

# Food

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Food is an underlying theme within the texts of the FWWCP. The discussion about food within this collection is often found in texts that also focus on women and migration, as some writing groups used these topics to discuss similarities and difference of food, spices, utensils, and cooking practises between their homeland and a new country. Discussion about food also appears in memoirs about childhood or family, as members reflect on important home recipes, or the availability of various food during their lifetime. For instance, throughout the collection, both World Wars and the Great Slump play a significant role in the acquisition, consumption, and sale of food.

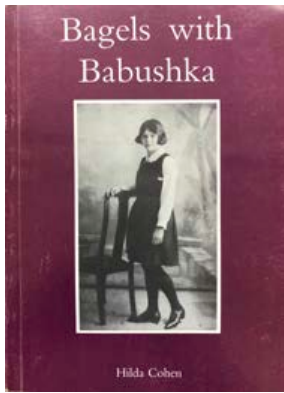


Images by Jessica Pauszek, June 2018

Many food related titles in the collection include traditional recipes from the United Kingdom and abroad, particularly Indian and Caribbean countries. Note that the texts described here incorporate food to different extents. In some titles, food is more prominent, while in others, it is only briefly touched on throughout the writing.

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Within the FWWCP more broadly, food has always played an important role in the group. Group meetings and writing groups are always held with tea and biscuits, cakes, and other snacks. Additionally, the annual FED Festival is a time to gather with friends to write and share those writings over lunch and at the pub. Just as these writers explain, food brings us together, allows us to share our varied cultures, and represents the comfort and welcome of being part of a community.



## Bagels with Babushka

Hilda Cohen, 1989

FWWCPC/01 NW 02

A Jewish woman's memoir during the period between both World Wars. Cohen recounts her young life with her grandmother and widowed father, moving to Manchester, and coming of age during the Great Slump. As a young adult, she becomes a teacher and shorthand typist, later joining The Youth Front Against War and Fascism, a Socialist social/political club. Cohen demonstrates how her social and personal upbringings helped develop her interest in the growing oppression against Jewish people.

**Keywords:** childhood | domestic life | fascism | Jewish | Manchester | socialism | war | women | work | World War I | World War II

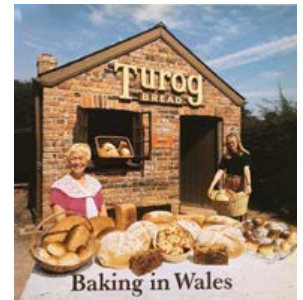
## Baking in Wales

S. Minwel Tibbott, 1995

FWWCPC/11 W 02

A brief history on habits and customs surrounding bread and baking in Wales in the 19th and 20th centuries. *Baking in Wales* provides an overview of domestic traditions including practical learning of methods in the home and the later emergence of communal bake houses. Bake houses continued the customs of home baking into the mid-20th century, until commercial bakers were relied on during World War II. Recipes are included.

**Keywords:** baking | cooking | domestic life | Wales | women



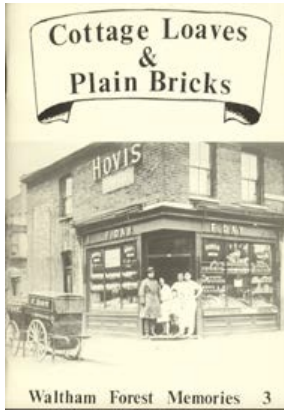
## Captain Blackbeard's Beef Creole and other Caribbean recipes

Peckham Publishing Project, 1981

FWWCPC/08 L 04

A collection of recipes from the Caribbean islands collectively written by immigrants of the West Indies. Illustrations are included by Collingwood Girls' School in Peckham. Publication includes an encyclopaedic list of produce and ingredients particular to this cuisine, recipes, poems, and memoirs. Authors describe physical characteristics of produce, how to select it, its use, and alternative names to ingredients in the United Kingdom. Traditional food preparation methods are discussed including those specific to holidays.

**Keywords:** Caribbean | cooking | domestic life | migration | West Indies



## Cottage Loaves & Plain Bricks: Memories of bread and baking in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, 1986

FWWCP/08 L 14

This is the third publication by Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, which includes recollections of baking in Waltham Forest from 1913-1950. Oral histories recount the transition from family owned bakehouses to commercial bakeries. Topics discussed include baking methods, working conditions, business operations, and adapting to gas ovens and other machinery. Wartime shortages and their effects on industry are also explored. Vintage advertisements, maps, and photographs are included.

**Keywords:** baking | domestic life | industry | Waltham Forest | war | work | World War I | World War II

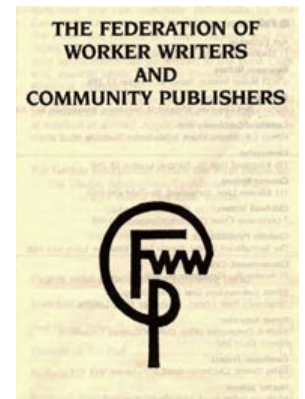
## Nice Tastin' Life and Food in the Caribbean

Liz Bartless, editor, 1991

FWWCP/08 L 14

Written by immigrants from the West Indies, including Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Tobago, and Trinidad, who convene as the Pepper Pot Club, this collection includes poems, folk tales, and short histories describing local food culture. Writers explore tasks related to farming, cooking, going to market, finding Caribbean ingredients in London, medicinal uses, and the role of food in social occasions. The book also describes differences in island countries relating to vernacular for food and uses for food. Recipes are included.

**Keywords:** agriculture | Caribbean | childhood | cooking | cuisine | Dominica | farming | food | medicine | West Indies



## Open City: A Journal of Community Arts & Culture - Breaking Bread: The Food Issue

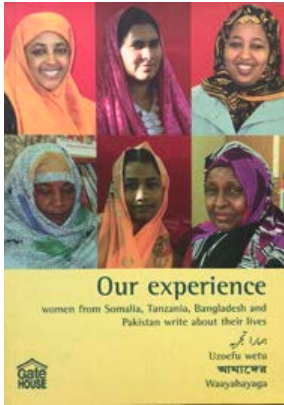
August Tarrier, 2000

FWWCP/13 US 01

This is the second issue of biannual magazine circulated in Philadelphia, which includes memoirs, poems, opinion editorials, interviews, and writings related to food. Cuisines discussed include Jewish, Spanish, Filipino, Mexican, and Cajun. Another major theme in this serial is agriculture in the city. Articles include stories on community gardening, food styling, the 'slow food' movement, and sustainable food sourcing. The issue focuses on food as it relates to everyday life and living in an urban area.

**Keywords:** agriculture | childhood | cuisine | domestic life | food | gardening | Philadelphia | slow food | sustainable food





## Our Experience: Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan write about their lives

Gatehouse, 1996

FWWCPC/ RM 01

A collection of writings from emigres of Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan learning to write and speak English. The authors were involved in a parent storytelling workshop as part of a family literacy project. The stories were written in English then translated back to native languages. Memoirs and drawings of home countries involving childhood, daily life, food, traditions, and motherhood are inside. Recipes are included.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh | bilingual | childhood | folklore | food | literacy | motherhood | Pakistan | refugee | Somalia | Swahili | Tanzania | Urdu

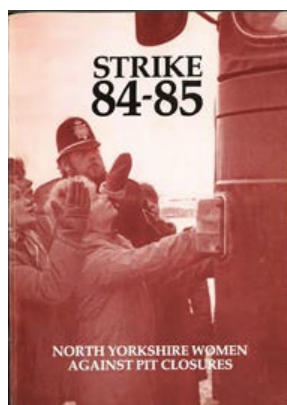
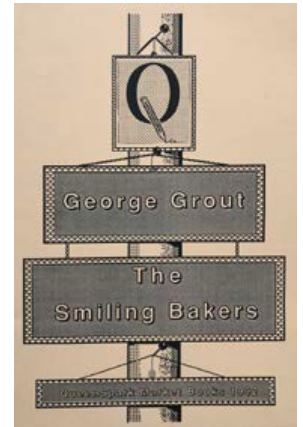
## The Smiling Bakers

George Grout, 1992

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Author George Grout recounts childhood and family life with 10 siblings in the mid 1910s and 1920s. The main setting for these memoirs is the bakehouse owned by his father, attached to his childhood home. Grout describes his involvement in the family business at a young age, detailing his duties from age six through young adulthood. Major themes in this title include siblings, family, work, baking, and World War I. Baking processes and production methods are described in detail.

**Keywords:** army | Brighton | childhood | domestic life | food | holidays | war | work | World War I



## Strike 84 - 85 North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures

Yorkshire Arts Circus,  
1985

FWWCPC/03 Y 07

Published by North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures in 1985. Women of Yorkshire share their memoirs and poetry from the Miners' Strike of 1984. Chapters included focus on soup kitchens and rations, fundraising, family life, protesting, and national conferences for women against pit closures. The stories shared expose the level of hardship experienced with reduced wages. This book details the complexity of daily life, family, protesting, politics, and police brutality during the strike period.

**Keywords:** domestic life | food | miners | police | politics | protest | strike | violence | women | working-class | Yorkshire



## Sweet and Sour

Bengali Women's Support Group, 1993

FWWCP/03 Y 01

This title is the second publication of the Bengali Women's Support Group in South Yorkshire.

It explores the importance of food through memoirs, poetry, letters, folk tales, and stories. Recipes are prefaced with a personal story about the dish. Bengali women share the role cooking played in their lives. Together, the individual stories relay how cooking impacted the domestic, social, and professional situations of the women. Authors describe cultural traditions, medicinal uses for certain foods, and tips for Bengali cooking.

**Keywords:** Bengali | cooking | domestic life | migration | Indian cooking | recipe | Yorkshire | women