

# profile | caerwys





*Main pic: Water Street. Facing pics (left to right): shopping, St Michael's Church, Chapel Street.*

Caerwys may be small but it's perfectly formed. So small indeed that the Guinness Book of Records thought it the tiniest town in Great Britain.

And so perfectly formed, with its straight roads crossing each other at right angles, that it provided the model for Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, USA.

(Sir William Penn, founder of Philadelphia, was accompanied to America by Caerwys surgeon Thomas Wynne, who must have bent his ear about its attractions.)

We can thank King Edward I for the fact that Caerwys is a town at all. He granted it his Royal Charter in 1290. Seven hundred years later

Princess Margaret attended the town's anniversary celebrations on behalf of the Queen.

Other monarchs with a soft spot for Caerwys include both Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth I. Henry declared it a place for "craftsmen of poetry and music" and Elizabeth proclaimed it "home of the Eisteddfod".

By doing so she enabled local arty types to avoid being lumped together with tramps, footpads, beggars and buskers. And she made Caerwys the natural headquarters of the Welsh bards.