

## 81 High Street

### The Building

This is a Grade II Listed Building. CADW consider that the current house was built in the early to middle of the 19th century. However, the following history would show that there was a much earlier building on the same spot.

The CADW listing is:

Exterior: Three storeys. Three bay elevation with pebbledash cladding and slate gabled roof with red brick stack to right hand. Sash windows. On ground floor central pedimented doorcase with plain fanlight and six-panelled door; to each side, a storied canted three-light bay window rising to first floor; central first single-light sash window with marginal glazing bars. Sash windows four panes wide, left hand one with horns, on second floor.

Interior: Inside, central ground floor passage walls have been removed but left hand ground floor "room" retains early C19 fireplace with reeded architrave, angle blocks with flanking cupboards with three-panelled doors; right hand "room" with C19 fireplace; rear contemporary staircase with straight balusters and hardwood rail; four panelled doors on first floor; small bedroom grate on second floor.

### The History

#### 1. Jones

In the second half of the 17th century the house or at least the land belonged to Edward Jones of Michaelston super Ely (*a*). His will drawn up on the 9th August 1665 is almost impossible to read but in 1761 no 81 belonged to a descendent, David Jones and his wife Anne. They had a daughter also called Anne.

A deed of 1719 re 79 High Street describes No 81 as 'lands formerly of Thomas John then in possession of Richard Jenkins', (*b*)

In 1738, Catherine Morgan, widow, is shown as the tenant of a plot of 5/8 burgages; in 1762, 'Jenkin Bowen, late Catherine Morgan, 5/8 burgages' is shown, (*c*)

- a. Will dated 9 th August 1665 of Edward Jones, in private hands*
- b. Gwyn & Gwyn, Box A, bundle 3.*
- c. Burgage Rentals #152, Bute papers NLW*

#### 2. Howell

During the time of David and Anne Jones, the mortgage on the house was probably held by Morgan Thomas. On the 4th September 1761 Jenkin Howell, a yeoman, purchased the house from Morgan Thomas (*a*). Indenture between 1). Revd. Morgan Thomas, 2). David Jones and wife Ann, 3). Ann Jones, 4). Jenkin Howell.

In 1766 Jenkin Howell died and left the house to his wife Jane. His will stipulated that if she remarried or when she died, the house was to go to their daughter Elizabeth *fa*). Jane died in January 1775 aged eighty (*b*) and Elizabeth inherited (*c*).

[The 1772 burgage rentals show Jenkin Bowen as the freeholder and Catherine Howell as the tenant, (*d*), but Jane pays the Land Tax in 1773]

- (a) Will of Jenkin Howell dated 11th September 1761, proved 31st October 1766, NL W; 1166/Llandaff/42 and House Deeds, Private Hands.*
- (b) GFHSCMB Cowbridge*
- (c) GLTR, Cowbridge, 1773, GRO*
- (d) Burgage Rentals, # 152, Bute papers, NLW*

### 3. Morris

John Morris, who was probably a farmer, was born in Cowbridge in 1727, the son of Edward and Anne Morris (*a*). He was living in Llanblethian when on the 24th April 1776 he married Elizabeth Howell (*b*) and is shown as the owner of no 81 until he died in March 1804 (*b&c*). This is confirmed in the burgage rentals of 1783: John Morris p.p. his wife, proprietor and occupier, 5/8 burgages, #156)

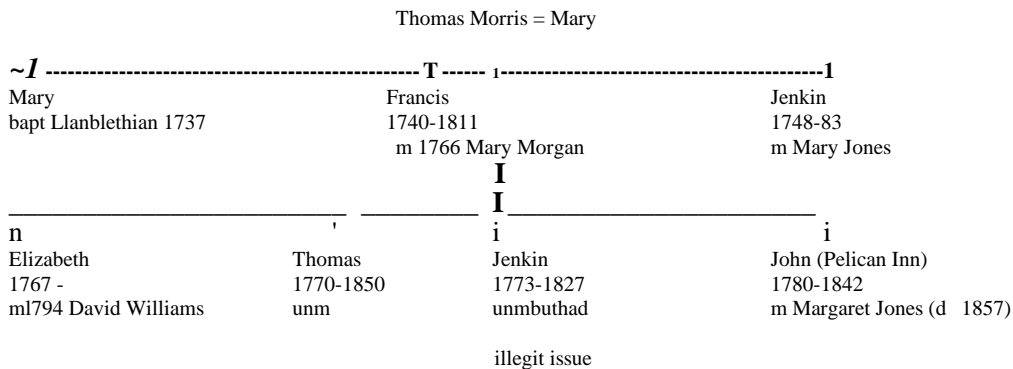
William Morris is shown in the Land Tax Assessment as the owner from 1815 until 1818. He may have died at that date because ownership reverted to Elizabeth again in 1819 (*d*).

John and Elizabeth lived in the house, and Elizabeth continued to do so after her husband's death, until 1813 (*e*).

Jenkin Morris who is shown as the owner and occupier from 1821 to 1827 (*f* & *g*). In 1823, Elizabeth died at the age of ninety-six (*a*).

From 1828 to his death in 1850, the house was owned by Thomas Morris, a maltster (Pigot, 1830), who was the brother of Jenkin Morris (*h*). Thomas Morris of Cowbridge maltster obtained a mortgage on the house from John Bevan, Gent, of 41 High St. (*i*)

- (*a*) *GFHSCMB, Cowbridge*
- (*b*) *GFHSCMB, Cowbridge*
- (*c*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1806*
- (*d*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1814, 1818 & 1820*
- (*e*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1813*
- (*f*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1821*
- (*g*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1827*
- (*h*) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1828 and 1830*
- (*i*) *Mortgage dated 1st March 1844, House Deeds, Private Hands*



### 4. James Reynolds I & II

When Elizabeth Morris vacated the house in 1813, the tenant was briefly a John Jenkin until 1814 (*a*). In 1814 James Reynolds I came to live at no 81, having moved from next door at no 79, where he had lived plying the trade of tailor (*b*). He continued with his business at no 81. The Reynolds were a large Cowbridge family and produced at least three tailors.

James I was born in 1764 and he married Margaret Walters in 1786 [*c*]. She was born in 1763, the daughter of Christopher and Margaret Walters. James I and Margaret went to

James REYNOLDS 1792 -1872 (Cowbridge)

His 'portrait appeared in the Oddfellows magazine in 1860



yours truly  
Jas. Reynolds

live at no 79 in 1788 [d] with their first child, Elizabeth, born in 1787. Whilst they lived in the house, several more children followed. Mary [1789], James II [1792], David [1795] [a]. Three more daughters, Margaret [1801], Anne [1807] and Sarah [1814] were born [a]. It may have been the arrival of Sarah which caused the family to move to the larger house at no 81.

For that period, Margaret was bearing children at a late age. She survived the move by only three years. She died in 1817, aged 54. James I survived her for many years and died in 1843, aged 79. They are both buried in Cowbridge churchyard. It would seem that right up to his death he was still operating his tailor's business as both he and his son, also James, are registered as Cowbridge tailors [e],

James I stayed on in the house until 1820.

Perhaps Elizabeth and William Morris were not very good landlords. In the last year of James Reynold's tenancy the rate on the house was reduced from four shillings to two shillings. It had always been four shillings since the first assessment in 1773. In the 1821 assessment the house is described as a ruin and only returns to four shillings in 1822 after Jenkin Morris has become the owner.

This provides us with the explanation of why the CADW listing describes a house of a much later date compared to the actual history (listing says early 19th century whereas this history shows house existing in the mid 18th century). To have achieved a doubling of the rates, Jenkin Morris would have carried out a major rebuilding of the house.

During the tenancy of James I, his son James II was in the house learning his father's trade of tailor. James II was to go on to be one of the 'larger than life' characters associated with the house. James II left Cowbridge to work in Caerphilly (f). There he married Mary Jones in 1815. She was born in 1793.

They very soon started to build what was to become James II's very large family. Daughter Jane in 1816, John in 1819, twin daughters Mary and Elizabeth in 1821 with the second twin living for only two months, Margaret in 1823, Thomas in 1824. The family moved back to Cowbridge in about 1825. Children continued to be born. David in 1826, a second Elizabeth in 1828 and Anne, who lived only three weeks in 1830. After nine children, their mother, Mary, did not survive for very long the death of her last child. Mary was buried in Cowbridge on the 14th February 1831, aged 37 (g).

James II started to raise his levels in society above that of a humble tailor. In 1825 he joined the Cardiff Sympathetic Society, which was a Friendly Society which helped widows. He extended this type of social work in 1838 by joining the Cowbridge branch of Oddfellows, the St Quentin lodge in 1837 and the Paradwys in 1839. At this time he was as active member of the Cowbridge Wesleyan Chapel when it reopened in 1838 after extensive repairs. He was then the treasurer and later was to become a lay preacher there (f). He is recorded as being the owner and occupier of 91 Eastgate in 1830(7).

In the meantime James II continued to increase the size of his family. He raised the children on his own but four years after the death of his first wife, on the 19th April 1835, he married the thirty three year old Elizabeth Hiscocks of Cowbridge. She was the daughter of two Cowbridge shopkeepers, James and Catherine Hiscocks. Between 1852 and about 1857, James Hiscocks lived in a house on Primrose Hill, Cowbridge [h], Elizabeth and her brother James had both been baptised on 27th May 1831, when she was twenty nine and he was thirty [g]. Elizabeth's brother bequeathed 89 Eastgate to her in 1836, but she died in 1838, leaving the property to her husband, James Reynolds II. (m

James Reynolds II had two children by Elizabeth (f), including Catherine Emma who was born in 1836 but lived for only eleven months (g). Elizabeth must have died and James II married again for the third time to Susan who was born in Neath in 1811 [i]. James II is now an auctioneer and 'Collector of Income and Property Taxes' [j]. For that year, he is also the Enumerator for the Census in 1851. At that date the couple were living at Bute Cottage in Llanblethian.

It is presumed that Susan died because in 1861 James II is married to Mary. They had two daughters, Catherine born in 1857 and Anne in 1860. James II had now clearly climbed the social ladder because he now lived in Great House in Cowbridge [now Williams the chemist] [k]. Two years later Mary died.

It would seem that James II married a fifth time. His obituary speaks, without giving a name, of a fifth wife who survived him. It had been her third marriage [f],

- (a) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1813*
- (b) *Text for 79 High Street, Cowbridge, CRS 2000*
- (c) *GFHCMB, Cowbridge*
- (d) *GLTR, Cowbridge, 1788, GRO*
- (e) *Pigot's Directory 1844, GRO*
- (j) *Glamorgan Family History Society Magazine, No 35, January 1995. article by Mrs Jean Istance, a great, great, great granddaughter of James Reynolds I*
- (g) *Cowbridge Parish Records, GRO*
- (h) *Cowbridge Land Tax Assessments, 1821 to 1825, GRO*
- (i) *Llanblethian Census, 1851*
- (j) *Scammel's Directory, 1852*
- (k) *Cowbridge Census, 1861*
- (l) *GLTR, 1830, GRO*
- (m) *house deeds, 89 Eastgate, Cowbridge, in private hands*

## 5. Edward Davies

In 1844, Thomas Morris still owned no 81 but the occupier was now Edward Davies (a) who was subsequently described as a surgeon, (b) Thomas Morris, maltster, mortgaged the property for £160 to John Bevan in 1844; Thomas Morris died in February 1850, leaving the property to his niece Ann David, wife of Thomas David of Llanbethery (b), carpenter

- (a) *1844 Cowbridge Tithe Map*
- (b) *Gwyn & Gwyn, Box G,*

*See Morris family file – Llancarfan, Pelican inn etc.*

## 6.. James Turner

On the 9th September 1851\*\*\* James Turner purchased the house for £380, still occupied by Edward Davies, surgeon, from Thomas David (e) who used the money to build houses in Bute St. Cardiff (*Gwyn & Gwyn, box G*). Turner was a hairdresser and was born in Hereford in 1791. He was married to Margery who was born in Glamorgan in 1807. Their son James had been born six years earlier in 1845 and was christened in Cowbridge Church (a). They were still there in 1861 when James junior had left school to become a Solicitor's Clerk (b).

James senior died on the 3rd September 1868 (Turner purchased it using a mortgage from Richard Williams of Cowbridge, Gent.) and Margery inherited (*19.iv.1865 - will was proved*). His widow turned their home into a Lodging House. In 1871 she had three lodgers. The youngest was twelve and the oldest seventy-two. James junior was still living at home and had now qualified as an accountant (c). Mrs Turner was recorded as still being there on

the 16th

April 1874. She was both the owner and the occupier. The Rateable Value at that time was £15. 15s. (d). However, that same year on 12th March, Mrs Turner and son James had sold the house to the Rev. Morson (e).

*\*\*\* Note by B Alden from 1851 deed of property : 'Bounded on the east by a dwelling house the property of the late Mr Thomas Rhys, on the west by a dwelling house owned by the Earl of Dunraven and in the occupation of Dr Sylvester, by a lane leading from the Bear Field on the north and by the highway through the town on the south'.*

*Chs 01821 relates to three deeds for this property dated 1851, 1857 and 1873.*

- (a) 1851 Cowbridge Census Return
- (b) 1861 Cowbridge Census Return
- (c) 1871 Cowbridge Census Return
- (d) GCR, Cowbridge, 1874, GRO
- (e) Deeds of House, Private Collection

## **7. Morson**

James Henry Morson was in the army and in 1843 his first son, James Collin Francis Morson, was born in London. JCF Morson went to Jesus College, Oxford, where after matriculating in 1861, was a Scholar there until 1866, having obtained his BA in 1865. He entered in Holy Orders in 1870, by which time he had come to Cowbridge Grammar School as Second Master (a). He was appointed Headmaster of the Grammar School in 1870. He was immediately faced with problems caused by lack of finance and as a result the bad state of the buildings. A problem that it seems that Cowbridge School encountered in very early times and from which it still suffers today.

Not only was the school in a bad state, so was Morson's accommodation. He wrote to Mr Jones, the Bursar of Jesus College, [owners of the school at the time] to say that the pipework in the house was so bad that it must be repaired before the winter. Happily, the Bursar agreed and Morson was able to thank him.

It seems that the cottages opposite the school belonged to the school. Morson had to write to the Bursar again. He said that they were in such a bad state, they needed to be repaired to make them habitable and he enclosed two estimates for the work, one of £8 and another of £10. Later he wrote to Jones offering to pay the rent if he could have some help with the repairs. He won this battle as later he wrote sending the repair bills to Jones.

Relations between the school and the Town Council, or Corporation as it was called at the time, seem not to have been very good. The Town Council had an Education Committee who wanted Jesus College to do something but for which the College replied that to do so there needed to be enough funds. This was followed by another letter from the College asking the Town Council to say if the Council's letter of the 9th May was a refusal of the College's offer. The Town Council seems to have backed off, for the next letter from the College is thanking the Town Council for its kind comments about the school. But the Town Council had its revenge. They cleaned out the River Thaw and Morson had to report to Jones that the Council now wanted the school to make a 'small donation' towards the work.

During this time, Morson applied for the living of the Parish of Cowbridge (b). At the time the rector for Llanblethian and Cowbridge was the Rev Thomas Edmondes, 'the uncrowned king of Cow bridge'. The history of the two parishes is that originally

Llanblethian was the mother church and Cowbridge the daughter church. Over many years there was a lot of internal quarrelling and unhappiness over the question of the combined parishes and probably several attempts to separate them into two. Not surprisingly, Edmondes seems to have frustrated Morson's attempt. Morson's involvement in the church was part of the customary procedure. Jesus College always appointed priests to the position of headmaster, as in Morson's case, and they would always occupy the role of number two to the rector.

On 26th April 1875, James Morson died at the age of thirty two (c). His short time as head, despite all the difficulties, has been described as the best period that the school enjoyed. During his time twenty six boys gained entrance to Oxford University

(d). In Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, the window on the Chancel wall has a brass tablet inscribed '*In memory of Revd. James Colin Francis Morson MA. Headmaster Cowbridge School, who fell asleep in Jesus, April 26th 1875. This window was erected by past and present boys*'.

What Morson was able to do for the children of others, he was unable to do for his own. He left two children, both born in Cowbridge. James Colin Francis aged two and Adelaide Nina aged one. His third child, John Henry Colin, was christened in Cowbridge on 3rd August 1875 (e). The Revd. Morson's widow set up home in no 81. Her name was Matilda. She was twenty nine years old and came from Worcestershire (f). She was still living there in 1905 when the family sold the house to Sarah David (g).

Both sons followed their father's professions. James Morson became a teacher and in 1905 was a tutor at Christs Hospital School, West Horsham, Sussex. He was one of the subscribers to L Hopkin-James's book *Old Cowbridge*. John Morson, gained his BA at Oxford in 1898 and his MA in 1902. Like his father he became a priest and from 1898 to 1900 he was a Curate at Llanblethian with Cowbridge and St Donats churches (h). Adelaide Morson became a nurse and in 1905 was working at the famous St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner in London (g). This was recently converted into what is claimed to be one of London's most luxurious hotels.

(a) *Alumni Oxoniensis, 1715 -1886*

(b) *Archives, Jesus College, Oxford*

(c) *Gravestone Cowbridge Churchyard*

(d) '*A Certain Schoole*', Iolo Davies, Cowbridge, 1967

(e) *GFHSCMB Cowbridge*

(f) *1881 Cowbridge Census Returns*

(g) *Conveyance dated 21st March 1905*

(h) *Crockfords 1917/1918, CCL*

## 8. Stockwood

Around 1910, a solicitor called J.A. Stockwood had established his business at no 81 which was then owned by J David of 77 High Street (a). John Arthur Stockwood was born in 1878 in Southsea, Hampshire. His parents were John and Rachel Stockwood (b). He was a pupil at Cowbridge Grammar School. John Arthur was the third generation of solicitors in Cowbridge, all called John Stockwood. In coming to no 81, he was next door to his grandfather, who lived for many years at no 83, 'Woodstock House' (c). Around this time, no 81 was called 'Stockwood House'.

He had married the daughter of Dr Naunton Wingfield Davies [1852-1925] of Llandrindod Wells where he had moved from Llantrisant, a fairly well known Welsh author who had published three novels and eight plays. Stockwood was a keen sportsman and represented Bridgend at both cricket and hockey.

He joined the army at the very start of the First World War as a Private. He was soon promoted Bomber Sergeant in the Rifle Brigade, but at Guillemont, just north of the river Somme, on Sunday, the 3rd September 1916 Sergeant S/2869, John Arthur Stockwood of the 10th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and of Cowbridge, was killed. Like so many others, he probably died during shelling.

He left a widow and three orphans. Papers had been established for his commission in of the Welsh Regiment. After eighteen months at the front he was shortly to have returned home on leave before taking up his position with his new regiment (*d*). He is commemorated at the British Cemetery at Thiepval [located on the D73 road, which is off the main Bapaume to Albert road] and his name is recorded on the memorial at that same place [Pier and Face 16B and 16C] (*e*). He is also commemorated on the war memorial outside Cowbridge Town Hall and on the Roll of Honour in Cowbridge Church.

A further irony was that two days previously, the *Glamorgan Gazette* had reported the return home of his cousin, Lieutenant Illtyd H. Stockwood, the son of the Bridgend solicitor SH Stockwood, who was being invalided out of the army (*f*).

Tragedy was no stranger to this generation of Stockwoods. Earlier, John's brother Alick was drowned when he fell from aloft on the barque *Penrhyn Castle* as it was rounding Cape Horn during a gale on the 6th October 1899. He was just twenty years old (*g*).

One of James Reynolds I's great granddaughters married a Stockwood. He was Alfred, also a solicitor, based in Caerphilly. He died, aged 36, on the 30th April 1880 and is buried in Cowbridge churchyard (*h*).

- (a) *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46, in GRO*
- (b) *GFHCMB, Cowbridge*
- (c) *1871, 1881 & 1891 Census Returns*
- (d) *Glamorgan Gazette, 29th September 1916*
- (e) *British War Graves Commission Records*
- (J) *Glamorgan Gazette, 1st September 1916*
- (g) *Wall Memorial, Cowbridge church*
- (h) *Gravestone, Cowbridge churchyard*

## 9. Alfred Goodwin

The Stockwoods were followed by a dentist called Alfred E Goodwin. His dental practice was at no 81 and it is quite probable that he also lived there. He arrived around 1921 (*a*) and left around 1925 (*b*).

- (a) *Kelly's Directory 1923, BFRC*
- (b) *Kelly's Directory 1926, BFRC*

## 10. Pickard

William and Nellie Pickard had previously lived at no 56 High Street, but by 1921 were living at no 81 (*a*). By 1925, also living there were their daughter and son-in-law, Harold Trotman plus someone called Everett Morgan (*b*) The family occupied the top two floors plus the rear rooms on the ground floor. The front two rooms were used by the auction



firm David & Watts, which later became John David, Watts & Morgan, where William Pickard worked as the Chief Clerk. He had joined the firm much earlier when it was started by John Thomas.

William Pickard was born in Canton, Cardiff in 1864, the son of Richard and Catherine Pickard. His father came from Trowbridge in Wiltshire, born in 1830, but his mother was a Cowbridge girl, born Elizabeth Ashelford in 1831. Perhaps this was the reason why by 1871, William, his parents, brother John and sisters Sarah and Elizabeth had moved next door to no 79 High Street, Cowbridge (c).

*See next page :*

Cowbridge has lost one of its best known and most respected inhabitants by the death, which occurred on Saturday, at the age of 73 years, of Mr. William Pickard, of High Street, Cowbridge. Mr. Pickard had been ill only since the previous Sunday, but had been in comparatively poor health for a considerable time. He was one of the chief officials of Messrs. John David, Watts and Morgan, the well-known auctioneers, of Cowbridge and Bridgend, with whom he had served for many years. Previously he had been an official with Mr. John David, when the latter was an auctioneer on his own account. For many years Mr. Pickard had been a member of the Cowbridge Corporation, but retired last year. On three occasions he was offered the Mayoralty of the borough, but had to decline each time owing to indifferent health. When he retired he was next in line for elevation to the Aldermanic bench. He was a native of Cowbridge and had lived practically all his life in the borough, his father having been a well-known Cowbridge business man. Mr. Pickard was, of course, a contributor to the columns of the "Glamorgan Gazette" for many years, writing under the nom-de-plume "Velox," by which name he was often referred to in Cowbridge. In his "Cowbridge Siftings," Mr. Pickard week by week wrote, often humorously, of personalities and happenings in the ancient borough. He was of a kindly and friendly disposition, ever willing to do a good turn. A strickler for old customs, he was always fond of wearing the old-fashioned white waistcoat and smart button-hole, and to quite a large number of people he was the "grand old gentleman of the Vale." He was a staunch member of the Baptist Church, Cowbridge, as are his family. He is survived by a widow and three daughters. The funeral took place on Tuesday, interment being made at Cowbridge Churchyard. The Revs. Gilbert Williams (vicar) and B. T. Roberts were the officiating ministers. The principal mourners were: Messrs. H. Trotman, W. Roberts and N. Matston (sons-in-law) and Asherford (brother-in-law). Also present were the Mayor of Cowbridge (Councillor D. C. Watts, J.P.), and Mr. Hopkin Morgan (of Messrs. John David, Watts and Morgan), Aldermen C. M. Davies, T.

J. Yorwerth, J.P., and William Davies, Councillor Fred Williams, Morgan Thomas, W. E. Jones, T. Thomas (Beechcourt), T. Thomas (Llwynhelig), R. W. Thomas, the Rev. Emrys Davies, the Rev. B. David, Messrs. R. Thomas, M. H. Jones, W. Jarvis, etc.

## WEDDING AT EYE.

### RUSSELL—BROWN.

A wedding of considerable local interest took place at the Parish Church, Eye, on Easter Monday, of Mr. J. M. Russell, assistant master at Eye Grammar School, and Miss Vesley J. Brown, assistant mistress at Eye Grammar School.

The Vicar, the Rev. D. Rea, M.B.E., officiated, the bride being given away by Mr. Alan Brown (brother), whilst another brother of the bride, Mr. Nell Brown, acted as best man. Amongst those present were Mr. F. J. Eldridge, formerly head master of Eye Grammar School, and Mrs. Eldridge, and other scholastic friends.

A reception was afterwards held at the Red House, and later Mr. and Mrs. Russell left for Wales for the honeymoon.

Among the presents was a handsome tea and coffee set from the Governors of the school, and gifts from old students and the Freemasons. Touches were rung on the bells by the Swaffham ringers during the morning.

## REMARKABLE BOWLING

Cowbridge Cricket Club have just completed a remarkably successful tour, playing and winning five games. The outstanding feature of the games was the magnificent bowling of E. D. Lewis, who in six completed innings took 35 wickets for 182 runs, average 5.2. His two most outstanding performances were against Burnham and Slough, where his figures were as follows:—

|                 | O. | M. | R. | W. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|
| v. Burnham ..   | 19 | 12 | 10 | 9  |
| v. Slough ..... | 11 | 4  | 16 | 5  |

During the same innings against Slough W. Williams (a 17-year-old schoolboy) had the following extraordinary figures, and it is fair to say that Slough were quite strongly represented:—

|  | O. | M. | R. | W. |
|--|----|----|----|----|
|  | 11 | 5  | 7  | 5  |

## COWBRIDGE v. BURNHAM.

Played at the Gore Ground, Burnham, on Wednesday last week. Scores:—

| BURNHAM.                              |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| C. Holloway, st Bird, b Lewis.....    | 0  |
| M. Pierce, b Lewis.....               | 1  |
| W. Baker, lbw, b Lewis.....           | 6  |
| J. Haycock, b N. G. Brown.....        | 4  |
| L. Bellairs, c Williams, b Lewis..... | 0  |
| J. Strickland, b Lewis.....           | 1  |
| G. Cory, b Lewis.....                 | 3  |
| J. H. Easson, b Lewis.....            | 2  |
| R. Alexander, not out.....            | 10 |
| G. Stobart, lbw, b Lewis.....         | 0  |
| G. C. Sands, c and b Lewis.....       | 2  |
| Extras .....                          | 5  |

Total ..... 34  
Bowling: E. D. Lewis 9 for 10.

| COWBRIDGE.                              |    |
|---|----|
| B. S. Bird, lbw, b Holloway.....        | 0  |
| W. A. G. Howell, hit wkt., b Holloway.. | 35 |
| N. G. Brown, c Strickland, b Holloway.. | 17 |
| R. N. Bird, c Pierce, b Haycock.....    | 20 |
| A. C. Jones, c Sands, b Holloway.....   | 25 |
| Dr. Marwood, b Haycock .....            | 45 |
| A. Brown, b Pierce.....                 | 21 |
| J. F. Kinsman, c and b Baker.....       | 2  |
| W. Williams, c Baker, b Haycock.....    | 9  |
| E. John, b Pierce.....                  | 2  |
| E. D. Lewis, not out.....               | 0  |
| Extras .....                            | 9  |

Total ..... 175  
Bowling: C. Holloway 4 for 70.

At no 79 they ran a greengrocers, which in 1880 moved to 40/42 High Street. William had additional interests to his role as Town Clerk. He was for many years a town councillor and on three occasions was offered the position as mayor. He declined each time giving poor health as his reason. He was easily recognised around the town, wearing an old-fashioned waistcoat and sporting a fresh button-hole. In his obituary, in the *Glamorgan Gazette*, he was described as 'the Grand Old Gentleman of the Vale'.

With his family, he was a staunch member of the Cowbridge Baptist Church. The marriage brought four daughters. One, Gwladys Bertha died in 1916 when she was only twenty.

William Pickard had an additional interest, that of journalist. For many years he wrote a regular article in the 'Glamorgan Gazette'. The article was called 'Cowbridge Siftings' and he used the pen-name of 'Velox'. William Pickard died on the 28th August 1937 aged 73 years. He is buried in Cowbridge churchyard and his pen name 'Velox' appears on his grave stone.

The writings of William Pickard are quite extraordinary on several counts. Firstly, they give an excellent picture of life in Cowbridge at that time, with 'snapshots' of daily incidents. Secondly, although employed by an auctioneer whose main customers were the agricultural community, he ceaselessly attacked the farmers in his articles for what he saw as exploitation during and after the First World War. Thirdly, although an Alderman he often criticised the Town Council for what he saw as their incompetence.

Fourthly, as can be seen from the following extracts, he could be extremely funny. I am grateful to the Editor of the *Glamorgan Gazette* for his permission to print these examples.

*Glamorgan Gazette* 'Cowbridge Siftings' 9th June 1916: At the Cowbridge Police Court on Tuesday there were three cases down for hearing. Two of the defendants turned up but there was only one magistrate. The cases were adjourned. We have heard of white gloves being presented to magistrates when there are no cases to hear. Why not present white gloves to defendants, when there are not enough magistrates?

9th June 1916 : During the week the town hall clock has been protesting against the daylight saving business. On Sunday it was dinner time at tea time, and when the good people were returning from evening service they were puzzled to know whether they were going home to dinner or supper. On Monday the clock beat all records, going backwards for an hour, striking fifteen times in twenty minutes, and then going the next hour in just over three seconds.

15 September 1916: I wish I had never written a word about that - ahem, that bothering - Town Hall pump. Every other person I met greets me with, "What about the pump ?" Well, what about the pump? What have I to do with the pump? All I know is that the pump is not a pump. On Thursday last I went to the pump, and pumped the pump. It was no good. At last one of our worthy Town Councillors came to the rescue; he pumped and pumped, and pumped the pump, but the pump would not pump what it ought to pump. And as the pump would not pump what every respectable pump would pump, I gave over pumping the pump, and went to the Silver Well for my water. So there go ye all and do likewise, and to the Kaiser with the pump.  
(It was to be ten years later before piped water arrived to the first houses in Cowbridge).

9th March 1917: Notice to all whom it may concern. Several young ladies please note. Our boys at the Front still appreciate all the cigarettes they can get. No offence of course, but we were wondering whether the growing smoking habit among the young ladies would limit the supply.

3rd August 1917: We should like to write the epitaphs for some tombstones. Here is one we should write often:

For mangolds and turnips, for oats and hay,  
On earth I made the people pay;  
But now I am gone, the people I've bled  
Will say, "Thank goodness, old grab all is dead".

Velox recorded the deaths and wounding of Cowbridge soldiers, also those who had returned unfit to fight or were home on leave. He watched out for soldiers returning on leave and obtained from them news about other local comrades. At a time of great censorship it is quite surprising what the enemy might have learnt by reading the Glamorgan Gazette and finding out a lot about the positioning of regiments in the war zone.

He also recorded the quite amazing statistics of the number of men Cowbridge contributed to the war effort.

- (a) 1921 *Electoral Roll*
- (b) 1925 *Electoral Roll*
- (c) 1871 *Cowbridge Census*

## 11. Trotman

When William Pickard died, Nellie Pickard continued to live in the two top floors of no 81, with her daughter and son-in-law, Harold Trotman. The building was called Stockwood house in the 1950 Electoral Register. Harold Trotman was Head Brewer at the Pontyclun Brewery at the time he was living at no 81. During this period Nellie Pickard was employed by Watts & Morgan as the caretaker of no 81. She was described as a rather 'solid' woman. The partners complained that when they wanted to borrow a document, such as an Ordnance Survey map, Nellie Pickard insisted that they should always sign it in and out.

Nellie Pickard died on 4th December 1963 aged ninety-six and was buried with her husband and daughter, Gladys Bertha. Not very long afterwards, Mrs Trotman died and Mr Trotman went to live with his daughter in Rhose. They have both since died. When Harold Trotman left, Watts & Morgan, who had occupied the ground floor since about 1925, took over the whole building.

The history of the firm is quite complicated and I am grateful to one of the partners, Mr Gwilym Morgan Joseph, for explaining it to me.

The firm was founded in 1857 by John Thomas, an Auctioneer, and he was later joined by John David who was an Auctioneer and Valuer, together with holding the post of Borough Agent. DC Watts, an Auctioneer and Surveyor, joined the firm in 1914. The name of the company was changed to John David & Watts. In 1917, the name changed

again when Hopkin Morgan, an Auctioneer and Valuer, arrived. It was called by the name that still exists today of John David Watts & Morgan [There may be some, who like me, thought that this involved two individuals whereas it is three]. In those days the business was confined to the sale of livestock. DC Watts became Mayor of Cowbridge in 1936 and was later to be made a Freeman of Cowbridge in 1956. When the Second World War started in September 1939, the firm was delegated by the Ministry of Food to organise Collecting Centres for cattle, sheep and pigs in Bridgend, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Peterston.

After the war, the firm gradually extended its activities to include the sale of both commercial and domestic properties. During the late 1950s and 1960s it handled some important sales: the Margam Estate, the Radcliffe Estate and Wenvoe Castle Estate.

In the 1980s many Banks and Building Societies decided that they also wanted to be Estate Agents. The Abbey National Building Society set up an Estate Agency called 'Cornerstone' and acquired that side of John David Watts & Morgan. Some partners and staff went to the new owner, some stayed with the traditional business. But the bankers soon tired of their new activity and disposed of the Estate Agency side back to its original owners. The firm was reassembled almost as before, but not quite as the former Llantwit Major office went its own way.

Today, broadly, Urban, Rural and Commercial properties are dealt with at 55 High Street. At 81 High Street the business known as Glamorgan Marts is carried out, which is the operation of the Cowbridge Cattle Market, said to be the best in Glamorgan and one of the leading cattle markets in Wales. No 81 also handles some property sales and furniture auction sales as does the Bridgend office.

The firm continues to occupy the whole building.

At one time, the firm very much centred around Mr DC Watts. He was born in 1887 at Duffryn Bach Farm in Pendoylan, the second son of Thomas and Alice Watts. When he was about four years old the family moved to Llanmihangel. He went to Cowbridge Grammar School as did his elder brother Arthur. They only had one bicycle between them. During the journey to and from school, for some reason, they did not make use of the cross-bar and one would ride whilst the other walked behind until they reached the half-way stage when they would swop over.

DC Watts retained his connection with the Grammar School in adult life as he was appointed one of the Governors by Jesus College, Oxford when they owned the school. When the school was put under the Local Education Authority, Jesus College retained the right to appoint two Governors and one of these remained DC Watts.

DC.Watts, his Christian names were David Christopher but everyone then and even now still refer to him as 'DC Watts'. He married Kathleen Mary Harris and they had three children. A daughter called Judy, now Mrs Judy Davies, married to Mr John Davies who for many years was Captain of the Cowbridge Cricket Club and is now its President. Mr Davies has ancestors who were connected with the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge. A second daughter, now Mrs Kay Allen, living in Toronto. David and Kathleen Watts also had a son called Roy.

The family first lived in 'The Poplars', then moved to 'West House' in Westgate before DC Watts built 'Westwinds' in Love Lane, Llanblethian, in 1935. He was considered one of the most highly qualified people in his profession in the

country. He was either a Fellow or a Member of several institutes and had the highest qualifications in Surveying, Auctioneering, Valuation and Arbitration. When the Glamorgan Council wanted all the agricultural land in the county valued, DC Watts was given the assignment. Afterwards, Mr Morgan Joseph remembers driving around the Vale with DC who would keep up a running commentary on each field they passed giving the acreage, value and owner.

DC Watts was Mayor of Cowbridge in 1937, the year of the coronation of King George VI. Each local child received a commemorative medal and a mug from the Mayor. In 1957 he was made a Freeman of Cow bridge. He respected tradition and very much believed that a job worth doing was worth doing well. For official occasions he wore a frock coat. His daughter remembers him one morning coming downstairs dressed in his frock coat. A few minutes later he was clad in overalls with his Wellington boots in his hand. The police had telephoned as there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in St Nicholas and he was needed to value the stock before the herd was slaughtered.

In 1940, D.C. Watts had to cease his career as he was appointed Stock Controller for the South West England and Wales. This made him responsible for the distribution of all livestock from all the cattle markets in the area to the slaughterhouses.

His office was in the Ministry of Food in Cardiff, housed in the Boys' Club at the top of Customs House Street [this building has since been demolished]. The role required him to visit all the markets to make sure that they were being operated correctly. He received a petrol allowance for this travelling. However, he refused to use his car to go the office in Cardiff and always went by bus.

It was 1945 before he returned to his normal business. All the auctioneers presented him with a gold pocket watch and chain, expressing their gratitude in an official who fully understood how cattle markets should operate. The collection was such that with the money left over, his wife was given a silver salver and his two daughters each received a silver serviette ring.

But there was to be no serviette ring for his son. David Roy Watts had been given the traditional family first Christian name. But Mrs Watts lived in the dread of the diminutive of 'Dai' so he was always called Roy. His mother need not have worried as at Taunton School and to his friends, he was known as 'Wattsy'. He followed his father in the profession of Auctioneer and was most of his way through his exams, with only his surveyor's finals to sit. In 1937 he joined the Territorial Army, 5th Battalion of the Welch Regiment based at Pontypridd. He qualified as a pilot and his army uniform, displaying his 'wings', is now in the Cowbridge Museum. At the outbreak of the Second World War he transferred to the RAF. He flew Westland 'Lysanders', a single engined two seater aircraft, based at the airfield at Weston Zoyland in Somerset. He was part of what was called Army Co-operation, flying in support of Army units mostly for reconnaissance missions. It was when returning from one such mission on Friday, the 2nd May 1941, in bad weather with a very low cloud base, that his plane crashed and Pilot Officer, 44537, David Roy Watts, of the 16th Squadron, Royal Air Force, and of Cowbridge was killed. He was twenty four years old.

His memorials are at Pontypridd Crematorium and on a plaque in Llantrithyd Church. Also, his name has joined that of Sergeant John Stockwood on the War Memorial outside the Cowbridge Town Hall.

*In this way, two men, one in the autumn of 1916 and one in the Spring of 1941, both associated with no 81 High Street, Cowbridge, gave their lives so that the world could be a better place. This short history is dedicated to them.*

*George H Haynes*