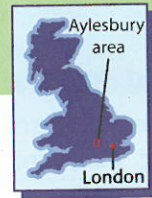


# 3 How Aylesbury grew

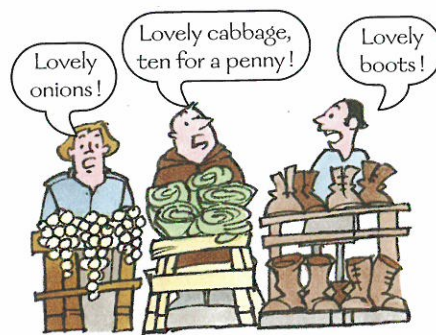


Here you'll see how a settlement can grow, with Aylesbury as our example.

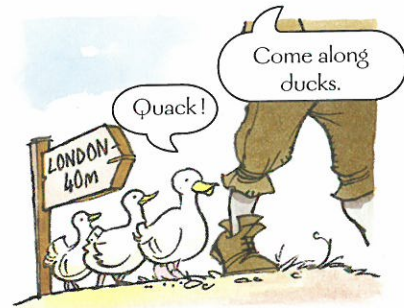
## From then to now



The little Saxon settlement at Aylesbury grew slowly at first. Babies were born. New people moved in, to farm, or bake, or make shoes.



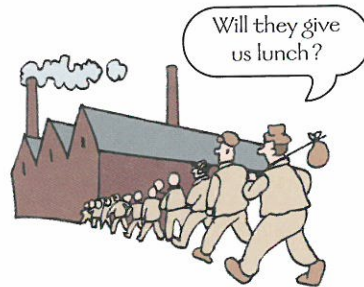
The Roman road made it easy to get to. So by 1200 AD, it had become a village with a busy market. People came from all around to buy and sell things.



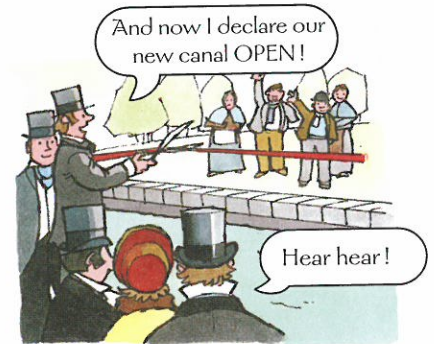
By 1720, it was famous for breeding white ducks. People walked them to London, to sell them. (For meat and their feathers, which were used in quilts.)



By 1750, Britain was changing. It was the Industrial Revolution! New machines were invented. New factories were set up. Canals and railways were built.



Places like Birmingham and Leeds grew very fast, as people flocked in from the farms to find work in the new factories. These towns grew into cities.



Aylesbury remained a small market town. But even it saw changes: a canal that linked it to London and Birmingham; a railway to Birmingham; a couple of factories.



Then, in 1839, a rail link to London was opened. (So the ducks went by train!) This link to the UK's biggest city helped Aylesbury to grow faster.



In the 1960s it shot up in size. Because thousands of people from London were moved there, to new council housing. (London did not have enough homes.)



Aylesbury still has its market. The old factories are gone, but it has some new industries. It is still changing. And as you'll see later, it's about to grow a lot bigger.