

**11 Westgate (demolished, and 4 town houses built on the site), Cowbridge  
– the Bear Garden**

*On this site* : 1659 Between William Thomas of Cowbridge and William Thomas, miller, of Cowbridge

lease of 1 barn with garden plot, and house adjoining, without the West Gate having the house of Richard Howell adj on the east  
highway on south  
house of Jenkin Thomas on west  
croft of said William Thomas gent on north

*Dunraven 31*

1659 Between William Hopkins , Wm Thomas late of Cowbridge and Mary Hopkins sister to Wm Thomas and wife to Wm Hopkins (1) and Thomas ap Thomas of Llanarfarn (2)

- house or tenement in tenure of Jennet Watkin with garden place adjoining, in tenure of Jennet Watkin, with one moiety of ground commonly called the barn in tenure of Wm Thomas of Cowbridge, miller, with all that croft or parcel of ground next to the premises, containing 0.75 acres, in occupation of John William, miller

outside the West Gate  
high road on south  
Broad Shoard or Town Ditch on west  
Town Wall Close on north  
Footway from Westgate to the Town Walls on east

*Dunraven 31*

1677 Thomas ap Thomas of Llanarfarn, to John Wyndham conveyance of 0.75 acres croft or parcel of land late in tenure of Richard Hughes, decd

also the reversion of 1 tenement and garden in tenure of Jenkin Thomas  
also 1 parcel of land called the barn, now in tenure of Margaret Bell, widow, relict of Richard Hughes, outside the West Gate

high road on south  
Broad Shoard on west  
town wall slope on north  
garden and house of Richard Hughes on east

*Dunraven 31*

1813 All that garden in western village adjoining turnpike road through the town, now in occ and tenure of James Simpson etc.

*Dun 194 in NLW*

1913 Sale of Dunraven estate. This plot is known as *The Bear garden*; the accompanying map shows no buildings

*Sale documents*

1890, 18<sup>th</sup> December Will of William Llewellyn – left all his property to his nephew Thomas Llewellyn Lister

1891, 12<sup>th</sup> February William Llewellyn died

- 1901 Occupied by John Thomas, tailor, born Llandeilo, and wife Rachel, nee Griffiths, born St Brides, with their children William, ornamental mason, Parry, a railway porter, and Brinley, Mabel and Alfred, plus mother in law Margaret Griffiths  
(John Thomas was a nephew of JD Evans) *Census*
- 1913, 31<sup>st</sup> July The Dunraven estate (the Earl of Dunraven) conveyed to Canon Thomas Llewellyn Lister of St Mark's Vicarage, Newport, Gwent – the garden of No. 9 and No. 11 Westgate (the piece of ground on which was erected the rear portion of the dwelling house, and the adjacent dwelling house), now in the occupation of the purchaser *Aberthin 159, NLW*
- 1919, 15<sup>th</sup> September Canon T. Llewellyn Lister of Newport sold 11 Westgate to Rachel Thomas, widow of 11 Westgate
- 1923, March Rachel Thomas sold to William John Thomas and his wife Rosa Mary of Brynblodau, Aberthin, post office clerk
- 1923, May William Jenkins of 3 The Butts sold to WJ Thomas – land adjoining the eastern part of a garden, commonly called the Bear Garden (17ft 6 2/2 x 129ft 2")
- 1925 William Jenkins sold to WJ Thomas the adjoining eastern part, being the continuation south to north (17ft 6" x 95ft 2")
- 1942 WJ Thomas, postmaster of Cowbridge post office, sold to Frederick P Roberts, retired station master of 11 Westgate – the house and adjacent garden
- Mervyn and Dorothy Evans lived in 11 Westgate during WW2 and until the 1950s – he was a member of the Ducal Drinkers. They had a son John and a daughter. Leicester Brown the dentist had a surgery in the left-hand front room. *Memories of Tim Edwards*
- 1980 Mary Roberts, widow, sold to the present owners
- Ca 2000 The building was demolished and the site re-developed

*Sources/abbreviations :*

- GRO* Glamorgan Record Office – census  
*NLW* National Library of Wales – Dunraven and Aberthin papers