

IECHYD DA!
The Pubs of Caerwys
History and Recollections



The Drovers Arms

Andrew Davies
Tim Erasmus
Edited by Alice Ward

Published by Caerwys Historical Society,
based on the 2017 Christmas lecture.

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We have had permission to use the following in previous publications especially ‘Caerwys – A History Since Victorian Times’ by Dr. Tim Erasmus, 2010: The Caerwys Band (p.29), the Temperance Ladies (p.38), the Cross Foxes (p. 27), and the old postcard of the Piccadilly (p.48).

The Fox and Hounds (p.21) is scanned from a framed picture originally in the Royal Oak – source unknown. The Caerwys Chronicle July 1992 (p.6) was kindly loaned by Mr. Emlyn Williams. The Drovers Arms (cover and page 24) is no. 578 in the Historical Society Archive. The poster on p.39 was used by Neil Prior, BBC Wales 2011, and is taken from the internet.

The Editor has been unable to discover the original source of many of the other images taken from the internet, especially those of the food and drinks popular in the 1960s and 1970s. Permission has been sought wherever possible, and we apologise if we have inadvertently infringed any copyrights.

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Few towns the size of Caerwys continue to enjoy not one but two flourishing public houses. Both of these, the Piccadilly and the Royal Oak, date back to the seventeenth century, and we can catch glimpses of them during the centuries of change which have resulted in the loss of their many predecessors.

The pubs of Caerwys were the theme for the 2017 Christmas Lecture of the Caerwys Historical Association. The large and enthusiastic audience relished the recollections of Mr. Andrew Davies, whose lifetime of hospitality as a pub chef has put him in a unique position to describe the many changes that have taken place in his professional career. Can you remember the days when women were only allowed into the lounge bar on sufferance, to drink Pony and Babycham, and when everything shut down between three and seven o'clock? It is all here, in entertaining detail.

These thought-provoking memories were set into their longer-term historical context by the research of Dr. Tim Erasmus. Here, too, a number of fascinating themes have emerged, particularly concerning the social structure of the pubs, their contrasting relationships with church and chapel, and the conflicting role of women on one hand as pillars of the Temperance Movement or on the other as the influential landladies who actually ran the establishments. It all makes for a very good read!