

## 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 objects is to continue the tradition of the annual duck dinner, and the Club and its members hope that all its guests will enjoy tonight’s dinner.



## Czechoslovakia and The Aylesbury Area.

On the 29th September 1938 the Munich Agreement awarded Nazi Germany the majority of the German speaking borderlands of Bohemia and Moravia, known as the Sudetenland. President Beneš resigned on the 5th October 1938 when the Germans annexed the Sudetenland and he went into exile, living in Putney London. When the wartime blitz hit London in 1940, Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš was urged to pack up and seek refuge in the English countryside. For the next five years, President Beneš and his wife lived in The Abbey, a country estate owned by friends of the Rothschild family, in the picturesque village of Aston Abbots and he regularly commuted to London. His cabinet found safe haven at the nearby Wingrave Manor, while up to 100 Czechoslovak soldiers from the main army barracks in Leamington Spa kept a watchful eye. After the war President Beneš made several gifts to Aston Abbots, including a bus shelter at the Aston Abbots/Wingrave crossroads which is still in use today, despite being recently damaged by a HGV. He also gifted money to the village school with which they purchased a climbing frame, and he also donated a globe to the school which is now residing in the Bucks County Museum.

For further details please see the Nigel Rees book “The Czech Connection”.

# The Aylesbury Club

*Good Humour, good cheer and good neighbourhood*



*Founded 1810*

*Serving the Duck since 1810*

## **DUCK DINNER**

*Saturday 22nd July 2017*

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*

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*Wild Boar Terrine with Melba Toast*  
*And Red Onion Marmalade*  
*Option: Fan of Melon with Summer Berry Coulis*

*Roll and Butter*

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*Half a Roast Duck*  
*with The Aylesbury Club Plum and Brandy Sauce*  
*Option Roast Beef or Stuffed Field Mushroom (v)*

*Roast and Anna Potatoes*  
*with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables*

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*Tarte au Citron with a Berry Coulis*

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*Selection of Cheese and Biscuits*

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*Coffee and Mints*



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## TOASTS

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### **“The Queen”**

by  
The President of the Aylesbury Club  
Mr. Ray Ghent

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### **“The Aylesbury Duck”**

by  
His Excellency the Ambassador of the  
Czech Republic  
Mr. Libor Sečka

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### **“Response”**

by  
Aston Abbots Resident  
Mr. Bob Prouting

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