

Welcome to historic Caerwys—the smallest town in Britain holding a Royal Charter; first granted in 1290. The map shows buildings and places of historical interest. To visit these, follow ‘The Green Plaque Trail’, dotted line on the map. The trail is accessible to wheelchair users. Start in the Town Square by the large plaque on the wall.

Visit www.caerwys-town.com to find more about the buildings, or read ‘Discover Caerwys’ on the web.

‘Caerwys since Victorian Times’, written in 2012, is available from the Caerwys Historical Society. The monthly *Caerwys Chronicle* reports the town news.

Around the Town Square are Morgan’s Pori Gwych, (deli, butcher & Post Office), the Caerwys Pharmacy, The Royal Oak, & a convenience store.

Meals are served at Piccadilly Inn (01352 720284), Caerwys Golf Club (01352 721222), the Cherry Pie at Melin y Wern (01352 741279), On The Corner (01352 721809) and the Edenshine Restaurant (01352 720797) in the Afonwen Craft Centre.

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Discover the Town Trail of Caerwys

1

Town Square


Mostyn 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 Babell 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. 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.



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.



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.



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?



11

Bethel Chapel


The many chapels in Caerwys played a key role, organising eisteddfodau, choirs and lectures whilst fostering the use of the Welsh language. 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.



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.



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.



START

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

NORTH STREET

HOLYWELL ROAD

DROVERS LANE

HIGH STREET

WATER STREET

CHAPEL STREET

SOUTH STREET

St Michael's Church

Rectory

Ysgol yr Esgob

Town Hall