

The Old Bakery

This house, standing prominently in the Market Square, looks like a typical Georgian house – as it is! Inside it tells another story. It has been two houses until comparatively recently. At the rear of the house there is evidence of a much older house. The left hand side of the present house contains much older and thicker walls – evidence of a former house now incorporated into the present building. Remains of former mullion windows and blocked doors once more confirm that this is an old house which has been altered and modernised many times. The present owners discovered many things and kept a photographic record of the finds and the work done on the site.

We have a more or less complete record of the bakers who occupied this house down to its closure in the 1960s. There seems to have been a tendency for the smaller house to be used by the retiring baker whilst his successor took over the larger house. At its closure this was known as ‘Ford’s Bakery’. The bread was said to be excellent and customers queued to come in and eat the delicious meat pies sitting at the table.

The muffin oven was inside the house but the bread ovens were outside in the yard. The yard of the Old Bakery was extensive with stables and other out-houses. There was at least one other cottage in the yard which has now been demolished. The remains of the old ovens were in a poor state and were demolished. Flint pebbles from their foundation were re-used in the front wall of the property.

Black & white photographs show the building when renovations began in the 1970s.



The Old Bakery weather vane

**The old weathercock was too corroded to restore.
This is a modern reproduction.**

The Georgian front door



The Old Bakery gate and door.





Above left : looking out to the Market Place

Above right : entrance to the bakery shop

Left : one of two large bread ovens, based on flint, roofed with tiles, stoked with coal.



The back of the older part of the house showing the meat safe, reached by climbing a ladder.