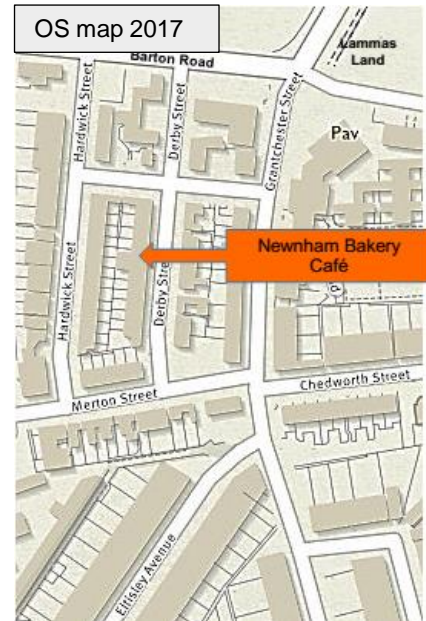
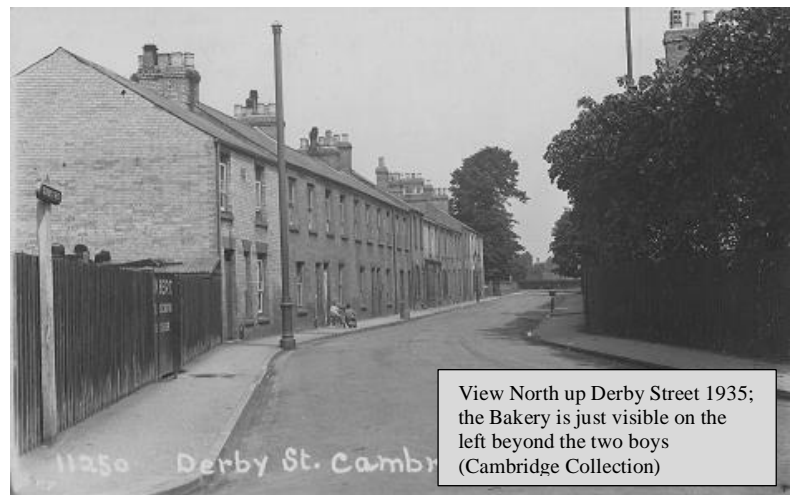


The Bakery, Hope Cottage, 7 Derby Street (from 1861) *Final*



Background: References to a bakery at the premises at Hope Cottage No.7 Derby Street suggest it goes back to 1861, making it the first shop in Newnham. Before WWII, it was referred to as the 'Bakehouse'. By 1874 a Mr William Wilby living at Hope Cottage was running a baker's and grocery business. In around 1884 he added to it a sub-postmaster's trade. In 1890 he sold the business to William Ernest Ellis who, besides carrying on with these trades, also set up a tea dealership. His baker was a Mr Albert Hoppett. By 1914 Mr H. Harwood¹ had acquired the business. Mr Harwood's son came over from Vancouver to serve in the forces and after the armistice joined his father's business. Mr Harwood junior ran a successful business and extended his deliveries all over Cambridge and beyond by means of four vans, reserving a barrow for local deliveries².

After WWII, J. Harwood & Son are listed as bakers and confectioners in Kelly's, now adding in the listing their telephone number 3004 (the basis of today's 353004). In 1960 Basil Sargeant, who had worked there for 39 years since his apprenticeship, bought the bakery. By 1967 he was living next door at No.8, but continued running the bakery under the name of J. Harwood³, as corroborated on the shop sign in photos of that time. Some elder locals will remember Basil and how rumour had it that he burnt the bread on days when he had fallen out with Mrs Sargeant.



In 1998 Jon and Nicky Palmer became owners, continuing to offer traditional breads and cakes, such as granary loaves and scones, famous across Cambridge. They are to be remembered for their traditional Victoria sponges, chocolate, and coffee and walnut sponges, and they catered to passing tradesmen.

¹ Spalding's Directory 1907-1940

² *Newnham* by John A. Gray, Cambridge 1977 (Gray attributes the surname Haywood here, but Spalding has Harwood)

³ Kelly's Directory 1948-1975

Recently, the bakery has been acquired by Mr Jacob Sturdy who, with John Hannan his innovative master baker and capable team, is adapting the business to meet today's expectations while still keeping up some old traditional lines. They have also brought to South Newnham a much sought after café. The overall trend is towards *artisanal* cakes, whilst maintaining a selection of the traditional range of preceding bakers.



Architecture: The building forms an integral part of the west side of Derby Street and dates possibly as far back as the 1850s. The exterior of the building is almost unchanged over the years, although the brickwork was painted at some stage since the 1970s since Tony Dathan wrote the chapter on Newnham Croft in *Newnham*⁴ and the shop window widened by taking in a door on the right that led upstairs. The alleyway to the right leading to the bakery is original.

The shopfront remains on the whole as it always has been, although the awning which characterised it until the last change of ownership has gone. The current fascia with lamps looks rather unfinished since it bears no name as yet. The newly refurbished interior is inviting and takes its inspiration from an Edwardian railway carriage. It is comfortable and imaginative, with varied furnishing to avoid monotony.

Importance to the Community: To have a bakery at the heart of our community symbolises the importance of bread as a staple food. Not only, but now in taking on the role of café, the Newnham Bakery Café is not only responding to local need but it is also beginning to attract custom from further afield. Such outreach is indispensable if our local shops are to survive and follows a tradition of entrepreneurialism. In past times the baker would go out on his bicycle or in his van to deliver bread to the Colleges, now he attracts those in need of refreshment to his own cosy premises, where customers can use the Internet, read a book, or write their thesis over a cup of coffee.

Peter Milbank little poem in the *Cambridge Evening News* of 1975⁵ summarises the community feel:

*Derby Street, house neat
Hundred yards by thirty feet
Corner stores and baker's shops
Forty dwellings, that's the lot*

T. Elliott
On behalf of South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum
2nd March 2018
(photos by T. Elliott unless otherwise specified)

⁴ Newnham; ed. John A. Gray (Hanwell) Cambridge 1977, photo p.32

⁵ Quoted by Sarah Payne in 'Down your Street', *Cambridge Evening News*, 11 December 1981, republished in her book *Down your Street*, (Cambridge), 2014