

Cowbridge & district notes 1800s

1806, 4th April To be sold by auction at the Horse & Groom Inn – freehold house in the eastern village of Cowbridge, late in occupation of Letitia Evan, now of Margaret Philip as tenant at will. *Cambrian*

1806, 17th May To be sold by auction on premises of Robert Jenkins – by order of signees of Robert Thomas of Cowbridge, a bankrupt, on 20th May 1806, all the stock in trade and household furniture of the said bankrupt, consisting of woollens, linens, muslins, ribbons, cotton stockings, haberdashery, drugs and other articles of a general shopkeeper. *Cambrian*

1806, 21st June To be let and may be entered immediately – a commodious house near Cowbridge. Two parlours and a kitchen on ground floor, 3 bedchambers over, large well stocked garden and a lawn in front, situated within ten minutes' walk of a trout stream and bathing place. Apply : Mr C Bradley, Post Office, Cowbridge. Grass for two horses if required. *Cambrian*

1806, 23rd August Extraordinary cure – I, Ann Williams, now living in the town of Cowbridge, daughter of the late Revd George Williams, vicar of Penlline, was afflicted for 17 years and upwards with dropsy attended by several medical men for the last 4 years ... to consult Mr Salmon who had lately begun to practice.... *Cambrian*

1819, 18th September Auction at Bear Inn 2nd November – freehold dwelling house with large garden, barn, stable and granary, together with large court and yard....in the east village (the present buildings consisting of valuable old seasoned oak and other materials). Apply : T Llewellyn Williams, solicitor *Cambrian*

1819, 18th December To be let - a neat, commodious house with a large garden, pump and rainwater etc.....in a genteel neighbourhood; literary attainment and rural amusement may be found on very moderate terms. Apply : Mr Edward Ballard, Cowbridge *Cambrian*

1820, 5th February To be let – a newbuilt house with a large garden for the residence of a small genteel family within five minutes' walk of the market and post town of Cowbridge. The premises are free from parochial taxes. The rent is £18. Apply : Mr Henry Edmunds of Llanblethian, the proprietor *Cambrian*

1823 Daughter born to John & Frances Miles, gent, late of Cowbridge
Llb parish records

January 1835 In Cowbridge - to be sold by auction by Mr Morris on 29 and 30 January the whole of the stock-in-trade and household furniture of Mr Philip Bird, bookseller, stationer, grocer etc. The stock comprises a large assortment of stationary and grocery - to be put up in lots. The furniture is nearly new and of the best modern quality.

Cambrian

1836 Baptism of Edward, son of Anne and John Prees, Cowbridge saddler
Llandow parish records

1837, 1st April Lot 1.

For sale by auction – dwelling house lately used as a Beer House, at present unoccupied, comprising a parlour, two bedrooms, a kitchen and cellar, and back kitchen with garden attached, measuring 120 feet by 27 feet, situated in the town of Cowbridge.

Lot 2. Also, a dwelling house adjoining the above in the occupation of John Thomas, comprising two parlours, 6 bedrooms, a kitchen, back kitchen, dairy and pantry, with a garden attached measuring 120 ft by 59 ft or thereabouts. (? *Bear Hotel*)

Lot 3. Also, a capital stable, adjoining Lot 2. Measuring 22 ft by 27 ft with a coach house or warehouse adjoining, measuring 22 ft by 10.6 ft, with well boarded rooms above and a very convenient Slopehouse behind, now occupied with Lot. 2.

This lot may be converted into a dwelling house at a trifling expense. A garden is attached, measuring 100 ft by 50 ft approximately.

The buildings have slated roofs and are in other respects built with the best materials – all freehold. Further particulars from John Bevan, solicitor, or to auctioneer.

Cambrian

1838, 6th January Disgraceful Outrages.

Cowbridge has been characterised as a quiet and peaceable town. It is so, generally speaking, but the events of last month or two bespeak for it a different character. Carrying away shutters, removing sign-boards, and knocking at doors after the inhabitants have retired to rest is the way in which Christmas is ushered in at Cowbridge. These improprieties...., regarded as frolics, may be overlooked, but when wanton mischief is committed on the property of defenceless females it behoves the authorities to exert themselves, and to discover.... the proprietors of such cowardly deeds. On Tuesday night, the 26th inst., two individuals entered the plot of ground in front of the house of Mrs Launder, a respectable widow lady residing on the bridge. They alarmed her family, in the first instance by knocking violently at the door, and what was a source of peculiar annoyance was the destruction of her flowers which were highly prized. On Thursday night, the 28th inst,some miscreants entered the green before the house of Mrs John Ballard, a respectable widow lady residing in the house adjoining Mrs Launder's. They wreaked their vengeance on the gate, tore up the shrubs and flowers by the roots, and as a finish buried as favourite cat beneath the ruins. A reward of 2 guineas has been offered by the bailiffs for the apprehension but without success.

An inquest held on Friday last before Charles Collis Esq. on the body of a child tossed in a privy of a cottage in High Street in this town on the preceding evening; when, after a very long and patient investigation of the scene, in which the medical gentleman who was

examined gave it his decided opinion that the child was still-born, a verdict to that effect was returned. The mother, Sarah Morgan, is, we understand, severely indisposed and cannot undergo examination....
Cambrian

1838 To be sold by auction at the Bear Inn 10th July – a large and excellent dwelling house consisting of a large drawing room, a dining room, breakfast parlour, offices, eight bedrooms, three dressing rooms, two servants' bedrooms, kitchen, back kitchen, two pantries, with cistern, pump and other conveniences; 10 stall stable with loft, 9 stall stable with 2 excellent granaries, 4 stall stable with saddle room. The stables are far apart from the house and the house may be divided to suit the convenience of tenants.

The premises are in the centre of the market and post town of Cowbridge.....

Cambrian

1838 From 'Y Gwron Cymreig' Merthyr/Cowbridge monthly newspaper – large advert for Cowbridge eisteddfod to be held on March 21st 1839 (Large report on the event in May 1839).

1838, 17th November Letter from 'Hydra', Llantwit Major
...Is it too far to Cowbridge? Six miles. Thank you. So home and went to bed. The next day I got to Cowbridge. It was nearly dark when I arrived determined to stay For the night. Seeing some young men in cloaks with cigars in their mouths, going into town, I followed them

Cambrian

1838 Ann Hurton, daughter of Jacob Hurton, victualler of Cowbridge (marriage).

1838 Gwenllian John, widow, victualler of Cowbridge, daughter of Richard Sweeting, labourer, married Thomas Morgan of Wenvoe, butcher.

1839, 19th January Notice that Margaret, 57, eldest and favourite daughter of Iolo Morgannwg, Edward Williams, suffering destitution. Had kept a small school in languages aided by Revd. Nicholl, the Rector, but her eye-sight had failed. Now seeking Parish support, and subscriptions invited to help her.

Cambrian

1839, 19th January Suicide : A poor man of weak intellect of the name of T Michael cut his throat in a most dreadful manner on Monday night at the Cross Keys inn in the town of Cowbridge. He had retired to rest at his usual time and was found in the morning weltering in blood. Lewis Reece Esq. coroner held an inquest on the following day. Verdict 'insanity'.

Cambrian

1839, November 18th Mr Griffiths of the Cowbridge Arms and Mr t Williams, cobbler, of Cowbridge, were returning from the Bridgend fair. When they were approximately one mile from Cowbridge, three masked men jumped out and held pistols to their heads, and demanded money. The robbers took over £15 and a watch from Mr Griffiths, and £10 plus a watch from Mr Williams. The robbed men appealed to their robbers not to take their money etc. but were cursed on by the robbers and the highwaymen then quickly left the scene.
From 'Y Gwron Cymreig' newspaper (translated from the Welsh).

1840 Margaret Hopkin, daughter of David Hopkin, mason of Cowbridge, married Thomas Llewellyn, labourer of St Athan.

1840 John Powell, clergyman of Cowbridge, son of Howell Powell, gent., married Mary Wood of Cowbridge, daughter of Samuel Wood, merchant.

1840 Robert Williams, farmer of Fonmon, married Alice Donne, daughter of Matthew Donne, farmer.

1843 Mary, daughter of Jacob Horton, publican of Cowbridge, married Edward Williams of Cowbridge, tailor, son of Edward Williams, tailor.

1844 Thomas Nicholas, widower of Cowbridge, carpenter, son of John Nicholas, carpenter, married Mary Hopkin, spinster dressmaker of Cowbridge, daughter of William Hopkin, farmer.

1844 Edward Alexander, seaman of Cowbridge, son of William Alexander, corn-jack, married Charlotte, dressmaker of Cowbridge, daughter of David Davies, ostler.

1845 Thomas Alexander, schoolmaster of Cowbridge, son of William Alexander, innkeeper, married Harriet Davies of Cowbridge, daughter of John Davies, tailor.

1846 William Hayter, shoemaker of Cowbridge, son of James Hayter, labourer, married Elizabeth Avery of Cowbridge, daughter of William Avery, saddler.

1847 Elizabeth Hurton, daughter of Jacob Hurton, sweep (marriage).

1847 – 52 Children born to William and Mary Hopkin, publican of Cowbridge
Llanblethian parish records

1852 Frederick William Smyth, bachelor, ironmonger of Cowbridge, son of William Smyth, Lieutenant in army, married Elizabeth Morris, spinster of Cowbridge, daughter of William Morris, auctioneer.

1857 William Lewis, widower, schoolmaster of Cowbridge, son of William Lewis, schoolmaster (Eagle Academy) married Annie Morgan, spinster of Cowbridge, daughter of butcher David Morgan.

1858 Frances Alexander, daughter of William Alexander, publican of Cowbridge, married Nathaniel Giffard, shoemaker of Cowbridge, son of Joseph Giffard, currier.
1858, 30th January Ball in Town Hall in honour of marriage of the Princess Royal.
Long description given.

1858, February Death of the wife of Richard Morris, confectioner of Cowbridge, 66
Bridgend Chronicle

1858, June Death of Mr James Hiscock, aged 80 – one of oldest and most respected residents

Mr Wyndham Richard Bates, son of late Edward Bates Esq., has had appointment in the firm of Baring & Co., America through the interest of an influential relation.

10th July Miss Barnes's school for young ladies re-starting, also Miss Stockwood's, and Eastfield Academy (George Rees).

Death at Sketty, aged 20 through consumption, of daughter of the late John Montgomery Swan, surgeon of Cowbridge

21st August Marriage at St Mary's Catholic Church, York, and Holy Trinity, York, of Edward Bates Esq., surgeon of Cowbridge, to Eliza Fanny, second daughter of Mr Ellis of Grantham, Lincoln
Bridgend Chronicle

1859 Marriage of Anne Preece of Cowbridge, daughter of William Preece, blacksmith, to Thomas Morgan, labourer, son of Robert Morgan, butcher of Llanblethian

1859 Marriage of David Evans, farmer of Tyn y Caeau, son of David Evans, farmer, to Margaret Williams of East Village, Cowbridge, daughter of David Williams, farmer.

1860 Marriage between Nathaniel Gifford, widower, shoemaker, to Catherine Jenkins, spinster of Cowbridge, daughter of Wm Jenkins, labourer.

1862 Marriage between Thomas John Parsons, bachelor, grocer of Cowbridge, son of John Parsons, grocer, to Selina Jane Roberts, 18, of Cowbridge daughter of David Roberts, minister of the gospel.

1863 September 10th Maesteg v Cowbridge played at Merthyr Mawr, courtesy of Sir John Nicholl. Maesteg scored 17 & 25, and Cowbridge 30 & 98. Cowbridge worthy winners!
Bridgend Chronicle

1864 Elizabeth Mary Parsons, daughter of John parsons, grocer of Cowbridge married William Griffith Jones, draper of Cowbridge.

1865, 17th Feb Sales of Dr Torrance's furniture (giving up housekeeping) and that of Benjamin Williams (leaving the district); David Evans giving up business as carrier
Bridgend Chronicle

1865, 22 Sept 18th Glamorgan Rifle Volunteer Corps – prize shooting
Bridgend Chronicle

1866 Anne Abraham, daughter of David Abraham, blacksmith married Edward Williams, tiler of Cowbridge, son of Thomas Williams, tiler.

1866 Elizabeth Jenkin, daughter of John Jenkin, manager of the gasworks married Thomas Miles, grocer of Cowbridge, son of Thomas Miles, grocer.

1869, 11th June Oddfellows Feast – hospitality of Captain Thomas of Llanblethian. Mr Samuel Snooks of Cowbridge, blacksmith and J Roberts of Cowbridge tailor. The latter struck the former with a mackerel across the forehead and then threatened to run a knife through him.

Central Glamorgan Gazette

1869 Death of Sarah, widow of John Thomas, maltster of Cowbridge, aged 30
Llandough church records

1872 Thomas John widower, maltster of Aberthin, married Jeannette Morgan, spinster of Cowbridge, daughter of David Morgan, victualler

1875 Lydia Elizabeth Richards, spinster, daughter of Silas Richards innkeeper married William Howell Davies, licensed victualler of Ystradowen, son of David Davies, innkeeper.

1879 Funeral of Mr Ballard of Cowbridge held at Llanblethian church

1881, 9th February Sale of household furniture etc. from the late Dr Stanistreet

(Stephenson & Alexander sale in ? Glamorgan Gazette)

Dining room : paraffin lamp, small ditto, oak centre table with deal top, easy chair spring seat, carpet hearth-rug, green and black table cover, lock-stitch hand sewing machine.

Drawing room : oak couch spring seat covered with green American cloth, folding chair with 2 cushions, steel fender (new), fire-irons; handsome walnut cabinet with plate glass back, polished oak easy chair with spring seat, ditto ditto, 6 chairs to match, fire screen and mat, oil painting 'Waterfall', 2 oleographs in gilt frames, large engraving 'Hamlet'.

Bedroom 1 : iron bedstead with spring mattress, feather bed, bolster and pillow, 2 blankets, coloured counterpane, deal wardrobe, book shelves, hat rack and one small picture in gilt frame, mahogany wash-stand with marble top and back, set of blue and white ware (complete), large size toilet glass, deal toilet table, window curtains, several pieces of carpet and matting, fender, towel-horse, hearth rug, hooks.

Bedroom 2 : iron bedstead and palliasse, stained wood wash-stand, large toilet glass, cane-seated chair, bedroom ware.

Kitchen : large stained wood bookcase with five drawers and three cupboards, 8 ft 6 inch long, 6 ft 4 inches high, 18 inches wide, nearly new; small chair, 5 metal meat covers, knives and forks.

Hall and Landing : polished oak table, stair carpet, 4 pictures in gilt frames, writing table, door mats, several flower pots.

Ware and Glass : dinner service, red and white, 37 pieces; 2 decanters, 6 wine glasses, 4 tumblers, 2 salt cellars, one filter, silver and plated articles, cruet stand (5 glasses), tea pot, coffee pot, cream jug, nutcracker, dessert forks, dessert spoons, table spoons, silver tea spoons, salt spoons, 2 tablecloths, 2 napkins, sheets, towels, surgery cloths etc.

Yard : set of plated gig harness, saddle and bridle, large dog kennel, water barrel etc etc, black cob mare, 14 hands; dog-cart with lamps, rugs, whip etc; good roomy ditto by 'Fuller', Bristol

1881 Marriage of David Tilley, bachelor, implement maker of Cowbridge, to Eva Caroline Tutton, spinster, schoolmistress of Broadway, Cowbridge, daughter of George Eaton Tucker of Cowbridge schoolmaster.

1884 Marriage of John David Evans, 47, widower, tailor of Cowbridge, son of David Evans farmer, to Mary Jane Harrison, 41, spinster, matron of Grammar School, Cowbridge, daughter of George Harrison, war office messenger.

1892, 30th July Two young men, Richard Ashton ironmonger's assistant and George Blackoler, were bathing on the beach near Llantwit Major when they got out of their depth and Ashton drowned. The other was saved. *Manchester Courier*

1894 Great House, Cowbridge – death of John Thomas aged 71
St Hilary parish records

1894 William Giles, bootmaker, 34 of Cowbridge, son of David Giles bootmaker, married Annie Elizabeth Howe, 22, spinster of Cowbridge, daughter of John Howe, grocer.

1896 Elizabeth Emily Marsh, daughter of George Marsh, butcher of Cowbridge (marriage).

25/10/1886 Several further prosecutions at Cowbridge against persons involved in the pillaging of the ship Ben-y-Gloe on the Nash Rocks.
Nottingham Post

9th June 1891

The recent death of one of the last 'Old Medical Men' – Dr Edwards of Cowbridge. He had practised in Cowbridge for upwards of 30 years previous to the occurrence of the sad accident which eventually resulted in his death. In his younger days, he took an active interest in the bringing of the first railway to Cowbridge. buried in St Mary's Church, Cowbridge. *Western Mail*

Notes from descendent of Joseph William Hall and Kezia Hall, Eastgate 1881 & 1891 censuses – J W Hall was a wool stapler & seedsman/coal merchant. His wife was Kezia Watkins and it is thought they had 17 children. Their youngest child (Douglas Marshall Hall) went to live in Western Australia but died at aged 39 of a nervous complaint – *he was the grandfather of Fay Peterson who sent this information by e-mail in 2013.* Another of their sons was also Joseph William Hall, who was mayor of Cowbridge in 1896 and 1903. Joseph & Kezia are buried in Holy Cross church.

1896 Information on local illustrious residents :

John Morris, son of John Morris of Llanblethian, b 1827, educated Cowbridge Grammar School, solicitor, undersheriff 1864-5

Walter Rice Evans, b Neath 1863, educated Cowbridge Grammar School and Jesus College, Oxford; High Sheriff of Glamorgan 1907 (Oxford XV 1891, Wales 1890,1)

William Llewellyn JP, b Llantrisant 1850, educated CGS (local gvt. etc)

Daniel Lewis, b St Mary Church 1866, educated CGS – solicitor, Commissioner for oaths. Lived Richmond Rd Cardiff.

Thomas Tamplin Lewis, b Cowbridge 1833 (son of Thomas Lewis), educated CGS, married Mary, daughter of the late Wm Lewis of Llanquian – solicitor, commissioner of taxes.

Edward Pritchard Evans JP of Mountain Ash, b Ystrad Mynach 1854, educated CGS – Medical Officer of Health for Mountain Ash.

DT Alexander JP, Dinas Powis (son of John Alexander, Penmark), b Penmark 1841, educated CGS – head of Stephenson & Alexander. Active part in measures for improvement of agriculture.

FW Dunn JP, The Cross, Llanblethian (son of the late Philip Dunn), b Carmarthen 1841 – Chairman of Justices, Cowbridge division. Mining & civil engineering.

Western Mail & Echo

1897 Margaret Louisa Warren, daughter of Solomon Warren, painter married Henry Gwilym Griffiths, 25, butcher of Cowbridge, son of John Griffiths, butcher.

1897, 15th May

Sensational affair at Cowbridge

Disappointed lover's desperate act - Determined attempt at suicide.

A love tragedy has thrown the inhabitants of Cowbridge into a state of unusual perturbation. Some eight or nine months ago, Thomas Eddols aged 39, who lived with his parents near St Quentin's Castle, became acquainted with Miss Mary Ann Webster, a housemaid at the Bear Hotel. Eddols was what might be termed a superior labourer. He was not only industrious, but he was studious and he succeeded in collecting quite an attractive little library. He was a regular attendant at the Baptist Chapel, and he also possessed considerable ability as a reciter and won prizes at eisteddfod gatherings. Miss Webster is a native of Brynsadler, and is generally regarded as a bright and attractive girl. Eddols grew passionately fond of Miss Webster, but it was not until quite recently that he told her of his love.

On Wednesday evening, the couple met and went for a walk. Whilst out together, they appear to have quarrelled, for on leaving Eddols asked Miss Webster if she was really serious in saying she never wished to see him again. The girl replied that she was, and emphasised the word 'never'. Then Eddols went to the Bear Hotel and did a thing which

he had never done before – he partook of intoxicating liquor. On Thursday morning, Eddols appeared ill at ease. He did not proceed to work as usual, but told his parents he was going to Gloucester and would not be home until the evening.

He had only just got out of the archway of the hotel and into the principal street of the town, when he pulled out the revolver he had purchased during the earlier part of the day (in Cardiff) and pointed the hand towards his head. He pulled the trigger, but the bullet it is thought passed through his hat. Two police constables were standing at the corner of the street about 80 yards away and immediately ran towards the shot.

Before they reached, three more shots were fired. He was examined by Dr. Meller, was taken home in a critical condition. *Western Mail*

1898, 20th September The tragic death of Mrs Lewis, wife of David Lewis, a driver on the Taff Vale Railway stationed at Cowbridgemet her death.
...fallen out of upper window of her house on Thursday night.....found by her husband in the small garden of the house in Croft Terrace.
Dr Morgan at once called in....gave little hope of recovery, she having received a compound fracture of her leg. On Monday morning.....put an end to her suffering.
Western Mail

19th Century notes on some Cowbridge citizens – from Cadrawd 'Glamorgan History & Folklore'

Surgeon Johnson (died about 1844)

If any of Johnson's dry sayings could be gathered, they would be interesting illustrations of the manners and habits of the Cowbridge people of this day. The only one we are able to relate was spoken at a 'Congress' at the Bear Hotel. James Ballard was then 'Host'. All his brothers were members of the congress, as well as the leading people of the town and neighbourhood including perhaps Major Edmondes and Captain Savours. A few only happened to be present on the occasion when the question was started 'who at Cowbridge has attended to his business?' Some maintained that the p..... was due to Taylor of the Mill. Johnson differed. He knew a man he said in the town who attended not only to his own business but everybody else's. 'Who's that?' asked James Ballard. 'Why' said Johnson, taking a pinch of snuff and walking off, 'Why, your good brother Edward'. Johnson was a very learned antiquary and had

..... was exceedingly charitable and gave largely to the poor. Her Lt Col Price of Llandough Castle used to remonstrate saying 'Mother, you will give away all your possessions'. Her answer was '#John, what I do give, I do have'.

Park was broken into and robbed once by night, and a large quantity of plate stolen. A very pretty but vicious young woman was concerned in the robbery as principal accomplice and was hung with her paramour. She was a daughter to one of the defendants on the They were taken from Cardiff jail to be hung on the Heath, and as she rode in the sang a song which she composed upon her misfortune. Years ago many people knew the song and it was sung on many occasions.

Nash Rent Audit

It was a favourite trick of Donat Richards, after the ale had circulated pretty freely, to 'pit' Llewellyn Evan, and Be.... the Smiths, against each other as to who had the best of £100! And they would quarrel over it and almost fight; although the trick came round at the proper time of the evening, as regularly as the Day itself.

Donat kept a kind of journal or chronicle of the events of the neighbourhood..... and was quite an original character, his remarks would be worth the reading could they be recovered. He died about 1840.

The Jesmass

The occasion upon which the Vicar of the parish sitting at the receipts of customers, and taking his Adjustments in cash for the Tithe which should otherwise be paid in kind.

Mrs Gibbon's Expedition to Bristol (1790 or 1800)

For one occasion Mrs Gibbon on a time went to Bristol to purchase a set out for her daughter on her marriage with a Mr W-----. It would show the curious mixture of simple habits mingled with very great pride which then distinguished our County gentry.

Mother and daughter journeyed together; the young bride's dress is not described but from the careful save all of her mother, it may be supposed to have nothing extravagantly grand about it. The old lady herself went in her usual dress viz : a flannel gown and apron, a white bed-gown over her shoulders, a flat-crowned silk hat far from new, comfortable white yarn stockings, and thick soled shoes. This was the dress of a lady of considerable landed estate, going up from the Vale of Glamorgan to Bristol to purchase some hundreds of pounds worth of things for her daughter on her marriage with a gentleman of some standing as a lawyer. One of the incidents of this visit to Bristol the old lady was fond of relating. She wished to purchase a good deal of plate – had brought up some old family plate to exchange, and on thedressed would be customer, said, 'Old lady, if I were to bring down our best goods for you to look at, you would not buy them, they are too expensive for people of your sort'. This was enough for the simple dressed though proud dame. She left the shop and went and layed out a considerable sum in a shop elsewhere, where more regard was paid to her requirements than to her dress. Before returning home, she called on shopkeeper 'No.1' and showed him the bill of her outlay at his rival's establishment and for his good as she used to say – that he might know that a good deal of money might be brought into his shop even under Welsh flannel, a bedgown and an old silk hat.

Y Tailwr Bwrnibas

This old man at one time was the best tailor in the town of Cowbridge. Kept up with the fashions of the period by looking out for those who posted through the town from London and while the horses were being changed examined with critical eye the cut of their coats, vests and breaches.

Pedlars supplied the good people with haberdashery. One of these petty merchants stood high in repute for his needles. Tailor Burnibas patronised him, and while selecting his needles from the roll of flannel in which they were stuck, would drop as many as he could on the floor. This he would boast afterwards as capital fun to laugh at, at the old pedlar's expense.

Scarcely a grocer (if any) would sell tea without sugar, or sugar without tea. Tea itself was long thought to be a luxury and its use considered almost a criminal extravagance.....

Mr David Pritchard

(He) was a draper at Cowbridge and one of the notable men of the town. He was a part of considerable local repute, and was I believe the possessor of Bardic honours. Mr Pritchard if he knew how to wield his pen, knew also how to attend to his business interests as the following extract will show :

Glamorganshire Assizes – Levy v. Pritchard This was an action for malicious imprisonment. In June 24th 1836, plaintiff was selling shoes in Cowbridge market. Defendant came and asked him if he had a hawker's licence. Plaintiff said he had, and offered to show it. Defendant went away, and two hours afterwards while plaintiff was taking refreshments at the Horse and Groom the constable of Cowbridge, accompanied by the defendant, came in with a warrant to apprehend him. Plaintiff

produced his licence. Plaintiff went with the constable to the residence of the magistrate who had issued the warrant, who declined to act in consequence of illness, and after being in custody several hours was taken before the mayor who discharged him.

Plaintiff next day applied to Mr Moynan, solicitor of Bridgend, who writing to the defendant received the following reply :

I am a poor poet

I wish you to know it

That monish (?) I have none to spare

To tell Maurice Levy

That he may believe me

But little will come to his share.

If you write again, Sir,

When there is its 'Amen Sir'

I'll pick up the crumbs as they fall.

Pray think me not rude, Sir,

From Dewi Fard 'Bro' comes the scrawl

The reading of this note with the comments of the Learned Council Mr Chilton convulsed the Court with laughter. Plaintiff recovered £10 damages – so they say!

Shops Scare

Packmen, mostly Scotchmen, travelled the country in days gone by, mounted upon horses. One unfortunate fellow disappeared, pack and all – murdered no doubt for the..... of the goods and money he had with him. A fine grey horse not being a thing to dispose of easily, or secreted, the animal was allowed to stray ownerless for a long time in the lanes around Llanblethian. As far as local testimony could be trusted, it seemed to be an established fact that a ghost was to be seen lingering near a certain gate opening into the lane running from Llandough park wall to Moreshead. In time the lane, being very little used, the possession of it

Unknown author – handwritten notes (copy) transcribed by B Alden 2017