

## 14 High St

*There are two separate sections here, based on an examination of the Burgage Rentals. From at least 1762, the two adjoining properties (one half a burgage and the next one quarter – BR 39 and 40) have the same owners; after 1798 they have owners and occupiers in common, and were possibly combined to form one property. The current Martin's the newsagents building, with archway, seems to be wider than a half burgage plot – possibly three quarters.*

### *(a) The easternmost rental :*

1738 Joan Lyddon, widow, for half burgage BR 40

1744 Joan Lyddon, quarter burgage in tenure of Thomas Hopkin BR 42

1750, 3<sup>rd</sup> July Wm Lord Talbot to Thomas Thomas shopkeeper, 21 yr lease – all those 2 cottages, garden and one meadow ground commonly called and known....Gwain y Gare (2 and a quarter acres) adjoining the east gate, as Richard Bates's widow lately held.  
*D/Dyn 162*

1762 James Morgan, late Joan Lyddon – freehold, late Thos. Hopkin tenure, quarter burgage BR40

1766 Will of James Morgan – messuage near the east gate purchased from Hugh Hopkin clerk to his brother Henry Morgan *D/D Cl 1/216*

1784 Henry Morgan owned; John Thomas occupied BR 41

1798-1804 Edward Bird owned; Mrs Bevan occupied, quarter burgage BR 41

1805 – 1816 Edward Bird owned; Mrs Bevan occupied, quarter burgage BR 41

1832 – 1836 James Bird owned and occupied, quarter burgage BR 41

### *(b) The westernmost rental :*

1738 Alice Williams, widow, half a burgage BR 41

1762 James Morgan, late Alice Williams, owned, half burgage BR 39

1766 Will of James Morgan, devises to his brother Henry Morgan, linen draper and haberdasher of Bristol – messuages and lands in Llantwit Major and Llanblethian; land in Llandow; messuage occupied by Wm Thomas maltster and ironmonger, purchased from Mrs Richards, widow of Thos. Richards, surgeon of Cowbridge; messuage purchased

from Alice Williams, widow, deceased; and messuage near the east gate purchased from  
Hugh Hopkins, clerk, all in Cowbridge *D/D Cl 1/216*

1767 – 1782 James Morgan owned; John David occupied, half burgage *BR*

1778 Lease, Earl Talbot to Mr Thomas Thomas of Cowbridge, gent. – two cottages  
and garden etc. in Cowbridge, with one parcel of meadow called Gwain y Gare, now in  
the tenure of Thomas Thomas or undertenant, for 99 years or three lives of son John  
Thomas, daughter Martha Thomas, and grandson Thomas Thomas, son of Benjamin  
Thomas of Cowbridge, shopkeeper *D/D St 1/3*

1783 Henry Morgans owned; John Thomas occupied, half burgage *BR40*

1787 Lease of a piece of unenclosed ground adjacent east the Town Ditch, west the  
Town Wall and the inn or alehouse called the Lamb *B/Cow 135*  
(In 1825, a lease of the same land states ‘west the premises occupied by James Bird,  
ironmonger’ *B/Cow 141*)

1793 Isaac Skynner owned and occupied, 2/- *LTA*

1793 Isaac Skynner, hatmaker *Universal British directory*

1796 Isaac Skynner owned; Edward Williams (Iolo Morganwg ?) occupied *LTA*

1796 Edward Bird purchased the property and the adjoining meadow, Waun y Gaer  
*Diary of John Bird 1790-1803, edited by Hilary Thomas*

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1798 Edward Bird, great great uncle of Ralph Bird (and brother of  
Ralph’s gt gt grandfather John Bird), ironmonger of Cardiff, bought from Mr Wm  
Skynner of Worksop – all that messuage or dwelling house with the stables, workshops,  
outhouses, courtyard and garden thereunto, and a meadow called Waun y Gar  
*Information from Ralph Bird*

1798 – 1804 Edward Bird owned; Mrs Bevan occupied, half a burgage *BR 40*

1800 Edward Bird owned; Rebecca Bevan occupied, 2/- *LTA*

1815 Edward Bird owned; James Bird occupied, 2/- *LTA*

1830 James Bird owned and occupied, 2/- *LTA*

1833 Lease of no 16 refers to being adjacent to the dwelling house, malthouse and  
garden of James Bird *D/D Cl 3*

1837 Death of Sarah Bird *Parish records*

- 1843 James Bird owned and occupied *Tithe*
- 1850 Waun y Gare, house and lands – tenant Thomas Ballard, rent £21.2s  
*Abstract of title GDGBFB3*
- 1851 James Bird, 75, born Cardiff, ironmonger, with 2 daughters, one son, a servant and a lodger *Census 77*
- 1857 Death of James Bird *Parish records*
- 1859 Nathaniel Bird, ironmonger, married Anna Maria Pinkney, widow, a confectioner, the daughter of Robert Stibbs, confectioner *Cowbridge marriages, GRO*
- 1861 Nathaniel Bird, 34, with wife and an apprentice *Census 185*
- 1871 Nathaniel Bird *Census 200*
- 1881 Nathaniel Bird with wife and adopted daughter *Census 70*
- 1884 Sale of Castell y Mynach estate – pasture field, one acre +, let to Mrs Lovell on a yearly tenancy, and sub-let by her to Mr Nathaniel Bird *Sale documents*
- 1891 Nathaniel Bird with wife, sister, nephew and lodger *Census 69*
- 1895 Cowbridge Institute details (Nathaniel Bird much involved)  
*A Cowbridge Story by John Richards*
- 1898 The outbuildings (referred to in the purchase by Edward Bird in 1798) still existed. They were quite extensive. Three were maintained from uncle Nathaniel Bird's time until their demolition in the 1960s. One was Brown's shop, another the paint shop and a third the malthouse. Brown was a plumber of great skill, and the paint shop was where all kinds of paint, white lead, linseed oil etc. were housed. The malthouse was a long room with a low ceiling and a concrete floor. There is no record of it storing malt or beer being brewed on the premises. The buildings were the same height as the dwelling house, each being of three storeys.  
*Reminiscences of Ralph Bird.*
- 1901 JGH Bird, 45, born Neath, with wife, two sons and a servant *Census 132*
- 1910 JGH Bird owned and occupied *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46*  
See photocopy *PRO/IR 58/18459 85*
- 1911 James Gilbert Harold Bird, 55, land surveyor and ironmonger, with wife Elizabeth, 45 (his first wife was Anna), daughter Florence, 24, and sons Bruce, 22, and Ralph, 13, also mother-in-law Mary David *Census*
- 1912 James G Harold Bird, ironmonger *Western Mail directory*

1947 George, Bertha and Pauline Morgan at 14a High St.  
William (Billy) Batt and Mary, Denis and Gladys Clinton at 12 High St.  
*Electoral register*

1966 Negotiations concluded for the Birds to purchase Newman land on the north side of their garden centre. The garden and cottage was occupied by Mr Solomon Newman and Miss Beatty Newman.  
*Ralph Bird's reminiscences*

1968 Building next door to the east, no.12 High St., empty and condemned by 1966, was allowed to be pulled down. It was re-built as a showroom and office block, becoming Birds property in 1976.  
*Ralph Bird's reminiscences*

1978 No. 14 High St. was abandoned as it was unsafe – empty in 1980  
*Local knowledge*

1999 Martins the newsagent; Hurrans Garden Centre and Birds mower workshops etc on Waun y Gaer; plaque to Iolo Morganwg on west side of no. 14

2000 approx. Antique market stalls at front of garden centre, with café inside.

2013 Waitrose store on Waun y Gaer; Costa Coffee in no. 14

*Reminiscences of early 20<sup>th</sup> century – see Ralph Bird in 'Cowbridge and District Remembered 1900-1950' (CRS publication of 2002)*

*Archaeological excavations on the site developed for Waitrose (see report by Dick Buswell); metal studs inserted into the ground mark the line of the Town Wall. Many old glass bottles, clay pipe etc found during the development by Tim Bird.*

***Sources/abbreviations :***

*GRO Glamorgan Record Office*

*PRO Public Record Office (Kew)*

*LTA Land tax assessments (GRO)*

*D/D Deposits held in GRO*

*BR Burge rents (GRO)*

*Tithe, census, directories, register of electors etc all in GRO*