

Welcome to historic Caerwys, the smallest town with a Royal Charter in the UK, granted first in 1290. On the map are buildings and places, some marked with plaques all with descriptive notes. These could be visited by following 'The Caerwys Town Trail' (dotted lines) starting from the Town Square where there is a large plaque on the wall. More detail of the various buildings can be found at www.caerwystown.com (Visitor's tab) as can 'Discover Caerwys' which can be viewed or downloaded. 'Caerwys since Victorian Times' written in 2012 is available through the Caerwys Historical Society. News is reported in The Caerwys Chronicle. Around The Town Square is Will's News, a general store, Morgan's Pori Gwych, (deli, butcher and Post Office), the Caerwys Pharmacy and the Caerwys Stores. Meals are served at The Piccadilly Inn (01352 720284), the Royal Oak (01352 720269), Caerwys Golf Club (01352 721222), the Cherry Pie (01352 741279), On The Corner (01352 721809) and the Edenshine Restaurant (01352 720797) within the Afonwen Craft Centre. Opening times vary.

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1 Town Square

The Square, in the centre of Caerwys, is dominated by a tree which was planted in 1968. This is the most recent example of the Peace Tree, first planted in 1919 to mark the end of World War I. For many years, the roads in the centre of Caerwys were also dominated by a large tree which ultimately had to be removed in the 1960's to facilitate traffic flow. This is the tree depicted top left on the cover of the leaflet.



2 Site of old market

Since medieval times Caerwys has been the home of markets selling livestock and farming produce. The Smithfield, previously the Crown Field as it was close to the Crown Inn public house, was the most recent site of the market. It is now Llys y Goron, a sheltered housing community for our Senior Citizens.



3 Piccadilly Inn

The Piccadilly Inn, which may date from 1622, was at one time owned by Lord Mostyn, a great follower of horse racing. One of his horses, named Piccadilly, won a race on the old Holywell Racecourse near Babel and, as a reward, Lord Mostyn gave the inn to the jockey who named the pub after the victorious horse.



4 Pinfold

The Pinfold is a Grade II listed property built in the latter part of the 19th century to hold stray animals from the markets until they were claimed by their owners. The Pinfold is a rare surviving building representing the former importance of Caerwys as a market town. Reputedly it has also been used to hold drunken revellers.



5 Caerwys First School

Formalised school education began in Caerwys in 1813 in this small cottage. It was funded by a grant from the National School Society, by parents and by local landowners. A larger school was needed by 1833 and the present school, Ysgol yr Esgob (Bishop's School), was opened in 1983.

6 Bell House

Bell House dates from the 16th century and retains the original cobble floor in the basement. The name comes from a bell, once mounted in a recess in the wall overlooking the Square, which was rung to signal the opening of the market and when a funeral procession passed. This bell no longer remains.



7 Old Court

The 1850 Victorian facade of Old Court fails to reveal its rich history and role in the judicial system of North Wales over centuries. Built by the Lords of Mostyn, from medieval times until 1672, justice was dispensed from within these walls by the Court of Assize. A Magistrates Court had been held intermittently in this place until 1869.



St Michael's Church

St Michael's Church was probably founded in the 8th Century, but the tower and nave were built in the 13th century. It is unusual in having two lych gates, the older having a pre-reformation oak frame whilst the other was erected to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



8 Rectory

This was the birthplace of Angharad Llwyd, the notable Welsh historian, daughter of the Reverend John Lloyd who was Rector from 1778 until his death in 1793. She bequeathed this house to the Church and for many years it provided a home Rectors of the parish.

10 Marian Luce

Marian Luce is thought to be named after Luce, a young woman who was unfairly found guilty of murder and was hanged there. Her reprieve arrived 10 minutes too late to save her from the gallows. This is a thing of legend; was she Luce, Lucy, or Marian Lucy Davis the daughter of the publican she tried to protect?

9 Memorial Institute

The War Memorial Institute was built, using public subscription, as a memorial to the local men killed in WWI. The land was donated by Sir John Herbert Lewis a member of Lloyd George's Wartime Government and famous local liberal politician.



13 The Old Jail

Until 1840 this was the site of a gaol which is connected by a tunnel to the Old Court. The tunnel is thought to have collapsed between 1915 and 1920.

12 Sessions House

Sessions House was built in 1869 and used, until 1963, as the Magistrates Court following the closure of the Old Court. It had a courtroom, a gaol with two cells and also provided accommodation for the policeman and his family. This is now a private dwelling house.



11 Bethel Chapel

Bethel Chapel, first opened in 1810, and now combined with the English Presbyterian Chapel within one building, is the only remaining functioning chapel in Caerwys. In the past, the many chapels in Caerwys played a key role furthering the cultural traditions within the town, organising eisteddfodau, choirs and lectures whilst fostering the use of the Welsh language.



Discover the Town Trail of Caerwys

