

AYLESBURY'S HISTORY

A settlement existed at Aylesbury even before the Norman Conquest. The first recorded reference is in 571 A.D., when it was called "Aegelsburg" – i.e Aegel's Fort. In the 6th century it was a major stronghold against the Saxons, and some 350 years later was captured by the Danes, despite the brave efforts of Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great.

The settlement grew in size and by medieval times it was a small town, rather than a fortress, which grows in importance as the market town for the surrounding area.

In late Saxon times, it had a minor royal palace (in the region of Kingsbury – hence the name), and it also minted royal coins.

In 1218 it acquired its own Assize Court and by 1554 it was sufficiently important to become a parliamentary borough.

Aylesbury has always been a natural intersection for roads, and in 1814 it acquired its own canal – a branch of the Grand Union. The first railway came in 1838 – a branch line from Cheddington: followed by a second in 1893 – the present line which runs into Marylebone.

Despite its importance, the population growth was slow: it was only 3,200 in 1801, 6,000 in 1851 and 9,000 in 1901. In the 1960s, however, the town was artificially extended by agreement between the local Council and various London Boroughs, under which Aylesbury agreed to take their overspill; and this, coupled with the town's natural growth, has resulted in the present population being in excess of 50,000.

THE AYLESBURY CLUB

Duck Dinner



TUESDAY, 13th OCTOBER 1992

at

THE WALTON LOUNGE

THE CIVIC CENTRE, AYLESBURY

