

## Appendix 1: A Brief History of Bakewell

The hills around are studded with Bronze and Iron Age hill forts, barrows and stone circles. The first known settlement was that of the Anglo Saxons by the seventh century and at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century its name first appears as Badecan Wiellon – the springs or wells of Badeca.

The small village grew up on the hillside around the church which has one of the best collections of pre-Norman sculpture, including two crosses. Domesday Book tells us that William the Conqueror possessed the manor of Bakewell, which comprised a church with two priests, a mill, a lead mine and some 200 inhabitants. By the 12<sup>th</sup> century a small motte and bailey was built on Castle Hill.

Gradually the settlement around the church spread down the hill. A fine stone bridge of five arches spanned the river. The town's prosperity can be measured by the expansion of All Saints parish church: it exhibits architecture from every period from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, capped with an octagonal tower and spire which were rebuilt in the 1840s.

Bakewell continued to grow and prosper and evidence of this is still visible in the town in the form of the Old Market Hall in Bridge Street, now the visitor centre. Sir John Manners founded the hospital almshouses of St John in South Church Street in 1602. The Old Town Hall in King Street, once the civic centre of old Bakewell, belongs to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In the next generation, Grace, Lady Manners, granted an income of £15 a year '*for mayntayning of a schoolmaster... for the better instructing of the male children of the inhabitants of Bakewell*'. Her name remains as the title of the town's secondary school. Inheritance of the estates and title of Earl of Rutland in 1641 diverted the attention of the Manners family to Belvoir, but they remained Lords of the Manor of Bakewell until 1920 when their extensive properties in the town were sold, partly to pay for the restoration of Haddon Hall.

By 1759 turnpike roads had reached Bakewell and the coaching era brought new prosperity. In 1777 Sir Richard Arkwright, the founder of the factory system, built his third cotton mill at Lumford, upstream of Bakewell. He built houses for workers and converted what is now the Old House Museum into 6 cottages.

Before the changes of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Bakewell presented a completely different picture with narrow streets and low, thatched buildings. The Pudding Shop remains but ramshackle shops were demolished to create Rutland Square. In 1804 the Duke of Rutland pulled down the White Horse, the town's principle inn, and replaced it with the Rutland Arms, a fine Regency inn together with a coaching yard opposite.

In an attempt to rival Buxton and Matlock Bath spas the Bath House (built over the warm spring originally covered in 1697) was refurbished. White Watson, the famous geologist, plantsman and maker of black marble monuments lived in the Bath House and had a reading room and museum which attracted famous visitors. He laid out Bath Gardens as a botanical garden. Bakewell market, removed from the streets in 1828, flourished. The famous Bakewell Show traces its origins to the first farmers' show in 1819.

The great coaching era gave way to that of the railways. In 1861 the Midland Railway arrived, giving access to London and Manchester. It remained for a century, boosting the town's tourist

trade and its economy.

Victorian affluence is evident in buildings like the banks, the old post office and the town hall. The church was largely rebuilt and the ancient bridge widened.

The right to hold markets in the town goes back over 700 years. Until 1998 the cattle market was in the area now occupied by the Co-op and the sheep market was behind Boots. The traditional atmosphere of those markets is captured in paintings in the Co-op windows facing the market square. The new Agricultural Business Centre across the river has one of the busiest livestock markets in the country. But the colourful Monday stall market is the main attraction for both locals and visitors.

*Two illustrated trails with much about history can be accessed at*  
<https://sites.google.com/site/bakewellheritage>

*More detail is in the Conservation Area Appraisal adopted by the Peak District National Park Authority in 2013.*