

Walkers Nonsuch toffee

From the sweeties.net wiki

Walker's Nonsuch is a toffee maker in Longton, one of the six towns of Stoke on Trent, the heart of the Potteries. It was founded in 1894, and it is still run by the family that started it.

A potter turns to toffee

The founder, Edward Joseph Walker, was a potter. In the late 19th century he and his sister Florence took over a tiny sweet shop in Longton. He developed his own toffee recipe and kept it a closely guarded secret. Local people came to the shop to buy his slab toffee, broken with a special hammer and served by the quarter. It sold so well that he opened a small factory to keep up with demand.

A family business

His son, Edward Victor Walker, joined the business in 1915, and in 1922 it became a limited company, Walker's Nonsuch. In 1962 two brothers, Ian and Edward, took over and expanded it. The company describes five generations of the family making toffee, and family members still run it today.

It has grown a long way from one sweet shop. According to the company, it now makes more than 1.25 million toffees a day and sends them to 45 countries.

The hammer lives on

Walker's still sells slab toffee with its own little hammer, and the company says its toffee and its famous little hammers remain the hallmarks of the business. The hammer is a direct link to the way the founder sold toffee in his shop over a century ago. See [slab toffee and the toffee hammer](#).

Why the Potteries?

Stoke on Trent is the home of the Potteries, and Walker's is a reminder that local trades were not always separate. A potter could become a confectioner, and a small shop could grow into a firm that sends toffee around the world.

British and independent

In an industry where many old British sweet names now belong to international companies, Walker's Nonsuch is still a family firm in the town where it began. See [who owns the famous British sweet makers now](#), and for toffee more generally, [our guide to toffee](#).

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