

## 75 High St and Coopers Lane

### Excavation of medieval and Roman buildings on this site :

The building line of the Coopers building opposite Old Hall extended to the pavement. When this was demolished, the foundations of a thirteenth or fourteenth century building (perhaps a merchant's house) were found about a yard back from the pavement. The medieval walls running at right-angles to the road have a post-medieval facing, and on the wall adjoining Llwyncelyn a medieval aumbrey (stone cupboard) and traces of windows can be seen. A pointed archway has been lost.

Underneath the floor and foundations of the fourteenth century house is considerable evidence of Roman settlement. There appear to have been at least four phases of building in the second and third centuries. Traces of burning over much of the site suggest the destruction of wooden structures by fire during the occupation; a small tiled area and some stone floors have been exposed, and a north-south road visible at the front of the excavation, at right-angles to the Roman road, suggests that the settlement may have been extensive. Much pottery – both the hard red Samian ware imported from Gaul, and the local grey earthenware – has been found.

A number of members of the History Society have helped the team from the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

*Article written by Jeff Alden  
for the History Society newsletter January 1978.*

For details of the excavations, see the Dave Allen report (chs 0639) and 'Excavations in Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, 1977-88, ed. J. Parkhouse and Edith Evans; BAR British Series 245, 1996

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1674, 22<sup>nd</sup> January James Beaple gent and William Aubrey, alderman of Cowbridge to John Wyndham of Lincolns Inn – parcel of ground known as the Tanyard, formerly called the priest's chamber, and garden and stable, now in the tenure of John Wyndham.  
*Dunraven, schedule 30*

1712 Release for £7.10s - Ann Ames of Cowbridge, spinster, daughter of Henry Ames deceased, to brother in law Richard David of Cowbridge, baker, all rights in a capital messuage called the bakehouse.  
*D/D Ed 72*

1712 Release for £5 – Elizabeth Ames, late of Cowbridge – property as above.  
*Ed 2003*

- 1725-6 Two messuages formerly in the occupation of John Nicholls and a bakehouse adjacent east the lands formerly of John Wyndham called the Tanyard, west the lands of John Tyler; north the Town Walls, south the street, formerly in the possession of Henry Ames. Deed of partition between Joan Rees, widow of William Rees (and daughter of Henry Ames) and Richard David (wife Mary David was the daughter of Henry Ames)  
*D/D Ed 73*
- 1727 Mortgage for £20, Richard David the baker – messuage called the bakehouse, adjacent west the house of Joan Rees, east the court (tanyard) of Thomas Wyndham (around 73 High St.) on the north end of the town.  
*D/D Ed 74,75*
- 1729 Thomas Wyndham of Gloucester to Mary David, widow – stable, one burgage, adjacent north the lands of Thomas Wyndham, west the house of Mary David, east the house of Pierce Cornish, south the highway  
*D/D Ed 76*
- 1730 Henry William of Llantrisant, gent. and Mary David to William Davies of Cowbridge esq. and bailiff of the town – messuage : bakehouse and stable, one burgage, called the tanhouse, purchased from Thomas Wyndham (around 73 High St.)  
*D/D Ed 77*
- 1738 (T. Wyndham deleted) one burgage the Tanyard in the tenure of Morgan William. Morgan William for three-quarters burgage by transfer (75 High St)  
Burgage rentals
- 1744 Morgan Williams the Tanyard, one burgage, tenant of Thomas Edmondes  
*BR 154*
- 1744 Morgan Williams, three quarter burgage, his own house (75 High St) *BR 155*
- 1745 Messuage called ?B...house – Thomas Morris of Clerkenwell to Thomas Edmondes, adjoining east and south the house of Thomas Edmondes, west and north the malthouse of Thomas Edmondes  
*D/D Ed 80*
- 1759 Malthouse on site of old Oak house and Tanhouse in occupation of Oliver Richards  
*D/D Ed 265*

Cargo Malthouse lately erected by Thomas Edmondes where an old oak house and tanhouse formerly stood together with all granaries storehouses kilns courts yards and ?..ground.

*Cl deeds II 3007*

1762 75 High St – Mr Edmondes owned, late Morgan Williams, three quarter burgage  
*Burgage rentals 149*

1778 Lease for three years – two malthouses, courtyards and shop (formerly occupied by John Cole) excepting the little building at the end of the new Malthouse, two arched rooms called the cellars beneath the new Malthouse and part of the courtyard between the gate and house of Philip John, marked out for building a house.

Assignment of right and interest re Walter Williams of the Bear inn, Richard Lougher of the Red Lion etc. *D/D Ed 145*

1780 Ground, malthouse and buildings of Thomas Edmondes, now let to Messrs Williams and Thomas *Ed 2003*

Ca 1780 and 1783 Thomas Edmondes junior Esq. owner – one burgage the Tanyard  
*BR 152*

Thomas Edmondes junior Esq. owner – threequarter burgage the Malt House *BR 153*

1784 & 1800 75 High St – owner and occupier Thomas Edmondes 2/- *LTA*

1799-1804 Thomas Edmondes Esq. landlord, Edward Jenkins tenant, one burgage, Yard  
*BR 152*

Thomas Edmondes Esq. landlord, Edward Jenkins tenant, three quarter burgage  
Malt House *BR 153*

1800 Owner & occupier Thomas Edmondes, 2/- (75 High St) *LTA*

1802 Thomas Edmondes with Christopher Bradley innkeeper of Cowbridge, three cellars with Brewhouse and maltkin loft in ruinous state (81 foot long by 20 foot broad) occupied by Edward Jenkins maltster, adjoining to great Malthouse *D/D Ed 150*

1804 19 year lease to Christopher Bradley – as above *Ed 2003*

1806 – 1832 Thomas Edmndes owner, Edward Jenkins occupier, Yard and Malthouse, one and three quarter burgages (75 High St) *BR 152,153*

1815 75 High St – Owner Thos Edmondes, occupier Lewis Morgan etc. 2/- *LTA*

1830 75 High St – Owner Tho Edmondes, occupier Lewis Morgan etc. 2/- *LTA*

1843 Malthouse : Thomas Edmondes owner, Samuel Howells occupier  
Cottages on east : Thos Edmondes owner, David Richards and other occupiers *Tithe*  
At 75 High St – Owner Thos Edmondes, occupier James Turner *Tithe*

- 1851 Malthouse Yard : Joan David, 47, laundress Glamorgan *Census 126*  
One house uninhabited  
David Richards, 68, tailor, pauper, b Glamorgan *Census 127*  
One house uninhabited.  
At 75 High St – James Turner, 60, hairdresser b Hereford, with wife and son  
*Census 128*
- 1861 Malthouse Yard :  
Richard Akers, 48, shepherd, b Oxford, with wife and granddaughter *Census 95*  
James Williams, 37, agricultural labourer and wife *Census 96*  
David Richards, 73, tailor journeyman, b Glamorgan *Census 97*  
Elizabeth Lewis, 84, shoemaker's widow, b Glamorgan *Census 98*  
At 75 High St – Edward Morgan, 66 agricultural labourer b Llantrisant, with wife  
and 2 grandchildren *Census 99*
- 1871 Malthouse Yard : David John, 76, mason b Cowbridge *Census 104*  
John Lewis, 60, saddler b Haverfordwest with wife and son *Census 105*  
Two houses uninhabited  
Elizabeth Thomas, 46, widow, seamstress, b Llanblethian, with daughter and 2  
sons (she was in Cardiff Rd, census 235, in 1861, and migrated to New Zealand  
in 1875 – info from great granddaughter)  
*Census 106*
- 1871 At 75 High St – John Perkins, 52, hairdresser b Llandow *Census 107*
- 1874 Samuel Howells occupied; Revd Thos Edmondes owned, stable and coach house  
in Malthouse Yard *Glamorgan County Rate 15*
- 1874, 26 March Baptism of Mary Ann Morries, daughter of George & Mary Morries of  
75 High St, weigher (in 1872 G & M Morries were living in Dowlais, and he was a  
railway office clerk) *Llb. parish records*
- 1881 At 75 High St- Ann Williams, 58, domestic servant b St Brides  
*Census 268*
- 1881 Old Brewery, Cowbridge –Thomas Spencer announces that he has taken on the  
old-established business, successfully carried on by the late Mr. Samuel Howell.  
*Glamorgan Gazette 25<sup>th</sup> March*
- 1891 75 High St.- Mark Roberts, 39, milk vendor b Cheshunt, Herts, with wife and  
daughter *Census 261*
- 1901 75 High St. – James Lewis, cooper (Jim the cooper) \* 42, b Cardiff, with niece  
Elizabeth McIlquaham, 10, b Bristol (three rooms) *Census 159*

1910s – 20s David Tilley had his wheelwright's shop halfway along, on the same side as Jim the cooper (*or was this Eagle Lane?*)

*Mrs Joyce Tonkin*

1912 James Lewis, cooper\*, works

*Western Mail directory*

**\*Jim Lewis the cooper** – ‘a very clever man, I spent ages watching him. There was a stink of glue in his living room from all his tools and stuff. He used to get the oak out into slats, soak them and put weights on to get the shape of the barrel. Get them outside. Plane them to perfection. Put them in metal bands. Used to put down between them a sliver. Another band on. Pick up shavings in barrel – set fire to them. Sandpaper all round. Band round to tighten them. Square nails, like studs. Before he tightened the top band – lid with thin edge to fit in recess on top of barrel...’ *Memories of Arthur John, who grew up in Church St.*

‘I used to take him the Echo and Football Echo, especially the Football Echo. He was a tallish man, not very stout, an old-fashioned sort of person. He lived on his own ...his living room was his workshop as well. He used to sit in a chair in the corner near the fire. It was a very cluttered room filled with his tools all over the place.

George Bond's father bought his planes gimlets and other tools when he finished. He used to have very long planes, 6 feet long, and would stand these outside at an angle and run the wooden staves along the plane to shave them into shape On fine days he'd bring his wood outside to work there, and would band the barrels outside too.’

*Memories of Mervyn Harkett.*

Also see ‘*Cowbridge and District Remembered 1900-1950*’, published by CRS 2002

1950s, 60s Edward John's corn stores

*Local knowledge*

1977 Demolition of building.

Archaeological excavation (1977-8)

*GGAT*

1979 Rear building used by (Howard) John and Davies, agricultural merchants

*Cowbridge Week programme*

1999 Yorkshire Building Society (75 High St) with houses in Coopers Lane

Rear building – ‘Sorrento’ storerooms, church offices above.

*Comments on new houses in Coopers Lane – ‘The Buildings of Glamorgan’, pub. Penguin*

*Sources/abbreviations :*

*GRO Glamorgan Record Office*

*Census, tithe, directories, electoral rolls - GRO*

*D/D Deposits in GRO*

*Dunraven papers – in GRO or National Library of Wales*

*GGAT Glamorgan/Gwent Arch. Trust*

*BR Burgage rents (GRO)*

*LTA Land tax assessments (GRO)*