

Some Useful Words & Expressions

accoutre = to equip (v.)
ague = a fever; a tertian ague, the fever returns every 3rd day; a quartan ague, the fever returns every 4th day
alack = alas
alamort = depressed, ill
albeit = although
alicant = mulberry wine
alkahest = the universal solvent
amazed = dazed
amoret = sweetheart or mistress
an = if
an it please you = if you please
ancient = ensign
anenst = over against, against, towards
annoyous = annoying
antic = old, ancient
apothecary = a purveyor of medical advice and remedies
apt = appropriate; skilled
arbalest = a kind of crossbow
armiger = person entitled to bear heraldic arms
arms = heraldic device displayed upon a shield; not the same as "crest;" also, weapons & armour
arrant = thorough-going, downright
aumbry = a cupboard, esp. one used for storage of books
awry = wrong, crooked
bed = the mattress or featherbed, not the bedframe
belike = perhaps
besom = a broom
betide = happen
betimes = early
blazon = describe a coat of arms (v.)
bowyer = bow maker
break (one's) fast = to eat for the first time in the morning (v.)
bum = buttocks
buss = kiss (v. or n.)
buxom = obedient
by my troth = truly, I swear
caitiff = a poor wretch, a villain
certes = certainly, not certain

chamberer = chamber maid
close stool = seat containing a chamber pot
cobbler = mender of shoes
comfit = candy
compass = to achieve (v.)
conn = study (v.)
construe = explain (v.)
cordwain = leather
cordwainer = shoemaker
cousin = any relative more distant than parent, child, brother or sister
crest = heraldic device displayed on top of the helmet; not the same as "arms"
cumber = encumber, hinder (v.)
cupshot = drunk
deasil = clockwise
dinner = the midday meal
distempered = unhealthy
eftsoons = a second time; afterwards
endore = gild (v.)
enow = enough
ensample = example
ere = before
erstwhile = formerly
ewer = pitcher
fain = with pleasure; "I fain would go" = "I would like to go"
fairing = a small present on the occasion of a fair
fare = 1. go, travel (v.). 2. get along (v.). 3. food (n.)
feat, featly = neat, neatly; dexterous, dexterously
flagon = pitcher or jug
fleam = specialized knife for bleeding a sick person
fletcher = arrow maker
flux = diarrhea
forfend = forbid, prevent (v.)
froward = contrary, disobedient
gainsay = contradict, prevent (v.)
gallimaufry = a confused or ridiculous mixture; a hash
guerdon = reward
guise = fashion, manner

guising = masquerade
gull = to cheat or fool (v.)
habit = dress, clothing
haply = by chance
hard by = near
hence = from here
hither = to here
impresa = symbolic emblem with a motto, used in tournaments; not the same as heraldic arms, though may have a punning reference to them
kissing-comfit = a breath sweetener
lavender = washerwoman
leman = lover (of either sex)
limn = paint a portrait (v.)
maid = girl, virgin
malapert = impudent
manchet = best quality white bread
marry! = to be sure! indeed!
meacock = weakling, coward, effeminate man
meet / unmeet = proper / improper
meseemeth = it seems to me
methinks = I think that
mislike = dislike, distrust (v.)
misprision = mistake (n.)
mort = a horn call blown at the death in hunting (lit. death)
natheless = nevertheless, nonetheless
of a sudden = suddenly
palfrey = a riding horse
passing = very (lit. surpassingly)
pate = top of the head
peradventure = perhaps
popinjay = dandified fellow (lit. a parrot)
poppet = a child's doll
presently = immediately
princox = a pert, saucy boy; a coxcomb
prithee = please (lit. I pray thee)
quick = alive
quondam = once, former
rede = counsel
rudesby = unmannerly fellow
shrewd = shrewish
sithence = since
small beer = beer with a low alcohol content
sooth = truth
spew = vomit (v.)
still = distill

stoup = a cup
straightway = immediately
sumpter = a pack animal, either horse or mule
sup = eat (v.)
supper = the evening meal
thence = from there
thither = to there
tod = a fox; a crafty person
ugsome = horrid
unmannerly = impolite
vail = tip, gratuity
vaunt = boast (v. or n.)
very = true, real, genuine; "in very sooth" = really true; short form of "verily"
wain = wagon
welkin = sky
wellaway = alas
whilom = at times, once upon a time, former
whither = to where?
widdershins = anticlockwise
will-he, nill-he = whether he wishes or not
wont = custom
yeoman = landholder under the rank of gentleman
yestereen = yesterday evening