

Terms and Occupations

Term Used in Years Gone By	Modern Day Equivalent
Haberdasher	Dealer in or maker of hats and caps; later a dealer in thread, ribbons and small wares; Schoolmaster (mainly in the North)
Hacker	Maker of hoes, mattocks etc.
Hacker	Tremble or shiver with cold
Hackler	One who separates the coarse part of flax or hemp
Hagger	Tremble or shiver with cold
Haggler	Labourer; huckster
Hairdresser	Someone who cut and shaped hair; also did shaving
Half-baked	Dimwitted; stupid
Half-baptised	Child baptised privately but not in a church
Hallantide	All Saints Day - 1st November
Hamberghmaker	Horse collar maker
Hamberow	Horse collar maker
Hammerman	Smith
Hanaper clerk	Chancery official who recorded fees paid on writs
Handin' Post	Signpost
Hand-woman	Midwife (Devon)
Hanglers	Pot Hooks
Hard header	Officer of the Mint (in Wales)
Hard-straightener	One concerned in the manufacture of needles
Harper	Musician
Harvest-lord	Head reaper
Hatcheler	One who cleans or dresses flax
Hatcher	One who prepare bark; flawer
Hatter	Later a milliner
Havenator	Harbour master
Hawker	Travelling salesman carrying his wares
Haymonger	Dealer in hay
Hayward	One responsible for Manor hedges & fences; one who looked after cattle; originally one who guarded the farmyard at night
Head Captain	Mine manager
Headborough	Deputy constable; head of a tithing
Header	One who heads nails or pins
Headsmen	Executioner
Head-spinner	One who makes the heads of pins
Headswoman	Midwife
Heald-knitter	Textile worker
Healer	Slater or tiler
Heaver	A dock employee taking goods from barges and flats.
Hebber-man	Fisherman on Thames below London Bridge
Heckler	Flax or hemp dresser
Hedge priest	Itinerant priest who performed marriages pre 1754, often admitted to Holy Orders without having attended theological college (Common in Ireland); knitbeggar
Hedge-tacker	Hedge-mender mainly in Devon
Heir	Someone legally entitled to benefit from a deceased's estate whether named in a will or from administration of an intestate estate.
Heir apparent	A person who is first in line of succession and cannot be displaced from inheriting, except by a change in the rules of succession. Mainly for hereditary titles and the monarchy
Heir presumptive	Someone who is currently in line to inherit a title but whose claim can be displaced at any time (in legal terms, is "subject to divestiture") upon the occurrence of one or more events or sets of events for which the system of inheritance allows, such as the birth of a more eligible heir.
Heiress	Someone legally entitled to benefit from a deceased's estate whether named in a will or from administration of an intestate estate.
Heiress apparent	A person who is first in line of succession and cannot be displaced from inheriting, except by a change in the rules of succession. Mainly for hereditary titles and the monarchy
Heiress presumptive	Someone who is currently in line to inherit a title but whose claim can be displaced at any time (in legal terms, is "subject to divestiture") upon the occurrence of one or more events or sets of events for which the system of inheritance allows, such as
Hellier	Slater or tiler; thatcher
Helyer	Tiler
Hempen-widow	Widow of a man who has been hanged
Henchman	Page; servant; groom
Henp-heckler	Flax dresser
Henter	Thief
Herd	Herdsmen or shepherd
Herdess	Shepherdess
Hethelder	Provider of heather for fuel (mainly in Scotland)
Hessusset	Skimmington Ride (Public disapproval of marital infidelities - rough justice)
Heuster	Dyer
Hewe	Husbandman; worker
Hewer	Coal face worker
Higgler	Badger; seller of retail provisions by horse and cart; in Sussex one collects fattened chickens from cottages and carries them in a wicker cage for market
High Constable	One responsible for the petty constables of the hundred
Highway Surveyor	Parish official in charge of road repairs; Waywarden
Higler	Badger; seller of retail provisions by horse and cart; in Sussex one collects fattened chickens from cottages and carries them in a wicker cage for market
Hike	To hook or catch
Hillier	Slater or tiler; thatcher
Hilp Wine	Sloe wine
Hind	Farm bailiff; skilled farm labourer often in charge of horses; household servant
Hinde	Farm bailiff; skilled farm labourer often in charge of horses; household servant
Hine	Servant; serf; labourer
Hitchland	Portion of the best land in a common field
Hobbler	Man who tows vessel by rope on the land; soldier on horseback
Hobeler	Light horseman; one who rode on a hobby
Hod carrier	Hodman; Mason's labourer, someone who carries bricks in a hod on a building site
Hodman	Mason's labourer; Hod carrier
Hodmandod	Short and clumsy person
Hodmedod	Short and clumsy person
Hoggard	Pg drover

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Hog-reeve	Parish official who adjudicates on trespasses of swine
Hogringer	Officer responsible for ensuring rings were in the snouts of swine
Hollardy Day	Holy Rood Day - 3rd May
Homager	Tenant acting on jury at Manorial court
Home to be called	To have banns of marriage published
Hont	Huntsman
Hooker	Reaper; later slang for prostitute
Hookland	Portion of the best land in a common field
Hooper	One who makes hoops, casks or tubs
Hoopshaver	Dresser of wood for hoops
Hooset	Skimmington Ride (Public disapproval of marital infidelities - rough justice)
Hopper	Hop worker
Horner	One who works or deals in horn; horn blower
Horologiarius	Clock maker
Horologist	Clock maker
Horse marine	One who hauled canal barges along a tow path