

# Bakeries

Bakeries were once vital to village life, as most people couldn't afford an oven. The earliest bakers in Wimbledon included John Watney and William Everett, who lived here in the 1780s. Locals could take their food to the bakery and ask for it to be cooked in the oven for a small fee.

In Wimbledon, a loaf of bread or a sticky bun was never far away, with bakers on the High Street, at the Crooked Billet, and later on The Broadway. They sold bread and cakes of all varieties. They also offered outside catering. And they must have been good: one bakery, Carlton's, was even asked to cater for a dinner in Norfolk.

An 1899 job advert shows that baking wasn't an easy job. The ideal employee was a 'strong, active, thoroughly experienced man; must ... understand compressed yeast and all yeast; good, clean, sober, honest and punctual habits indispensable; time about two till noon'.

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45 Wimbledon High Street, site of the former Wallis's bakery c. 1905



Follett & Sons bakery on Haydons Road, South Wimbledon, at the junction with Queen's Road

45 Wimbledon High Street, site of the former Wallis's bakery c. 1960s

Standen's bakery, now Gail's bakery, on Wimbledon High Street (the white building on the left) c. 1905

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