

*The Form of the Oath concerning the Office of a Constable.*

**Y**OU shall Swear, that you shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Office of a Constable. You shall see and cause his Majesties Peace to be well and duly kept and preserved, according to your power. You shall arrest all such persons as in your sight and presence shall ride or go armed offensively, or shall commit or make any Riot, Affray, or other Breach of his Majesties Peace. You shall do your best endeavour (upon Complaint to you made) to apprehend all Felons, Barreters and Rioters, or persons riotously assembled: and if any such Offenders shall make resistance (with force) you shall levy Hue and Cry, and shall pursue them until they be taken. You shall do your best endeavour that the Watch in and about your Town be duly kept for the apprehending of Rogues, Vagabonds, Night Walkers, Eves Droppers, and other suspected persons, and of such as go armed, and the like: and that Hue and Cries be duly raised and pursued, according to the Statute of *Winchester*, against Murtherers, Thieves, and other Felons: and that the Statutes made for the punishment of Rogue and Vagabonds, and such other idle persons, coming within your Bounds and Limits, be duly put in execution. You shall have a watchful Eye to such persons as shall maintain or keep any common house or place where any unlawful Game is or shall be used: as also to such as shall frequent or use such places, or shall use or exercise any unlawful Games there or elsewhere, contrary to the Statutes. At your Assizes, Sessions of the Peace, or Leet, you shall present all and every the Offences done contrary to the Statutes made (1 *Jac.* 4 *Jac.* and 21 *Jac.* *Reg.*) to restrain the inordinate haunting and tipling in Inns, Alehouses, and other Victualling Houses, and for repressing of Drunkenness. You shall there likewise true Presentment make of all Blood-sheddings, Affrays, Out-cries, Rescous, and other Offences committed, or done against the Kings Majesties Peace within your Limits. You shall once every year during your Office present at the Quarter Sessions all Popish Recusants within your Parish, and their Children above 9, and their Servants, (*sc.* their monthly absence from the Church) 3 *Jac.* 4. And you shall have a care for the maintenance of Archery according to the Statute. You shall well and duly execute all Precepts and Warrants to you directed from the Justices of peace of this County, or higher Officers. You shall be aiding to your Neighbours against unlawful Purveyances. In the time of Hay or Corn Harvest (upon request) you shall cause all persons meet to serve by the day for the Mowing, Reaping, or getting in of Corn or Hay. You shall in *Easter* Week cause your Parishioners to chuse Surveyors for the mending of the High-Ways in your Parish. You shall have a care that the Malt made or put to sale in your Town, be well and sufficiently made, trodden, formed and dressed. And you shall well and duly according to your knowledge, power and ability, do and execute all other things belonging to the Office of a Constable, so long as you shall continue in this Office. *So help you God.*

This Oath I have set down the more largely, whereby to shew the principal matters whereof the Constables are chiefly to have care.