

The Aylesbury Club and the Duck Dinner

The Duck Dinner is held in Aylesbury each year by the Aylesbury Club, which was originally formed in 1810. Its objects then were “good cheer, good humour and good neighbourhood”, and its members met each month on the Friday nearest to the full moon during the period from November to April.

The club continued into the 1950's; the Bucks Herald recording in September 1954 that the author Sir Compton Mackenzie proposed the toast at the Bulls Head in Aylesbury. After this time the club seems to have faded away. However in 1973 Maurice Buckingham, the then Mayor of Aylesbury, reconstituted the club with the same laudable objects, and it is now as strong as ever.

The Club's only raison d'être apart from the above objectives is to continue the tradition of the annual duck dinner. The Club and its members hope that all its guests will enjoy tonight's dinner.

Extract from Inaugural Meeting,

9th November 1810

- V. THAT the subscription for this Club be *Two Guineas per year for Wine, and the ordinary Seven Shillings and Six-pence, to include all Expenses for Dinner. THAT no Fines for non-attendance, or extra charges be admitted; but that the Members not present at the first yearly Meeting of the Club, be requested to empower some Person to pay to the Treasurer the Amount of their Subscriptions, that there may be no delay in providing good Wine for the Club.*
- VI. THAT Dinner be served up precisely at four o'clock, and the quantity of Wine to be drank as a Club, not to exceed one Bottle for each person present, including Dinner Wine. Such Members as chosen to remain after the President has quitted the Chair, to pay for the Wine they may call for, at the rate of *Six Shillings per bottle.*
- VII. THAT honorary Members and Visitors, introduced by Members, pay *Thirteen Shillings and Six pence for Dinner and Wine, of which Five Shillings will be accounted for to the Treasurer by the Master of the House*
- VIII. THAT for the present SEASON the Club be held at the WHITE HART INN, and in future at the two principal Inns alternately, unless the Club should find cause to alter their Resolution on this Subject.
- IX. THAT the Master of the Inn be allowed, exclusive of the *Seven Shillings and Six-pence for Dinner, one Shilling for every Bottle expended of the Club Wine.*
- X. THAT the Club being totally unconnected with Politics, no subject be started, or Toast proposed, likely to provoke such discussions; good Cheer, good Humor, and good Neighbourhood, being the most desirable objects of all Human Policy.

The Aylesbury Club

Good Humour, good cheer and good neighbourhood



Founded 1810

Serving the Duck since 1810

DUCK DINNER

Wednesday 8th June 2022

At

The Aylesbury Canal Society,
Circus Fields,
Aylesbury.

President: Mr. Ray Ghent

Members of the Aylesbury Club
Welcome you to The Annual Duck Dinner

Dinner Menu

Traditional Prawn Cocktail
Option: Quail Egg Salad (v)

Roll and Butter

Roast Duck (Half or Breast)
with The Aylesbury Club Plum and Brandy Sauce
Option Roast Beef or Mushroom Wellington (v)

Roast and Dauphinoise Potatoes
with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Lemon Cheesecake

Selection of Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints



TOASTS

“The Queen”
by
Her Excellency Ambassador
Of Czech Republic Mrs Chatardova

“The Ladies”
by
Club Member
Mr Bob Prouting

“The Aylesbury Duck”
by
Dr Tahir Ali
Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine & Anaesthesia

“Response”
by
Deputy Chief Nurse
Tina Charlton

“The NHS”
by
President of The Aylesbury Club
Ray Ghent