

# Williams and Cox - a Torquay retail legend

**The next letter in Torquay Museum's Archive Alphabet aka A-Z of Torbay is W and to represent it we have chosen a very well-known family run business Williams & Cox.**

Williams & Cox, Drapers and Milliners were established in 1837 and developed through various name changes and forms to occupy 4A, 5 & 6 Strand. Separate from the Drapers business was Williams & Cox, House Furnishers located at 12 Strand.

On September 21, 1939, the

**VERONIKA VALIGURSKÁ**  
Torbay Museum

furnishing store caught fire and caused major damage within and also to Bobby's premises next door. The firm moved to temporary premises at 35 Torwood Street and eventually re-located to 16 Strand, which had been vacated by T. Oliver & Sons Ltd. Williams & Cox, Drapers and Furnishers both ceased trading many years ago. They had a proud

record of service exceeding 140 years. In 1982, the premises were taken over by Hoopers department store.

In 1982, the museum was given a collection of mayor's regalia which can be seen on display in the Explorers Gallery. The regalia dates to 1919 and was made for Harry Williams of Williams and Cox, Mayor of Torquay from 1919-22. It was used again by Ronald P. Williams who became mayor from 1964-65. The regalia was supplied by F. J March, Tailor and Hosiery at Castle Circus and is an object with many local connections to the retail world 100 years ago.

After posting a few photographs of Williams & Cox on social media, the museum received some amazing comments and memories from the local community.

Carol said: "I worked there for a little while in the gown department. When I walk in Hoopers now, I walk in my young teenage shoes again remembering the glass cases with sliding doors and all the Cinderella gowns displayed. It seemed like another world to me."

Mark also shared a memory:



Portrait of Harry Williams, Mayor of Torquay, wearing his regalia that can be seen on display at the museum

"Mum had her wages docked for stripping a mannequin and leaving it 'naked' in the window. By all accounts a customer tapped her umbrella on the window and

demanding to see the manager. She was also reprimanded for insolence after a customer who tried on many pairs of gloves didn't want any."

The exterior view of Williams & Cox on the Strand



## MAJESTIC

# FANTASTIC VALUE 2021 SELF DRIVE HOLIDAYS

Make your own way to the hotel & explore the resort & surrounding area at your leisure

**OUR COVID GUARANTEE**  
Your Money is Secure with MAJESTIC  
If your holiday is cancelled due to Government advice. Clients will be refunded all of their monies.

**2021 Bournemouth**

Staying at the a Seafront Oceana Hotel

The adjoining hotels - the Suncliff & the Ocean Beach are located on the prestigious East Cliff and only 10 minutes walk from the town centre.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- Hotel Entertainment

4 Nights Monday to Friday Jan 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

4 Nights from **£129.99**

**2021 Newquay**

**2 for 1 BAR** every night

Staying at the family run Sandy Lodge Hotel

The hotel is located a few minutes walk from Newquay's Beach and a 10 minute walk to the town centre.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- 2 for 1 Bar every night Jan to Mar

4 Nights only **£119.99** | 3 Nights only **£89.99**

4 Nights Monday to Friday Jan 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 22 | 3 Nights Friday to Monday Jan 22, Feb 5, 19, 26

**2021 Llandudno**

Staying at the Grand Hotel

Nestled at the foot of the spectacular Great Orme, the hotel boasts a commanding view across the fine sweep of Llandudno's picturesque bay.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

3 Nights Friday to Monday Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23

3 Nights from **£99.99**

**2021 Glastonbury, Wells & the Westcountry**

Staying at the 3 Star Wessex Hotel

In the Somerset town of Street, a 5 minute drive from the town of Glastonbury.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

2 Nights only **£69.99** | 3 Nights only **£89.99** | 4 Nights from **£129.99**

2 Night - Mini Breaks Jan 18, 20 | 3 Night Weekend Friday to Monday Jan 29 | 4 Night Midweeks Monday to Friday Feb 1, Mar 1

**2021 Weston Super Mare**

Staying at the Royal Grosvenor Hotel

Enjoying a great location adjacent to the sea-front and the Royal Parade, the Royal Grosvenor is one of the friendliest hotels along the North Somerset coast. Winner of TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Award 2020.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- Light Hotel Entertainment

4 Nights Monday to Friday Feb 8, 22, Mar 15, Apr 12

4 Nights from **£119.99**

**2021 Weymouth & the Jurassic Coast**

**NEW HOTEL to the Majestic Collection**

Staying at the 3 Star Royal Hotel

The Royal Hotel offers beachfront accommodation, 0.7 miles from Weymouth Marina.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- Light Hotel Entertainment

4 Nights only **£159.99** | 3 Nights only **£129.99**

4 Nights Monday to Friday Jan 4 | 3 Nights Friday to Monday Jan 8

**2021 Bideford North Devon**

Staying at the 3 Star Durrant House Hotel

The Durrant House hotel is located on the outskirts of the historic port of Bideford and is within easy reach of the beaches.

- Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- Hotel Entertainment

4 Nights from **£119.99** | 3 Nights from **£99.99**

4 Nights Monday to Friday Jan 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 + Mar | 3 Nights Friday to Monday Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 12, 19, 26

Our Self Drive offers are regularly updated, keep an eye on our website for the latest Self Drive bargains!

Tel: 01626 770246

www.majesticpours.co.uk