Research Document:	Ancient Druid, 44 Eastgate, Cowbridge
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Most of the information was researched and assembled by study groups led by Jeff Alden during the period 1997-2007. The Cowbridge Record Society was established in 1999 to publish books using this research, such as 'Cowbridge Buildings & People' and 'Llanblethian Buildings & People'. The Society later merged with the Cowbridge and District Local History Society and is now 'Cowbridge History Society'.

Future editors are requested to identify changes they may make in accordance with CHS guidelines.

E.M. Alden, January 2018

Source Abbreviations		
RCAHM	Royal Commission Ancient & Historic Monuments	
LTA	Land tax assessments (GRO)	
GRO	Glamorgan Record Office	
D/D	Public Record Office docs. in GRO	
PRO/VAL		
BR	Burgage rentals (GRO)	
Bute	Bute papers (GRO)	

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Date	Ancient Druid, 44 Eastgate, Cowbridge	Source
	Grade Il listed. Eighteenth century, two storey house.	RCAHM
	Rendered three bay front elevation with chamfered	
	quoins, moulded architraves to upper floor windows	
	with a square wooden panel with relief carving of a	
	heraldic griffin or dragon over all window heads. Sash	
	windows three panes wide; the centre first floor window	
	blocked and glazing bars missing in lower right half of	
	right hand ground floor window. Central square-headed	
	door opening; door with four fielded panels; 19th	
	century half glazed vestibule door.	
	For further information, see RCAHM Llantwit Major	
	and Cowbridge 1989, pp 514 and 518 (plan).	
1766	Catherine Williams	Deeds
1773	Oliver Richard 9d.	Land Tax
		Assessment
1778,	Oliver Richard, yeoman and wife Ann his wife for a	Deeds
22nd April	year to Elizabeth Sands of Llandough, widow, -	
(? or	messuage, tenement and garden, formerly of Thomas	
1785)	Phillips and now of Thomas Edmondes Esq., (between)	
	the house formerly of John Miles, Clerk, and now of	
	Jane Vallance, widow, and lands formerly of Evan	
	Jenkins, gent, and now of Thomas Edmondes Esq., and	
	the highway leading through the town of Cowbridge	
	as Catherine Williams, late of the town of Cowbridge,	
	spinster, held	
1783	Oliver Richard owned and occupied, half burgage	BR 67, Bute
1784	Oliver Richard owned; Thomas Morgan occupied, 3s	LTA
	4d.	
23/4/1785	Conveyance of property to Elizabeth Sands for £73.10s	Deeds
1788	Oliver Richard owned, Evan Beddo occupied, 3s 4d.	LTA
1800	Oliver Richard owned, David Harry occupied, 3s. 4d.	LTA
1806 -16	William Sands owned (David Harry deleted), William	BR 67
	Meredith occupied, half burgage	
1815	William Sands owned, William Meredith occupied,	LTA
	3s.4d.	
1827, 11th	William Sands of Llandough, farmer to wife Catherine –	Will (made
October	'my house in Cowbridge' for her life and then to son	3/4/1823) & deeds
	John Sands and heirs	
1832	John Sands owned, (William Meredith deleted) John	BR 67
	Edwards occupied, half burgage	
1843	John Sands owned (Druid public house); William	Tithe 128
	Williams occupied	
1844, 6th	Mortgage, John Sands, farmer of Llandough, son of	Deeds
June	William Sands, to Miss Martha Ballard, Cowbridge,	
	spinster – messuage now used as a public house known	
	by the name or sign of The Druid	
1844	William Howells, Druid public house	Electoral roll

Date	Ancient Druid, 44 Eastgate, Cowbridge	Source
1849 ?	Druid public house – John Sands of Llandough	Register of
		electors
1851	David Williams, 25, publican and labourer, born	Census 161
	Colwinston, with Mary his wife and one servant, Jane	
	Arthur, 24	
1852, 24th	Conveyance of equity of redemption, messuage by the	Deeds
August	name of the Ancient Druid, formerly of Catherine	
	Williams, spinster, lately held by William Whichello,	
	and now held by David Williams, publican, as tenant of Martha Ballard, at £10 pa.	
1861	William Miles, 43, mason and victualler, with Sarah his	Census or 220
1001	wife, 41, and John David, 42, journeyman carpenter	Census of 220
1863, 26th	Conveyance, Martha Ballard to Joseph May, yeoman &	Deeds
March	widower, for £240	
	(For further details of Joseph May, see 55, 59 and 77	
	High Street. His daughter Margaret married Lewis	
	Jenkins, maltster of Cowbridge, in 1864 – parish	
	records)	
1871	Joseph May, 60, widower, licensed victualler, and	Census 234
1071 (1	Charles May, 18, traveller in colliery grease	D 1
1871, 6th	Conveyance, Joseph May to George J May of Neath	Deeds
November	(alternative account is that Joseph rented it to his brother George for £40 per year for life George was a merchant	
	George for £40 per year for life. George was a merchant from Neath)for David Rees, add 'draper and now	
	of William Williams, gentleman'	
25/9/1872	George James May & Joseph May to Lewis Jenkins of	Deeds
	Cowbridge, maltster & brewer, lease for 21 years at £18	
	pa – Ancient Druid and yard, stable, garden and	
	premises, occupied by John Thomas	
1874	John Thomas occupied; owner Joseph May (JT was	Glamorgan Rate
	Joseph May's son in law)	Book
1876, 11th	Conveyance, Joseph May and George James May to	Deeds
April	Lewis Jenkins (another account is that Joseph	
	'conveyed' the property to Lewis Jenkins the brewer for	
	\pounds 112 per year, on the understanding that LJ agreed to	
	continue paying £41 per year to him for the remainder of his life). Lewis Jenkins, or possibly his son, married	
	one of Joseph May's daughters.	
1878	John Thomas	Owen's directory
1880	Joseph May	Slater's directory
1881	Joseph May, 70, licensed victualler, with daughter	Census 118
	Annie Thomas, 37, widow*, Edith Thomas, 16,	
	apprentice dressmaker, Fanny Thomas, scholar, and	
	Gwladys Thomas, all granddaughters, plus grandsons	
	Percy Thomas, 11, scholar, Robert Thomas, 9, scholar,	
	Charles Thomas, 7, scholar.	

Date	Ancient Druid, 44 Eastgate, Cowbridge	Source
1884	Death of Joseph May	Cowbridge monumental inscriptions
1886	Licence transferred to 'New Druids' across the road, which Joseph May's daughter Annie took over as a pub.	'The Cowbridge Railway', Chapman, p 44
1891	Richard Morgan, 35, hay merchant, with wife Mary, daughters Gwladys, 10, scholar, Beatrice, 9, scholar, Nesta, 6, scholar, and Deborah, 2, and sons Edward, 7, scholar and Robert, 4, scholar.	Census 108
1910	Wybert Thomas occupied, Lewis Jenkins owned	D/D PRO/VAL/1/46
1920	Wybert Thomas, builder, office (living in St Crispin, 8 Eastgate)	Pigot's directory & Glamorgan Rate Book
1923	 Will of Lewis Jenkins of Graig House (made 12th July) appointed daughter Mary Margaret Jenkins and son George Edward Jenkins as executors (inter alia); bequeathed to daughter M M Jenkins his 3 freehold dwelling houses in Eastgate (1. The Post Office 2. The Old Druids, occupied by Sidney Thomas, ? father of Wybert, and 3. The cottage for many years occupied by Robert Storm, ie 63 Eastgate) 	Will
1947	Frederick and Elizabeth Roberts, Aubrey and Frances Davies, Katherine S Butler	Register of electors
1948	Hancocks bottling & distribution centre – beer brought in from barrels by steam lorry – water from river at bridge – 'fined' in the brewery. Distributed from there.	Notes (difficult to read) by Jeff Alden
1951	Conveyance, Mrs LA Jenkins, widow of George Edward Jenkins, Margaret Lottie Jenkins, spinster, and Edith Mary Jenkins, spinster, of 19 Church Rd, Whitchurch, Cardiff, to Elizabeth Mary Roberts for £650	Deeds
1953	Conveyance, EM Roberts to Mr & Mrs Hall	Deeds
1953 onwards	The Hall family (Mrs Mary Hall, mayor of Cowbridge)	
	 Annie Thomas, daughter of Joseph May, was born 23 August 1844 and died 5th June 1931. She married Robert Thomas and they moved to Dolgellau, where their son Robert was born. Robert Thomas senior became a bank manager in Aberystwyth, where another son, Charles, was born. Robert Thomas senior died, and Annie moved back to Cowbridge, eventually living at 41 Eastgate (running the Druid Hotel there). She is buried in Cowbridge churchyard next to her parents, and there is a plaque inside the church to commemorate her death. 	

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	Annie & Robert's son, Charles, became known as 'Charlie Cowbridge'. He married Ethel Mary Blackmore of Taff Vale railway. They had two sons, Thomas Robert Thomas and Douglas Thomas, who died.	Information given to J Alden from the wife of Charles Roger Thomas, son of Tom Robert Thomas