## 42 Westgate, Cowbridge – Wren Cottage

This property was shown on the Burgess Roll of 1782 to be owned by Charles Edwin (Wyndham) and tenanted by Dr Bates. It consisted of one burgage plot.

Burgage rents 4

By 1806, the ownership had passed to Thomas Wyndham, with Dr Bates continuing as tenant, at 1/- per annum

The ownership then changed to the Hon. Wyndham Quin, and the tenancy to David Howell.

1819 Owner Wyndham Quin; occupier David Howell, West Gate House LTA

?1840 A 60 year lease was given from the Dunraven estate to Rees

The *1843 tithe account* shows the property as 'buildings and garden', the owner being the Earl of Dunraven, and the occupier Richard Rees.

1849 Richard Thomas, beer retailer, West Village Hunts directory

1851 Richard Thomas at the Nags Head, a kitchen gardener b Laleston with wife Mary, a baker b Cardigan, daughters Ann, 17, Elizabeth, 15, and son John, 12; also niece Rachel Lloyd, 16 a dressmaker *Census 20* 

1861 Richard Thomas, 61, victualler and agricultural labourer, with wife Mary, 63, daughter Elizabeth Thomas, 25, no occupation, and son John, 22, cabinet maker journeyman, grandson William R Williams, 8, a scholar b Llandaff and granddaughter Ann Williams, 6 b Cowbridge; also George Jones, lodger, 28, tailor journeyman b Worcs. *Census 124* 

1865 The pub had been re-named The Greyhound (formerly at 51 High Street, which became the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery).
The licensee was William Henry Thomas, who had moved from Hilldrop, Piccadilly. *Webster's directory He died in 1871.*

1871 William Thomas, beer retailer, b Mathry, Pembs., with wife Mary and lodgers William Morgan and / Bridford Wermain - Greyhound *Census 138* 

1881Mrs Mary Thomas, widow , 66 innkeeper b Carmarthenshire, with lodger John<br/>Lewis, 71 from Haverfordwest.Census

1891 till 1901/2Thomas Davies, licensed victualler/labourerCensus 5

chs03821 42 Westgate research.doc

In 1881, Thomas Davies, the oldest son of Daniel Davies 'Letter Carrier' of Eastgate, was working as a general labourer. Ten years later, in 1891, he was the landlord of 'The Greyhound' when work on the extension of the Cowbridge Railway to the coast was in full swing and the town was full of railway navvies and their families. Whereas the Thomases only had one lodger, the new landlord squeezed in his family and 4 lodgers. The household also included a servant, taken on no doubt to cope with the extra work load.

By the *1901 census*, construction work was finished. The navvies and the servants had departed. Thomas Davies, inn keeper was also a railway plate layer. He had a wife Clara, and daughters Ethel, Elizabeth and Florence, and sons William and Arthur. Census 226

**The ownership** of the property from 1894 - 1900 was Mr Thomas Rees, a Cowbridge solicitor.

It then passed to RH Stiles, a brewer from Bridgend,

and in 1911 to Mr Thomas Lewis, a retired blacksmith of Cowbridge.

1902-6 Ann Giles

Then George Brown and Alf Pugh, for a few months only.

- 1907 William John Villis was the licensee, and the pub remained the Greyhound until 1923/26.
- 1910 The Greyhound, occupier William Villis\*; owner Mr Styles, Brewery House, Bridgend (? freehold, Dunraven)
  'Three downstairs rooms and cellar, three up and boxroom. Small stable at rear. No back entrance. Very old property, fairly good repair'. Rateable value £6. Domesday valuation list

During World War 1, Mrs Mary Villis lived in Wren Cottage and also the Greyhound inn where she ran a shop. *Memories of grandson David Hayman* 

1913The licensed inn, tenant Mr Styles, was sold to Thomas Lewis, blacksmith of<br/>Croft Terrace for £255D/D SA 5/22

1926 Kelly's directory referred to the building as a shop, later to become tea rooms.

\*Mr Villis was the grandfather of David Hayman (see 'memories' file, 2013)

## Souces/abbreviations :

Directories, census, tithe, D/D deeds & other documents – held in Glamorgan Record Office(GRO). LTA = land tax assessments (in GRO)

chs03821 42 Westgate research.doc