

## 77 High Street

*Grade II listed building. Early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building preserving its character. Details see RCAHM and CADW*

For details of archaeological excavations, see *Excavations in Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, 1977-88*, ed J Parkhouse and Edith Evans; *BAR British Series 245, 1996*

1719	'lands of Thomas Barry then in possession of William Rees'	
	<i>in deeds re 79 HS: Gwyn &amp; Gwyn, A/3</i>	
1738	Joan Rees, widow, three quarter burgage	<i>BR#154</i>
1744	Joan Rees, widow, her house, three quarter burgage	<i>BR#156</i>
1762	Mr Edmondes, late Joan Rees	<i>BR#156</i>
1772	Mr Edmondes late Joan Rees, f/h, Mary Gibbon, widow, tenant	<i>BR</i>
1773	Mary Gibbon, widow, 3/9d	<i>LTA</i>
1784	Mary Gibbon, o and occ, 5/-	<i>LTA</i>
1800 and 1815	John Thomas, cooper, o and occ, 5/-	<i>LTA</i>

1816 Conveyance, John Thomas to Thomas Rhys, schoolmaster, for £120, all that messuage or dwelling house with outhouses, yard and garden in the town of Cowbridge, having messuage and malthouse of Thos Edmondes Esq on E, messuage now or late of Catherine William on W, Town Wall on N - messuage purchased by John Thomas from Richard Tomlinson, now in the tenure of John Thomas  
(JT had mortgaged the property to Edward Lewis of Penlline) *D/D Ra 1/1,2*

1830 Thomas Rhys, o, William Williams, occ, 5/- *LTA*

1843 Owned by Thomas Rees, occupied by Joseph May *Tithe # 34*

*May was an ostler, who is later to be found at 59 High St in 1851 and in 55 High Street in 1861, and then as landlord of the Ancient Druid in Eastgate in 1865, 1871 and 1881.*

*The shape of the house on the tithe map is not the same as now and shows a greater distance from front to rear on the west side than the east. There is no trace of Glenfield cottage which is now at the far end of the back garden.*

1851 The house was not inhabited. In view of the change in shape it is likely that the house was substantially rebuilt at this time.

1861 The house was now occupied by Ann Harman, the widow of John Harman, a blacksmith, who in 1851 was living with her son and two daughters in Westgate. John Harman had died in the late 1840s.

The entry for the Harmans in Westgate in the 1851 census (#28) is as follows:-

Ann Harman, head, widow aged 46 Blacksmith employing 1 man.

Susanna Harman, daughter, unm. 18 Dressmaker

Ann Harman 17 scholar

Elizabeth 15 scholar

David Harman son 8 scholar

H Rawlings visitor 19 stonemason

James Murdo, visitor 24 stonemason

The household on census day for 77 High St. in 1861 (#100) consisted of -  
 Ann Harman head widow aged 50 blacksmith's widow, born in Glam.  
 Susanna Harman daughter unmarried 25 milliner & dressmaker b.Glam.  
 Elizabeth Harman daughter unmarried 22 no occupation listed b. Glam.Elizabeth  
 A Jones, visitor 14 scholar b. Hereford  
 Ann Harman was listed as a blacksmith herself in trade directories from the  
 1840s and 1850s and presumably carried on his business in some fashion after  
 her husband's death.

1862 Conveyance, Miss Elizabeth Rhys, spinster, to Ed. Harman Esq of Merthyr Tydfil  
 for  
 £115 (recites will of Thos Rhys 1.6.50, leaving all property to Elizabeth; TR  
 died 20.7.61)  
 mess, of Revd T Edmondson on E  
 mess, late of Catherine William, afterwards of Rees Williams and now George  
 Williams on W  
 now occupied by John Morgan, labourer *D/D Ra 1/1,2*

1871 Ann Harman remained in the house. The detailed return (#108) is as follows:-  
 Anne(?) Harman Head Widow 59 No occupation Born Cowbridge.  
 Susan(?) Harman Daughter Unmarried 31 Milliner & dressmaker Cowbridge.  
 Mary Howell Visitor Unmarried 19 Milliner's apprentice St. Mary  
 We know from Kelly's Directory that the house at this time was called Tydfil.

1881 The family continued to live in the house. *Census#269*  
 Ann Harman Head Widow 78(?) No occupation, born Cowbridge.  
 Susanna Harman daughter, unmarried, 41, milliner & dressmaker b. Cowbridge  
 David Harman Son Married 37 solicitor's clerk b. Cowbridge  
 Mary Howell Boarder Unmarried 28 dressmaker b. St. Mary

1891 Ann Harman had died and her daughter continued in the house. *Census#262*  
 Susannah Harman head single 48 (?) dressmaker born Cowbridge.  
 Ann Lovell visitor 9 scholar, born Litton Cheney

*It is almost certain that Ann Lovell's family lived in Westgate (Census#26). The household consisted of :*

*William Rawlings head married Aged 38 Railway labourer, born Bridgwater*

*Sarah Rawlings wife 46 Horsham (Somerset)*

*Joseph Lovell stepson Single 15 miner Yorkshire*

*John Lovell stepson 10 scholar b. Dorset Axminster*

*Frederick Lovell stepson 8 Scholar b. Dorset Litton Cheney*

*There were also two male lodgers in the house. The house was small and it may well be that Ann was boarded out on a permanent basis with the Harmans.*

1901 Susannah Harman, 59, dressmaker, b Cowbridge *Census#158*  
 Francis Arthur Binch, 36 ?, clergyman (C of E), b Loughborough (2 rooms)  
*Census# 158a*

1903 David Harman conveyed to Henry and Anne Trott mess or cottage in the garden  
 at the back of Tydfil House *D/D Ra 1/1,2*

1903 Jane Harman the then owner, and Mary Harman her mother acknowledged the  
 conveyance *D/D Ra 1/1,2*

1910 John David is listed as owner and occupier of Tydfil, High St  
*D/D PRO/VAL/1/46*

Between 1910 and 1912 the name of number 77 was changed to Llwyn Celyn, as in the 1912 Western Mail Directory this is now listed as John David's residence. He was an auctioneer, borough treasurer, deputy registrar (1895 trade directory) and a founder of the firm of John David, Watts and Morgan. It is very likely that the house was refurbished when he moved into the house. The tiled floor in the hall is dated at around the end of the last century and the present window design may well date to the same period. The holly trees would have been planted either side of the front door where they have remained until now. They are clearly visible on a post card from the early years of the century which shows the front of the house.

1934 Morgan Howell Jones of Llwynhelyn  
*executor of will of ET Hopkins of The Shield*

1939 Mr and Mrs MH Jones, the parents of Mrs Enfys Brown, lived here. Revd Owen Jones (b Caernarvon in 1845, minister of Ramoth Baptist Chapel, Cowbridge 1883 to 1910, and instrumental in building the schoolroom at Llanblethian, d 1922) was the father of Mr Jones. MHJ died 1940  
*Information from Mrs Brown*

1950s Irene (?Heather) Morgan's nursery school  
*Information from Mrs Brown*

**Joseph May** is described as an ostler. It is known that the house was not inhabited in 1851 and previous excavation in the garden carried out by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust has identified a stable yard approximately 200 years old. The Tithe map of 1843 shows no cottage at the north end of the burgage plot behind the house and it is possible that a stabling yard remained there until that time. TM Price in *Glamorgan Gazette*, 16/2/1923, stated that May was 'in charge of the Bear Hotel yard and stables, where scores of horses were stabled, as well as the chariots and carriages of the county gentry.'

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## **77 High Street**

Garden excavations have shown there were buildings on this site in Roman and medieval times. The remains of a 200-year old stable yard were also discovered; this may well have been used by the 1843 occupant, an ostler named Joseph May, who later became the landlord of the Ancient Druid in Eastgate.

It is believed that the present building, with its simple two storey design, traditional windows and small porch, was put up around 1850, and was given the name Tydfil. For the rest of the nineteenth century it became the home of the widow and children of a blacksmith, John Harman, who had died in the eighteen forties when the family were living in Westgate. His daughter Susanna, a milliner, remained unmarried and stayed in the house until her death.

At the turn of the century John David, a prominent citizen of the town, took up residence. He was at various times auctioneer, borough treasurer and deputy registrar, and he was a founder member of the firm of auctioneers and estate agents still occupying premises next door but one at 81 High St. There is evidence that the house was improved at this time. A fine tiled floor was laid in the hallway, holly trees were planted on either side of the front door and the name of the house was

appropriately altered to Llwyn Celyn (Holly Bush). Although the house has always remained a private home, Irene Morgan's nursery school was held there in the 1950s.

*'Cowbridge Buildings and People', published by CRS 1998*

***Sources/abbreviations :***

*GRO Glamorgan Record Office*

*PRO Public Record Office (Kew)*

*LTA Land tax assessments*

*BR Burgage rents (GRO)*

*D/D Deposits in GRO*

*Tithe, census, directories, electoral registers – in GRO*

*RCAHM Royal Commission Ancient & Historic Monuments*