



Baker and chocolatier Robert Walker established **Walkers Bakery & Tearooms** in Water Street, Skipton, in 1998.

He had earlier begun his career in baking at the self-same premises from where David Humphreys ran the former Skipton Bakery.

Robert attended Thomas Danby College in Leeds, gaining his City & Guilds in Craft Baking, followed by the National Diploma in Baking Science.

He later turned his attention to the wonderful world of chocolates, purchasing the Exclusive Chocolates business run by David Humphreys, who passed on his extensive chocolate-making skills to the younger man.

He was well qualified to do just that, for David had developed his expertise for well over 20 years, many of them spent researching the best recipes from Europe,

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

including working in both Belgium and Switzerland, and adapting them to his own tastes.

Robert has followed in his footsteps by personally visiting the world's chocolate-making capitals to hone his skills and introduce new ideas and product innovations.

He has also transformed the business in general. A new chocolate-making factory was opened on the bakery premises, along with a new chocolate shop alongside the bakery shop, followed by the launch of a second chocolate and chocolate wedding and celebration cakes retail shop in Newmarket Street, Skipton. Chocoholics have never had it so good!

All chocolates are hand-made on the premises, with the chocolate tempered each morning so that products have both brittleness and lustre. Only the best ingredients are used, with plain chocolate containing 70% cocoa

solids and only genuine liqueurs. Preservatives and essences have no place in the processes. Product listings are extensive - hundreds strong in fact.



They include a huge array of miscellaneous, sporting, animal and novelty chocolates, a range of speciality presentation boxes, along with seasonal chocolates for Easter and Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Valentine's Day.

The company also makes super and giant-sized Easter Eggs that are proving increasingly popular among charitable organisations across the county for fund-raising initiatives.



## FOR YOUR DAILY BREAD - AND MORE

Back in the bakery, all traditional and Continental baking on the premises is undertaken fresh on a daily basis.

Here again, there has been major investment in new fixtures and fittings, including brand-new ovens and mixers, a complete refurbishment of the bakery shop and extending and upgrading the first floor 55-seat air-conditioned tearooms.

Walker's range of freshly-made sandwiches are often billed "the best in town," gaining an ever-increasing following for their quality, variety and superb taste.

Speciality breads, Danish pastries, scones, cream cakes - and a whole lot more - make Walker's an Aladdin's Cave of bakery products.



## NEW ... CHOCOLATE WEDDING AND CELEBRATION CAKES

**CHOCOLATIER ROBERT WALKER** has teamed up with a living legend in the trade to launch a new range of hand-sculptured chocolate Wedding and Celebration Cakes.

Robert has joined forces with award-winning chocolatier John Costello and is now selling the cakes - including some unique creations - through his two **Walkers Exclusive Chocolate** shops in Skipton.

John has been working with chocolate for the past 13 years, having developed his skills, like Robert, in both Belgium and Switzerland, the world's recognised chocolate-making capitals. Robert comments: "We feel confident that we are filling a market niche with our new range of chocolate wedding and celebration cakes.

"In fact, the table has turned and interest is growing all the time. There's now a 60:40 split in

demand for chocolate cakes in comparison to traditional wedding cakes.

"Anything that can be done in sugar paste can also be done in chocolate.

"In addition, the cakes can prove cost-effective by doubling up to replace desserts at wedding receptions.

"They have a chocolate sponge interior, with chocolate ganache layers - the whole coated in pure chocolate, with all decorations in chocolate too," explains Robert.



• Chocolatiers Robert Walker, right, and John Costello are pictured with a selection of the new range of exclusive chocolate wedding cakes.

Samples of Walker's Exclusive Wedding Cakes can be seen at the Newmarket Street, Skipton, shop. Or call 01756-791494

