

AROUND THE TOWNS

## ABOUT THE CENTRE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## OF TOWN

## ● CANAL DAYS

There is plenty of talk about the Wilts & Berks Canal being re-routed through the town once again. Some local people still have memories of parts of the canal lying disused in the town centre, although it's more than a century since it was navigable.

The canal reached Swindon in 1804 and officially opened along its full length in 1810. It was extended north in 1819 with the opening of the North Wilts Canal, which later officially became part of the Wilts & Berks. All traffic had ceased by at least 1906 and it was officially closed in 1914.

The route of the canal is easy to trace. It ran from Wharf Green to the site of today's bus station, where there was once a junction. From here the canal forked one way towards the Railway Works and the other way towards the County Ground, along the route of today's Fleming Way.

## ● PICTURE THIS

The Savoy is now one of Swindon's most popular pubs, but it was once a cinema. It opened as The Savoy cinema on February 15, 1937, later became the ABC, then the Cannon, and continued showing films until 1991. The movies first came to Swindon in about 1908, thanks to open-air "picture gardens", followed by the first dedicated cinema building, the County Electric Pavilion in Regent Street, in 1910.