

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; arbalister
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; arbalister
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 (predominantly 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
Botescarl	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