

2 Westgate, Cowbridge – The Bush Inn

This was formerly the Bush inn, situated at the corner of Westgate and the Butts.

Cowbridge Borough records show that in 1835 land 'near the sheep pens' was leased for 99 years to Ann Llewellyn, with a covenant to build thereon within 18 months.

L Hopkin James in 'Old Cowbridge' states the Bush Inn was listed under 'Persons obtaining certificates by 1836'.

The first innkeeper here, in the 1840s, to property belonging to Ann Llewellyn (1843 tithe map), was a Miles Morgan from St Nicholas. He married a Mary Evans of Llantrisant in 1837; by 1851 they are recorded as having five children. In 1861 Miles is shown as being a victualler and haulier, with one of his sons working as a maltster journeyman. The Glamorgan Rate Book for 1874 shows that Miles Morgan also rented a Malthouse in eagle Lane from Revd. Thomas Edmondes, and that the Bush was then owned by Thomas Llewellyn.

Miles Morgan died in 1876; he is buried at Llansannor along with his wife, who died in 1872. The public house was taken over by Isaac Williams from Llanmaes – like many publicans, he had a main day employment as a blacksmith (directory for 1880 and 1881 census). In 1881 he was 28 and his wife Mary 34, with a two year old daughter. He was possibly the son-in-law of Miles Morgan. John Kibblewhite from Highworth in Wiltshire had taken charge by the 1891 census – aged 59 with wife Mary aged 63 from Llantrisant. By this time the building was owned by the Revd. TL Lister of Newport, originally a Cowbridge man as he was the son of Lister the chemist.

George Breeze held the licence from 1894 till July 1897, when William Hayter and his wife Mary took over. William died in 1906 (buried in Holy Cross church), and Mary then took on the licence till her death in 1919.

In a 1920 directory, the innkeeper is listed as a Mrs. Elizabeth LA Morgan, who later moved across the road to be licensee of the Pelican from 1923. In 1923 the licensee of the Bush was Mrs Fanny Walker, but after that date it appears to have reverted to a private dwelling house.

Much of this research done by KP Morgan, I Ashby and R Press 1998

1881, June 'A pure Glamorgan boar, bred by a high class breeder, to serve during this year – apply to Mr Isaac Williams, Bush Inn, Cowbridge' *Glamorgan Gazette*

1925, 5th February Licence renewal for the Bush inn, which belonged to the Corporation, objected to by the Police authorities. *B/Cow 18 Minute book*

1925, 10th March Bush inn – licensing judges had referred the licence for compensation on grounds of redundancy *B/Cow 18 Minute book*

1925, 2nd July Compensation authority offered £800 compensation which the Borough agent agreed to accept (£685 to corporation, £115 to tenant) *B/Cow 18 Minute book*

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO Glamorgan Record Office

B/Cow Borough Council papers (GRO)

Tithe, census, directories, electoral rolls etc – in GRO