

54 High Street

Grade II listed building, a 'well preserved 18th century house', combined with No 52 as inn and coachhouse in the Cl8. Architectural information - RCAHM.

For details 1738-1813 see 52 High Street

- 1814 Owner - Mr Isaiah Verity, Occupier - Moses Godfrey, 1 burgage *BR#27*
- 1815 Owner - Mr Isaiah Verity, Occupier - Moses Godfrey, 6/4d. *LTA*
(Moses Godfrey is mentioned in 'Clock and Watch Makers in Wales', by Iorwerth Peate)
- 1826, 11 February 'On Wednesdays last the Cambrian coach standing before the Bear, disencumbered from horses and passengers, etc was suddenly moved forward, and a gust of wind took it in the direction of the Godfreys' shop window where numerous articles of glass and jewellery were exhibited. Mr Godfrey was behind the counter at the time, and saw the coach appearing as if by magic. He rushed out to see the cause. His panic being very great, he lost his presence of mind, and had it not been for the prompt intervention of a gentleman named Price, who rushed forward and diverted the pole from Mr Godfrey's body, it would perhaps have been attended by fatal results. The coach had so much impetus that Mr Price was knocked down in his endeavours to save Mr Godfrey.'
- Cambrian, in DJ MS 2.1160 2/4, Cardiff Central Library*
- 1830 Owner - Mr. Isaiah Verity, occupier - Isabella Godfrey 6/4d *LTA*
- 1835 Isabella Godfrey, jeweller *Pigot's directory*
- 1835, 25th November Death at Ash Hall, Ystradowen of Anne, 86, wife of Isaiah Verity Esq. of Cowbridge *Cambrian*
- 1844 Owner - Abraham Verity, occ.- Isabella Godfrey, house & garden *Tithe*
- 1851 Eliza Thomas, Jeweller and lodging house keeper. *Census#47*
- 1861 Eliza Thomas, Shopkeeper and stamp distributor. *Census# 151*
- 1871 John Henry Davies, house proprietor + wife + 3 daughters + governess + 4 scholars *Census#168*
- 1871 "Establishment for young ladies" conducted by the Misses Davies, assisted by an efficient governess. French and German master Dr Simmonet, University of Paris
Advert in Kelly's directory
- 1873 William J. Davies - advertisement *Glamorgan Observer*
- 1874 SD Evans, owned; Mrs Davies, occ, house and cottages *Glam County rate*
- 1881 William J. Davies, painter master employing 4 men *Census#43*
- 1891 William J. Davies, decorator and oil colourman *Census#40*

- 1901 William J Davies, 49, decorator, b Cowbridge + Elizabeth D, w, 43, b Cardiff + d Annie, 23, music teacher, b Penarth + s Ernest, 21, carpenter, and Arthur, 20, student in science, both b Cowbridge, and sister Annie, 30, b Cowbridge
Census#140
- 1910 WJ Davies, occ, SD Evans jnr, solicitor, Cowbridge owned. Stone and slate, 3 storeys; shop, kitchen and sitting room on grd floor, 4 bedrooms on 1st floor; 3 attics on 2nd. At rear, large store in poor condition - 2 storerooms and loft over. Whole property in decaying condition, floor bad and very damaged
PRO IR58/18459#44
- 1912 WJ Davies, decorator
Western Mail directory
- 1921 William James Davies, Elizabeth Davies, Ernest William Davies
Electoral roll
- “My grandfather, painter and decorator, known for the excellence of his graining work. His clients were the gentry of the Vale, including the Homfrays. He moved his shop to 41 High St in 1925-26”
Canon Bill Davies
- 1930s-40s Two shops separated by central doorway to the Harris’s house; Miss Goulden’s (later Mrs Hinton) shop on right, Molly Palmer’s (later Molly Williams) on left
Diana Bird
- 1939 Florence Hinton, shop (abode 6 Eastgate)
Electoral Reg
- 1950s House at rear occ Williams family (Bill Williams of No 50)
Miss G Williams, by letter
- 1960s West End Garage
House at rear occupied by Jane Edwards
Mrs V Manning
Local knowledge
- 1963 54a High St. : John G and Elizabeth J Edwards
1970 Cowbridge Tyre and Auto Ltd
Deeds of no.50
Photograph
- 1979 Farthings Wine Bar
Cowbridge week programme
- 1999 Farthings restaurant and wine bar

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO Glamorgan Record Office
PRO Public Record Office (Kew)
D/D Deposits in GRO
BR Burgage rents (GRO)
LTA Land tax assessments (GRO)
Tithe, census, directories, electoral roll – in GRO