



THE MARKET TOWN IN QUESTION

THREE TUESDAYS

A market town is neither village nor city, but a settlement with the legal right to hold a market. These rights usually date back to the Middle Ages. Waltham Abbey has held a market for over 700 years. Amersham market is still held every Tuesday. Gravesend's market, still held every day, dates back to 1268. The market might be held after Mass, and a market cross might ensure God's blessing on the proceedings, and act as deterrent to shoppers and thieves alike. Using these medieval market towns as examples, and timing our visits with market day, we explore the history of market towns, the purposes they served, the goods sold in the marketplace, when they were sold and for how much, and the fine architecture that grew up around them and which still survives often disguised behind high street shop signage.

TUESDAY 31 MAY WALTHAM ABBEY

11.00 Meet at Waltham Cross Station (27min from London Liverpool Street).

4.00 Return to Waltham Cross Station

TUESDAY 14 JUNE AMERSHAM

11.00 Meet at Amersham Station (42min from London Marylebone)

4.00 Return to Amersham Station

TUESDAY 28 JUNE GRAVESEND

11.00 Meet at Gravesend Station (23min from St Pancras, 57min from Charing Cross)

4.00 Return to Gravesend Station

£70 per day members, £80 per day non-members, or £175 members, £205 non-members, for all three days.