

Historic Towns & Villages

Woburn

A historic market town



Woburn is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. It grew in size after the Cistercian monks built the Abbey close to the village in 1145 and over the following centuries Woburn became a thriving market town with a charter for a market every week and a festival three times a year.

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1538, the Abbey and its lands were bequeathed to the Russell family who became the Earls and then Dukes of Bedford. The 15th Duke lives there today.

In 1720 a fire destroyed the fronts of all the buildings at the centre of the town which was rebuilt in the Georgian style we see today.

The heyday for Woburn came at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries in the Coaching Era when there were 27 inns in the town, providing accommodation

for passengers and changes of horses for the 60 coaches passing through every day. The coming of the railways caused a decline in trade and population and today Woburn is a village once more, but thrives with many specialist shops and a variety of restaurants and pubs.



Go to www.woburnheritagemuseum.co.uk for more information or visit the Heritage Centre Museum, open every day from Easter to October.