

## Westgate north side residents & other notes

### **Westgate North Side** – *Memories of Tim Edwards of the 1940s/50s*

Thorn Villa - Mr and Mrs Thomas, the parents of Cliff Thomas living in Llwynhelig Farm. Cliff's wife was Cynthia and they were the grandparents of Pat, who married Dai John. Cynthia went to live in widowhood at Man yr Haf, Broadway (near Cusop). Other children were Lindsey and Clive.

Westgate Inn (formerly) - Maudie and Daisy Russell (sisters). The pub licence ended just before World War II, but during the war they sold cigarettes and Corona pop in the back room. You had to go along a flagged passageway to access it. Scrubbed wooden shelving with different varieties of Thomas and Evans Corona, and later Northern in fatter bottles. Maude was usually the one pouring it into glasses – a penny a cup (Like Ellen Crowley served in the Bridge Inn). Daisy worked in the Grammar School kitchens.

Then the old toll house with a tin roof, formerly thatched - Hallett family. Jenkin and his wife and lots of children. Some of their boys worked at Llwynhelig Farm. Jenkin worked at Aberthaw power station. His parents lived across the road in one of the cottages near the Manse.

Woodlands - built about 1937 by Willie Whone or his father. He then had the 4 houses in Woodlands Close built for his sons in 1938, but they did not want them, so he rented them out and Tim's parents were the first to move in there at no. 4 about 1939.

Later into Woodlands came Arthur Jones (the garage) and his wife, 'Braces'. His father, also Arthur, lived in the big house by Cross Inn, backing on to the Llanblethian road. They had two children, Susan and Peter, then moved to Llansannor Court. After them came Dr Hinde, a radiologist at Llandough Hospital.

Woodlands Close - Tim's parents were at no. 4 and bought it for £800 in the mid 1950s. At no. 3 were the Haymans, no.2 Mr Lathrope, who was in charge of the gas works and later the calor gas supply, and finally at no. 1 Mr and Mrs Woosnam (Elsie, who worked at Crossways hospital during the war with Tim's mum, Linda). After war ended, a Mr and Mrs Davies replaced the Woosnams.

Wayside (Cecil England's bungalow) - built for one of the Bird family. During the war the Jenkinse were there (Idris, his wife and twin children), and by 1951 the Walkers had moved in (a Scottish couple from South Africa; he worked for Spillers).

People at this end of Westgate had to fetch their water from the pump by the Police Station for a while till the supply was fitted. There is still the well (now surrounded by flowers) where the steam lorries filled up with water during the war.

The Nook - Tim's godmother lived there, Mrs Pinkerton and her husband. He called her 'auntie'. He heard later she had lost two baby boys at birth and they had no more children. They came to live there in the 1920s.

Archway House - Mr and Mrs Penny. He was the gardener for Old Hall and the Grammar School (though Mr Carter looked after the school kitchen garden – now the Physic Garden). They had a beautiful garden here in Westgate – grew tomatoes, kept chickens. There were pilots lodging there during the war, training at RAF Llandow.

Later, Roy Griffiths and his wife took over the property, then Arthur Smith, who worked for the council, and several children.

The last bungalow on this side was owned by Gethin Thomas (and son Robert). Before that, he had lived with his family in the tall 3-storey house behind the Eagle Stores adjoining the Bear Field. He had to go through his depot to get into it. There was just a field on Westgate here, but then Gethin built a two-storey house, and the Vaughans built one next to it (they had previously lived across the road in Burradoo).

Mount Vernon was where Vivien Wythe lived (either with her husband or her parents before she was married).

The house attached on the left to Ivy House was lived in by Johnson Miles (the first socialist mayor for Cowbridge). He was killed in a car crash in 1949. His daughter became Mrs Buchalik, one of the teachers in Y Bontfaen primary school.

Ivy House - Mrs Tilley and her son David.

Next door - Mr Newton, blacksmith, together with the Spencers in Bear Lane. Somewhere here too was Glyn Spencer, who had an outbuilding at the rear where Broadshord begins today, 'Spencer's Loft'. Tim used to play there.

Then the Baptist Church.

Then someone who worked for Browns the printers, and next Ken Hutchings (councillor), who also worked at the printers.

Broad Shoard House was occupied by the Lewis brothers.

There was a stamp machine on the edge of the pavement near the post-box (which is still there at the entrance to Broadshord), but there was no road there then. Just two pillars.

Near where the Red Cross Hut stands, in the corner, was an EWS tank (emergency water supply) during the war, and the concrete base was there for years afterwards.

The Broadshord was a field. There was a long wall on the right-hand side, kissing gates, stiles, hedges.

The large bungalow (now four town houses) was lived in by Mervyn and Dorothy Evans. They had a huge amount of land (seven houses now on it all). She was nicknamed 'the charging bull' because of her energy. They used their garden for loads of fruit, vegetables etc. In one of their front rooms was a dentist's clinic (Lester Brown, with his Jowett Javelin car outside).

After that was a garage and a row of terraced houses, as today, in which was a saddler (bald head), Deaves family, Mr Small (bus driver), and a passage way, cobbled. Brian and John Trott lived in a house in there, part of the Pelican.

There was an archway (still slightly visible) by Eddie John's store where a Bedford truck had to reverse in. Lots of stuff always being loaded in Eagle Lane and Bear Lane.

Woodstock House had the Food Office in its downstairs front room during the war (still used as a baby clinic in the 1960s), and upstairs lived Paul Summers (undertaker of Cardiff).

In 77 High St (Llwyncelyn) lived Dilwyn Morgan who ran the Vale of Glamorgan off-licence. He was one of several children – brother John was a professional singer who married Helena Hughes-Jones, Cliff Morgan had a butchers in St Athan (lived on the lane up to Penlline), Dilwyn (his wife ran a private school in no 77 for a while), and Gwyn, butcher in Eastgate.

*Recorded by Betty Alden, June 2014*

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## **Cowbridge Shops Before World War 1 – from Westgate Inn**

Mrs Alice Griffiths lived in a cottage just below the Westgate Inn and sold sweets from a few jars and boxes. Incidentally, she was said to be the last woman locally to milk sheep, which she did at Llwynhelig, her payment being the Sunday milking.

Mrs Edwin Lewis sold sweets and ice cream in her shop at Ramoth Chapel cottage. The raspberry sauce poured over the ice cream is well remembered. It is said that she had a good voice and went to America with Madam Clara Novello Davies's choir.

Mr D H Davies, saddlery and repair business in premises nearly opposite the National Westminster Bank.

Messrs Edward John and Son, Eagle Agricultural Stores in Westgate, and around into Eagle Lane.

*From parish magazine 1970s – unknown source*

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## **Memories of Pam Jones, The Old Manse (married to Colwyn)**

The pump, which was on the opposite side of the road to where it is now, was for drinking water. It was the job of Dr Thomas, Pam's father to go there daily to fetch the family's drinking water supply – they were then living in Stafford House.

Opposite the Manse is 'White Well', now a flower bed, but was where traction engines and steam rollers took on water. The water table there is high and the water was pumped out at times.

No. 42 Westgate was a front-room pub, and had cellars for storage.

Westgate House was also a pub, run by two sisters, the Misses Russell. One was lift-lady at County Hall, Cardiff. There was a serving hatch to serve the brew. No electricity – they went to bed as it got dark and rose with the dawn. The house was owned by Penlline estate. It was sold to Keith Evans, who built the modern house further up Gibbets Hill. Beyond the forestry, on the right hand side, are three ash trees planted to commemorate the last three men to be hanged there on Gibbets Hill.

Next door down from the Westgate was the thatched toll house, with its privies across the road.

The patch of ground which now houses the Hopyard Meadow flats was a hop meadow – wild hops in the hedges, perhaps collected for making beer in the town.

From Woodlands Close, the field extended all the way down to the cottage next to Ivy House.

34 Westgate was where Miss Thomas ran the Dame school for children up to 11 years. The classroom on the right, sitting room on the left. It closed in the early 1950s when Miss Thomas married Ted Howells and went to live in Picton House, Llanblethian.

The Greyhound publican was Glen Watkins.

Two houses built with their drive to the left of 3/40 Westgate (Malcolm & Helen). These were built by the architect Nin Anderson. He lived in one and his son in the other. The son still lives in the right hand house (Mathew, married to Anne). The left hand side one was sold to the Parkers after the deaths of Norma and Nin Anderson – mother and daughter live there.

*Notes of Jo Williams, typed by Betty Alden 2015*