller of yeast  |
| Barrator                   | Wrangler; encourager of law suits  |
| Barrel-filer               | Worker in gunmaking  |
| Barrowman                  | One who dragged a wooden sled from coalface to pit bottom  |
| Baseler                    | One who cares for neat cattle  |
| Basteler                   | One who bastes meat  |
| Basterly-gullion           | Bastard's bastard; person born out of wedlock whose mother or father were also born out of wedlock   |
| Bat-swain                  | Sailor   |
| Batteler                   | One who resides at a university  |
| Batters                    | Embankment   |
| Bawer                      | Maker of balls   |
| Baxter                     | Baker, occasionally female   |

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| Bayn          | Murderer   |
| Bayweaver     | Weaver of light woolen fabric  |
| Beadle        | One who administered the poor laws; keeper of a prison; messenger of a court or church; person in charge of a workhouse or sometimes an orphanage  |
| Beak          | Slang term for a judge or magistrate   |
| Beamer        | Textile worker   |
| Bearer        | Underground worker who carried coal and filled containers to go to the surface; a native hired to carry equipment on explorations etc; someone paid by the parish to carry coffins at funerals |
| Bearward      | Keep of bears  |
| Beaver        | Felt maker   |
| Beck          | Constable  |
| Bedder        | Upholsterer  |
| Beddiner      | Upholsterer  |
| Bedlam        | Lunatic; Madman/woman; corruption of Hospital of St. Mary, Bethlehem which was a lunatic asylum, the Imperial War Museum now occupies the site   |
| Bedlamer      | Lunatic; Madman/woman; corruption of Hospital of St. Mary, Bethlehem which was a lunatic asylum, the Imperial War Museum now occupies the site   |
| Bedlamite     | Lunatic; Madman/woman; corruption of Hospital of St. Mary, Bethlehem which was a lunatic asylum, the Imperial War Museum now occupies the site   |
| Bedman        | Sexton (particularly in the West Country)  |
| Beester       | Net mender   |
| Beetle        | One who embossed fabric by machine   |
| Beldam        | Grandmother; old woman   |
| Beldame       | Grandmother; old woman   |
| Beleyetere    | Bell founder   |
| Belhoste      | Tavern keeper  |
| Bellezeter    | Bell founder   |
| Bellman       | Towncrier; watchman  |
| Bellowfarmer  | person who had care of organs, regals, etc.  |
| Belluziz      | Bellows for lighting a fire  |
| Belly Button  | Navel, as opposed to Billy Buttons meaning a Dimwit, fool, or a name for a woodlouse   |
| Bellyatere    | Bell founder   |
| Bellybuilder  | Fitter of piano interiors  |
| Belshire      | Grandfather; ancestor  |
| Belsire       | Grandfather; ancestor  |
| Belter        | Prostitute   |
| Belter        | Bell founder   |
| Bencher       | Idler; one who spends time on ale-house benches perhaps buying just one drink and drinking very slowly   |
| Bercarius     | Shepherd   |
| Berde         | Lady; young person   |
| Bergmaster    | Chief officer of mines (predominantly in Derbyshire)   |
| Berners       | Men who fed hunting hounds   |
| Berrick       | Berwick Bassett or any of the Berwick parishes   |
| Berrier       | Thresher   |
| Besayle       | Great Grandfather  |
| Besswarden    | Parish officer in charge of beasts on a common   |
| Bessy         | Female lunatic   |
| Bethlemite    | Lunatic; Madman/woman; corruption of Hospital of St. Mary, Bethlehem which was a lunatic asylum, the Imperial War Museum now occupies the site   |
| Betoatled     | Imbecile; stupid (predominatly used in Devon)  |
| Bewspere      | Companion  |
| Bibliopola    | Bookseller   |
| Bibliopole    | Bookseller   |
| Bibliopolist  | Bookseller   |
| Bibliothecary | Librarian  |
| Bicarius      | Bee Keeper   |
| Bid-stand     | Highwayman   |
| Bigarius      | Carter   |
| Biggayne      | Nun  |
| Bigine        | Nun  |

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| Billier        | User of slubbling machine in cotton maling  |
| Billiter       | Bell founder  |
| Billman        | One who cuts faggots  |
| Billy Buttons  | A dimwi or fool; colloquial name for a woodlouse  |
| Billyman       | User of slubbling machine in cotton maling  |
| Binder         | Book or Sheave Binder   |
| Birler         | Overseer of refreshments at a wedding (particularly in Cumberland)  |
| Bisne          | Blind person  |
| Black-coar     | Clergyman   |
| Bladarius      | Corn chandler   |
| Bladesmith     | Sword cutler; one who sticks pieces of shoes together   |
| Blaxter        | Bleacher  |
| Bleacher       | Person who brightens colours  |
| Blemmere       | Plumber   |
| Bleystare      | Bleacher  |
| Blind House    | A lock up with no windows - normally where drunks were housed over night before appearing before the magistrates  |
| Blindman       | Post Office worker who deciphers badly addressed mail   |
| Bliuffer       | Landlord of an inn  |
| Blocker        | Hat maker; person who lays blocks on which a ship was built   |
| Bloman         | Trumpeter   |
| Bloomer        | Iron smelter  |
| Blouzman       | Ploughman   |
| Blower         | Bellows operator in smelting  |
| Boardwright    | Maker of tables and chairs  |
| Boatmen        | Customs or excise officers  |
| Bobber         | Metal Polisher  |
| Bobbin Doffer  | Bobbin stripper in the textile industry   |
| Bobby          | Term used for a police constable  |
| Bocher         | Butcher   |
| Boder          | Messenger   |
| Bodger         | Country craftsman making legs of chairs from local woodlands  |
| Body painter   | Coach Maker   |
| Bodymaker      | Coach Maker   |
| Boie           | Executioner   |
| Bokeler        | Buckle maker  |
| Boll           | Manager of power loom   |
| Boller         | Drunkard  |
| Bolster        | Wooden bowl maker   |
| Bolter         | Sifter of meal  |
| Bombasin maker | Maker of silk and worsted mixed cloth   |
| Bond tenant    | Copyholder  |
| Bondager       | Cottager or servant in husbandry who has a house for a year at a reduced rent and is entitled to a certain amount of potatoes and who with these perks works at a low fixed rate of wages |
| Bone picker    | Collector of rags and bones   |
| Bone-cleaner   | Servant (Mainly used on the Isle of Wight and South Hampshire)  |
| Boonmaster     | Waywarden   |
| Bootcatcher    | Person employed by coaching inns to remove the boots of the feet of tired travellers  |
| Boot-closer    | One who sewed the upper leathers to the soles of boots  |
| Bordar         | Smallholder usually on the parish border; villein cottager obliged to perform services for the lord of the manor free of charge or for a nominal fixed sum.                               |
| Bordeller      | Keeper of a brothel   |
| Borderer       | Squatter  |
| Borler         | Clothier  |
| Borsholder     | Head Constable of a parish (mainly used in Kent); The most senior official in a tything   |
| Bosholder      | Tithing man   |
| Bossher        | Butcher   |

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| Botcher         | Mender of old clothes  |
| Botesarl        | Botswain   |
| Bottom knocker  | Assistant to a sagger maker or pottery worker  |
| Bottomer        | One who drags the produce of a mine to the shaft bottom  |
| Bouker          | Fuller or bleacher   |
| Bound-bailiff   | Sherrif's Officer  |
| Bourdour        | Pensioner  |
| Bovarius        | Oxman; Ox-master   |
| Bowhawler       | Man employed to draw vessels along the River Severn  |
| Bowker          | Fuller (msinly in Lancashire; one who bleaches cloth with lye                                  |
| Bowminder       | One who washed wool before carding   |
| Bowyer          | Maker of or dealer in archery bows; archer   |
| Bozzler         | Sherrif's Officer or Parish Constable (South of England)                                       |
| Brack           | To crack, break or fracture; sometimes used to mean feeling sick                               |
| Braconier       | Man who kept hounds  |
| Braider         | Plaiter of straw for hats; net maker   |
| Brancher        | Officer of the Royal Mint (more commonly used in Somerset)                                     |
| Brasher         | Brass worker   |
| Brasiarius      | Maltster   |
| Brasiator       | Brewer   |
| Brasier         | Brass worker   |
| Brasiler        | Dyer   |
| Brave           | In good health   |
| Brawtherer      | Embroiderer  |
| Brayer          | One who pounded a mortar   |
| Brazier         | Brass worker   |
| Bread-chipper   | Baker's servant  |
| Bremell         | Bremhill   |
| Brewster        | Brewer   |
| Bribour         | Robber; Beggar   |
| Bright-smith    | One who produces highly polished work; sometimes a bell hanger; closely linked to a whitesmith |
| Brimble         | Bremhill   |
| Broad cooper    | Negotiator between Brewer and Publican   |
| Broderer        | Embroiderer  |
| Brogger         | A badger who deals in corn   |
| Bronstrop       | Prostitute   |
| Broo            | Brother  |
| Broom-dasher    | Dealer in faggots, brooms etc (more likely to be used in Kent)                                 |
| Broom-squire    | Meaker of besoms   |
| Brosier         | Bankrupt   |
| Brother         | Male sibling with same parents; sometimes used in place of brother-in-law                      |
| Brother-in-law  | Sister's husband or husband's brother; somestimes used for a step or half brother              |
| Brother-uterine | Brother of same mother but different father  |
| Brown           | As in a brown day - meaning dark and gloomy  |
| Brownsmith      | Copper worker  |
| Brumble-gelder  | Farmer   |
| Brumum          | Bromham  |
| Brygauntys      | Robbers  |
| Bucker          | One breaks mined ore into small pieces using bucking irons (flat hammers)                      |
| Buckler         | Buckle maker   |
| Buckwasher      | Laundress  |
| Buddle Boy      | Washer of tin or lead ore  |
| Budgy           | Moody or sulky   |
| Bulragging      | Nagging, hanranguing; also to nudge, push or shove up  |

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| Bung         | Pick-pocket   |
| Bunter       | Rag and Bone man or woman   |
| Burdrop      | Burderop  |
| Bureler      | Borel maker (a coarse brown woolen cloth)   |
| Burgess      | MP for a borough; Citizen of a borough with full municipal rights   |
| Burgh-master | An officer in the time mines  |
| Burler       | One who removes knots from cloth (dressing)   |
| Burleyman    | Manorial officer; Constable or tithing man; Officer chosen in Court-Leets to assist the constable; Bylawman |
| Burmaydene   | Chamber maid  |
| Burneman     | Carrier of barm or water for brewers  |
| Burnledger   | Water Carrier   |
| Burnwin      | Blacksmith  |
| Burriarius   | Dairyman  |
| Busheler     | Clothes Repairer (Americian origin)   |
| Buttery      | Pantry  |
| Butty        | Chartmaster; A workmate; pal or friend; sandwich  |
| Buzar        | Buyer   |
| Byeblow      | Bastard   |
| Byggere      | Buyer   |