

THE CHARTER OF 1340 granted to the burgesses in the town of Cowebrugg [Cowbridge] the following liberties:

they are to enjoy immunities from toll, murage, pontage, panage, terrage, quayage and picage and other customary dues through his lordship in both England and Wales;

they are to choose yearly from among themselves his bailiffs, i.e. three reeves from whom his constable shall receive one at will, three catchpoles from whom the reeve shall receive one at will, and two ale-tasters who must be received and sworn before the constable;

the reeve and the catchpole are to be free of the rent of one burgage for the year;

all merchandise coming to the town or passing through shall be shown to the reeve before being sold or removed under penalty of forfeiture;

no burgess shall be imprisoned in the town, as long as he can find bail or pledge, except in cases of felony with mainour;

when inquisition has to be made concerning things done within the town touching the burgesses, their tenements or chattels, it is to be determined by the burgesses of the town only;

the burgesses shall not be receivers of the lord's moneys, except those issuing from the bailiwick of the town, nor shall they be compelled to buy corn, meat, wines or other victuals from the lord against their will;

the burgesses shall be free to sell without hindrance, throughout the town;

the burgesses may freely bequeath all burgages, tenements and rents;

burgesses must not be constrained to go beyond the ancient boundaries of the town, namely, from the highway from Cowebrugg [Cowbridge] to Seynthillary [St. Hilary] and to Bewreper [Beaupre] on the east as far as the bridge called Cowebrugg [Cowbridge] on the west, and from the land called Milleforlong on the south as far as the fulling-mill on the north;

no outsider shall buy merchandise from an outsider (except at the fairs or markets) but from the burgesses (besides the gentlemen of Glamorgan for victuals, not for reason of merchandise), nor shall anyone keep a stall, shop or Corff; the burgesses may form a Guild for their profit;

the burgesses shall not be distrained for the debt of anyone unless they shall have been debtors or pledges for the same;

only the constable and the bailiffs chosen by the burgesses may make summons or attachments or take distraint within the bounds;

all merchants who live by selling and buying within the lordship of Glamorgan and Morgan must dwell in the towns of Burgh and not Upland, and make sale of their wares in marts, market-places and towns of Burgh only;

merchants shall not travel other than by the highways through the towns of Burgh so that the lord lose not tolls and customs due to him;

the burgesses shall not do any watch nor keep any fugitive in any church outside the walls of the town;

by the ordinance of the constable, the burgesses may freely make orders and proclamations concerning the assizes of bread and ale and other matters at their will;

the burgesses shall not be bound by proclamations made in the lord's county of Glamorgan at any time;

the burgesses shall have their prison in the town for keeping and punishing malefactors and rebels, and making execution before the constable, with plea or without plea, of all things touching the town;

the burgesses shall hold one fair in the town, as there was in the time of the lord's ancestors, namely, the fair which begins on the Eve of Holy Cross Day [13 September] and lasts 15 days, in which fair shall be taken the toll and other customs due to the lord, and all pleas of the crown shall be held concerning felonies within the bounds of the town made during the fair and other pleas of trespass, debts, agreements and contracts, and all pleas and complaints shall be pleaded in the hundred of the town, except pleas of the crown, forestall, homesoke and pleas of land;

the constable of Kaerdiff [Cardiff] or his lieutenant shall hold hundreds every month and the pleas called Pipoundrez [piepowder] every day, and all things concerning the liberties of the town shall be determined before him;

all pleas of the Crown, forestall and homesoke within the town shall be heard before the sheriff in the King's court.

Glossary

Murage:	a tax to pay for the upkeep of the town walls
Pontage:	a toll paid to cross a bridge
Panage:	payment made by tenants to their lord for the right to pasture their pigs in the lord's woods
Terrage:	charge for occupying ground at a fair or market
Quayage:	quay-dues
Picage:	payment for the right to break ground for erecting a stall
Toll:	dues levied at markets and for the upkeep of roads and bridges
Constable:	the constable of the lord's castle at Cardiff
Aletaster:	an official who tested the quality of ale and beer sold within the borough and ensured that they were sold to the proper weight and measure
Mainour:	stolen goods found in the possession of a thief on his arrest