



Anna, Duchess of Bedford  
1783-1857

## THE 'HIGHS' & 'LOWS' OF TAKING TEA

During the 1880s it was customary among the upper-class and society women to change into long gowns, gloves and hats and convene for afternoon tea in the gardens, drawing room or parlour. This practice, with an emphasis on presentation and conversation, was also known as 'low tea' in reference to the low armchairs and side tables at which guests were seated. The tradition of taking tea became so popular among affluent classes that it fast became one of the mainstays of the British way of life.

As the tea tradition expanded from the Victorian elite to the working class, the 'High Tea' was developed.

Considered the main meal of the day and often taken either standing up or seated upon tall stools (thus 'high') at around 6pm, fare typically consisted of meat, bread, vegetables, and - of course - tea.

Hadley's Orient Hotel welcomes guests for traditional afternoon tea service between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm,

Wednesdays to Sundays. Bookings are essential.

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