

SHAFTESBURY AND DISTRICT TIME LINE

c.2000BC	The ancient yew tree in Tisbury churchyard scientifically dated by experts as around 4000 years of age	Tisbury
2000BC	Evidence of early settlement.	Fontmell Magna
c.675	A young woman was buried in a barrow on the southern boundary of the parish. The valuable possessions buried with her indicate she must have been a thegn's or daughter.	Swallowcliffe
700	West Saxons established the settlement of 'Tissebiri' and monastery before 700 AD	Tisbury
c.880	Shaftesbury was founded in c. 880 by King Alfred and was one of the four towns in Dorset mentioned in the Burghal Hidage	Shaftesbury
c.888	Shaftesbury Abbey was founded. The first nunnery to be independent from a male community and his daughter Aethelgifu became the first Abbess.	Shaftesbury
888	The settlement of 'Tissebiri' and monastery were subsumed into the new Shaftesbury Abbey.	Tisbury
924-39	King Athelstan, grandson of King Alfred, authorised two moneyers to strike coins in Shaftesbury.	Shaftesbury
932	King Aethelstan grants 11.5 hides at Fontmell to Abbess of Shaftesbury Abbey, provided they sing 50 psalms and a mass every day for his soul.	Fontmell Magna
979	The body of the murdered Edward, King and Martyr, was brought from Wareham and re-interred in the Abbey.	Shaftesbury
1001	Edward was canonised. His half-brother, King Aethelred, attended the service	Shaftesbury
1035	King Canute died in Shaftesbury. He was buried at Winchester.	Shaftesbury
1074	The Saxon abbess Leofgifu was succeeded by the Norman Abbess Eulalia and the Norman re-building of the Abbey commenced.	Shaftesbury
1086	Tisbury mentioned in the Domesday Book showing land held by Shaftesbury Abbey.	Tisbury
1086	The Domesday survey described Shaftesbury as having lost 80 of the 257 houses it had in the reign of King Edward the Confessor.	Shaftesbury
c.1125	William of Malmesbury saw the still-pulsating lung of Edward the Martyr at the Abbey. The town described as "a town no longer, only a village".	Shaftesbury
1135	King Stephen succeeded to the throne and during the civil wars that followed a fortification was built at the west end of Castle Hill.	Shaftesbury
1218	The Pope ordered the Abbess to limit the nuns to 100.	Shaftesbury
1252	King Henry III ordered that his travelling judges should visit Shaftesbury recognising its importance and no doubt increasing trade.	Shaftesbury
1275	Edward I ordered that 12 oaks from the Royal Forest of Gillingham should be given to Shaftesbury Abbey, indicating that building work was continuing.	Shaftesbury

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1293	The Abbess obtained the right of “Free Warren” for the newly introduced rabbit – a Royal delicacy – on her manors including her one at Wincombe.	Shaftesbury
c.1295	Shaftesbury began to be represented by two MP’s and was becoming an important market town; the present street pattern formed as it expanded east of the Abbey and numerous churches and chapels were built.	Shaftesbury
1309	The Abbess was warned not to allow her nuns to go into the town “lest scandal enter in”!	Shaftesbury
1312	Elizabeth, wife of Robert the Bruce of Scotland, and her daughter spent part of her captivity at Shaftesbury Abbey.	Shaftesbury
1348	The ‘Black Death’ entered England at Weymouth and Shaftesbury, like the rest of England, was decimated: St Peter’s had three rectors in that year.	Shaftesbury
1352	The first recorded Mayor of Shaftesbury, John de Haslemere.	Shaftesbury
1363	The Abbess was given Royal permission to ‘crenellate’ or erect defences. The wall on Gold Hill was probably built soon afterwards.	Shaftesbury
1397	Wardour Castle, a fortress dwelling, was built by the 5 th Lord John Lovell.	Tisbury
Late 14 th / 15 th C	The Grange, now known as Place Farm, was built for the Abbesses of Shaftesbury. It included the largest tithe barn in the country.	Tisbury
1450-90	The stone built parish church is constructed. And the earliest surviving stone cottages in the village date from this period.	Fontmell Magna
1471	17 alehouse keepers in Shaftesbury fined for selling ale in cups not of the standard measure.	Shaftesbury
1480	St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle, acquired the prebend (Stipend payable from the parish to the holder) of Iwerne from King’s College, Cambridge.	Iwerne Minster
1480	‘Wardens of the Goods of St Peter’s’, the church guilds that raised money by brewing a ‘Church Ales’ were fined for the same offence.	Shaftesbury
1490’s	St Peter’s church was being enlarged and improved with the help of church guilds formed by the more prosperous parishioners.	Shaftesbury
1491	Henry VII stayed at Shaftesbury Abbey – the last crowned guest.	Shaftesbury
1501	Catherine of Aragon stayed at the Abbey on her way to marry Prince Arthur (the older brother of Henry VIII)	Shaftesbury
1526	Byzant ceremony –The earliest reference to this water ceremony unique to Shaftesbury.	Shaftesbury
1539	Shaftesbury Abbey dissolved by Henry VIII.	Shaftesbury
1539	Dissolution of the monasteries. Fontmell Magna changes from control by Shaftesbury Abbey to the Arundell estate	Fontmell Magna
1547	Wardour Castle purchased by Sir John Arundell	Tisbury

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1552	Sir Thomas Arundell is beheaded in the Tower of London. His lands are seized by the Crown, but later returned by Queen Mary I to the family.	
1604	Shaftesbury obtained a Charter of Incorporation from King James I confirming rights to self-government under a Mayor and Capital Burgesses.	Shaftesbury
c.1611	Mathew Chubb, married a Shaftesbury woman, founded an almshouse for 16 poor women (it appears on the 1615 map of the town)	Shaftesbury
1615	A map reproduced in the 3 rd (Victorian) edition of Hutchin's, shows the street pattern and four parish churches familiar today.	Shaftesbury
1626	The Rector of St Peter's fails to augment his meagre living by claiming tithes from Henry Clarke, a Marnhull butcher who had a stall in the shambles.	Shaftesbury
1629	Albinus Muston's 'ancient house' in Coleman Lane (now Muston's Lane) was granted the 'privileges belonging to an inn' at the Midsummer Sessions.	Shaftesbury
c.1630	A Grammar School for the sons of gentlemen was started. First in Magdalene Lane, later moved to Bimport.	Shaftesbury
1631	Thomas Mayhew moved to Massachusetts. Purchased Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Helped to establish the townships of Tisbury and Chilmark.	Tisbury
1632	Sir Christopher Wren born in a cottage at the bottom of Wise Lane. His father Dr Christopher Wren, was appointed rector of East Knoyle in 1632.	East Knoyle
1632	Lady Ann Arundell and her husband the 2 nd Lord Baltimore negotiated the formation of the new colony of Maryland.	Tisbury
1641	One of the present-day church bells is hung. An inscription in the churchyard is for Thomas Ridout whose name also appears on one of the church bells.	Fontmell Magna
1642	English Civil War. A group known as the Dorset Clubmen are confronted by a Parliamentary army on Hambledon Hill and detained in Shroton Church	Shroton
1643	Old Wardour Castle was captured by a Parliamentary force and the Arundell women were imprisoned in their house in Shaftesbury.	Tisbury
1659	Deeds of properties and marriage settlements survive from this period, providing valuable insights into the social structure of the village.	Fontmell Magna
1662	The day for the Byzant ceremony was moved from the Sunday after Holy Rood Day in may to the Monday before Ascension Day.	Shaftesbury
1662	Thomas Hallett a Puritan 'lecturer' at St Peter's during the Commonwealth resigned and was later convicted and fined for preaching in Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury
1667	Captain Hugh Fry established Shaftesbury's first post office at the Angel Inn (The same site as the present Post Office)	Shaftesbury

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1670	Mayor Lewis Evans had a bronze bushel measure for cereals made for the town's market.	Shaftesbury
1701-1812	The Dibben family clerical dynasty at the Rectory. Dr Thomas Dibben, was succeeded by his son James senior, then James Junior and finally Richard.	Fontmell Magna
1672	Shaftesbury's first dissenting church (Presbyterian) was established in Muston's Lane.	Shaftesbury
1726	The first non-conformist chapel was established opposite the Boot Inn	Tisbury
1732	The Presbyterian Church re-founded as an Independent or Congregational chapel in Muston's Lane	Shaftesbury
1744	St Peter's parishioners agree to spend "up to £40" on a large fire engine.	Shaftesbury
1745	A Quaker Meeting established in St James. Their original Meeting House and graveyard survives.	Shaftesbury
1750	John Wesley paid the first of many visits to Shaftesbury.	Shaftesbury
1753	The Great Western Road through Shaftesbury from London to Penzance became a 'Turnpike'.	Shaftesbury
1762	The spire of Tisbury Church was struck by lightning for the second time and replaced by the present tower.	Tisbury
1776	The new Wardour Castle was completed	Tisbury
1754	William Lush left property in and around Shaftesbury to maintain a free school for 20 children in Bell Street.	Shaftesbury
1795	Thomas Osmond constructed the first clock on the tower of Tisbury Church	Tisbury
1797	The Methodist Chapel is built and enlarged in 1831	Fontmell Magna
1799	William Upjohn, a local surveyor, drew a detailed plan of the Borough	Shaftesbury
1800	Fonthill Abbey, almost completed by William Beckford, visited by Admiral Nelson and friends. This ill-constructed building later collapsed in a storm in 1825	Tisbury
1807	The Register of Voters published for Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna
1809	Arundell estates, including Fontmell Magna, sold to the Glyn family	Fontmell Magna
1820	Earl Robert Grosvenor bought the 'Property of Shaftesbury' from Lord Rosebery to control elections in the borough.	Shaftesbury
1823	Turnpike Act gives approval for the start of the new turnpike road between Fontmell Magna and Iwerne as part of the Shaftesbury-Blandford main road.	Fontmell Magna
1827	Earl Grosvenor, finding that the Shaftesbury Corporation had demolished its old Town Hall for road widening, gave them the present building.	Shaftesbury

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1829	Richard Upjohn, a cabinet maker and joiner, left Shaftesbury for America where he became the first President of the American Institute of Architects.	Shaftesbury
1830	William Upjohn, surveyor, emigrated with his grown up children. His grandson was to found the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Corporation of America.	Shaftesbury
1830	One of the most violent manifestations of the Swing Riots protest against low farm wages took place at Pythouse.	Tisbury
1831	Earl Robert Grosvenor became Marquis of Westminster. Gives his son, Richard, 3 rd Earl Grosvenor, and new wife Motcombe House.	Shaftesbury
1832	In the Reform Act Shaftesbury lost one Member of Parliament and many of the iniquities for which the town was notorious were abolished.	Shaftesbury
1835	Municipal Reform Act. John Rutter, a Quaker, publisher and solicitor who had campaigned for political reform, is elected onto the Town Corporation.	Shaftesbury
1837	Shaftesbury businessmen form gas company and build works in Bimport to make gas for public and private lighting.	Shaftesbury
1840	John Rutter built a non-denominational school for poor children in St James	Shaftesbury
1842	Zion Hill Chapel was built along Cuffs Lane	Tisbury
1843	The National School was established (now Hinton Hall).	Tisbury
1845	Richard, 2 nd Marquis of Westminster consults John Rutter on the needs of the town. John suggests free water supply for the poor and a market hall.	Shaftesbury
1851	The 1851 Census provides a vivid picture of the village at its most prosperous point in the 19 th century.	Fontmell Magna
1852	Marquis of Westminster sank a well 125 deep at Barton Hill and piped water throughout the town.	Shaftesbury
1855	A County Constabulary established for Dorset with a station in Bell Street.	Shaftesbury
1859	Tisbury station established on the South Western Railway. Archibald Becket, constructed a road through the village. The foundation of today' s Tisbury.	Tisbury
1859/60	Semley railway station established	Semley
1861	Wiltshire Archaeological Society held their summer meeting in Shaftesbury and examined the Marquis of Westminster's excavations at the Abbey.	Shaftesbury
1862	Parish Church rebuilt and consecrated on St Andrew's Day, 1863.	Fontmell Magna
1864	The village school is opened, with places for up to 140 children	Fontmell Magna
1868	A new Tisbury Union workhouse was built on Monmouth Hill to replace an earlier one east of the churchyard.	Tisbury
1869	Marquis of Westminster died.	Shaftesbury

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c.1870-90	Agricultural Depression increases poverty in the village and leads to decline in population as people seek employment in urban areas and abroad.	Fontmell Magna
1871	A wholesale milk depot opened opposite Semley railway station. This enabled local farmers to sell fresh milk in London	Semley
1872	Lush's School became a grammar school for boys and renamed Lush's Endowed Grammar School	Shaftesbury
1873	New school built for St James parish to provide free schooling for all children.	
1889	A great fire destroyed Cloud's House, the home of the Honourable Percy Wyndham. The house had only been completed five years earlier.	East Knoyle
1894	First meeting of the Parish Council in December	Fontmell Magna
1890	The small firm of P J Parmiter and Son moved from Ansty to a hut by the railway. It was to become Tisbury's largest industry	Tisbury
1877	To control rowdyism on November 5 th the 'Shaftesbury Bonfire Boys' organised a procession and bonfire. This evolved into Shaftesbury Carnival.	Shaftesbury
1890's	To improve the image of Shaftesbury as an airy and healthy place to visit, main drainage was installed.	Shaftesbury
1891	Lady Westminster died at the age of 91. Her youngest son Richard, 1 st Baron of Stalbridge, inherited the Shaftesbury property.	Shaftesbury
1895	Water pipes freeze and water had to be collected by hand from wells.	Shaftesbury
1898	The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart was built	Tisbury
1902	Shaftesbury soldiers returning from the Boer War were given watches and a heroes' welcome outside the Town Hall	Shaftesbury
1902	The Borough commissioned E. Doran Webb FSA to carry out excavation work on the Abbey site. This project was abandoned by 1904	Shaftesbury
1902	John Jeffery of Donhead revived permission for an open-air fortnightly Saturday cattle market.	Shaftesbury
1907	Lady Theodora Guest presented an operating room to the Westminster Hospital, her father's memorial hospital.	Shaftesbury
1904	Fontmell Brewery, Flower's, is sold.	Fontmell Magna
1910	Shaftesbury celebrated the Coronation of George V with an Ox Roast.	Shaftesbury
1910-11	Alice and John Lockwood Kipling, parents of Rudyard Kipling, buried behind the chancel of the church.	Tisbury
1918	The 2 nd Baron Stalbridge sold his properties in Shaftesbury for £75,000 to the 'Londoners'	
1919	The fortnightly cattle market changed to Thursday.	Shaftesbury

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1919	A syndicate of three local men bought the town for £80,000. They then held an auction to sell over 300 lots of homes and shops.	Shaftesbury
1924	Shaftesbury Abbey ruins scheduled as an Ancient Monument.	Shaftesbury
1926	Glyn sells Fontmell Magna properties. Most of the purchases were sitting tenants.	Fontmell Magna
1927	The church clock was replaced with one by J B Joyce and Co, of Whitchurch, Shropshire.	Tisbury
1927	Shaftesbury bought its first motor engine	Shaftesbury
1929	The Wessex Electricity Company established an office in Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury
1931	A lead casket containing a bundle of bones was discovered in the Abbey grounds. They were thought to be the remains of Edward, King and Martyr.	Shaftesbury
1931	The Wessex Electricity Company won the contract for lighting the Town Hall	Shaftesbury
1939-45	The Mayor, Town and Deputy Town all remained in post during the war dealing with the extra work such as rationing and billeting evacuees.	Shaftesbury
1940	A hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins, of the reign of Ethelred II, was found when an air raid shelter was being built in a garden in Shaftesbury.	Shaftesbury
1944	The 16 th and last Lord Arundell (John) died following internment as a prisoner of war in Colditz Castle	Tisbury
1944	It is reported that 32 men and 4 women from Fontmell Magna are on active service.	Fontmell Magna
1945	Secondary Modern school Christy's School, Mampitts Lane, built for both boys and girls.	Shaftesbury
1946	Shaftesbury & District Historical Society was founded.	Shaftesbury
1946	The New Post Office building was completed. Building had been postponed because of the war.	Shaftesbury
1949	Shaftesbury and District Arts Club was founded.	Shaftesbury
1949	The Union Workhouse used for the 'chronic sick' was closed and demolished.	Shaftesbury
1951	The Shaftesbury and District Arts Club bought the Bell Street end of the market hall for a theatre.	Shaftesbury
1951	Abbey ruins bought by Laura Sydenham and Phyllis Carter they built and lived in the lodge on the site.	Shaftesbury
1952	Holy Trinity church tower was struck by lightning and one of the pinnacles landed on the path below. Fortunately before morning service.	Shaftesbury
1952-53	Excavations at the Abbey found the foundations of an earlier building than the Norman one found in the previous century.	Shaftesbury
1957	Volunteers completed work on the Arts Club theatre and it opened with a play by Laura Sydenham 'The Sleeping Monk'.	Shaftesbury

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1963	Dorset County Council and Shaftesbury Borough Council develop 125 acres east of Christy's Lane for housing and industry.	Shaftesbury
1965	First town map, prepared by Dorset County Council and the Borough Council, publicly exhibited. Shaftesbury Civic Society formed in protest.	Shaftesbury
1967	Shaftesbury Borough Council built 125 houses off Wincombe Lane.	Shaftesbury
1967	The village loses its own policeman and Police House	Fontmell Magna
1968	New primary school opened in Mampitt's Lane	Shaftesbury
1971	St Rumbold's parish church became the chapel for the Boys Grammar School. Now Shaftesbury School	Shaftesbury
1973	The 'Hovis' advertisement on Gold Hill was made by Ridley Scott.	Shaftesbury
1973	The chancel of Tisbury Church was converted into St Andrew's Chapel.	Tisbury
1974	Women's Institute market opened in the Town Hall.	Shaftesbury
1976	Zion Hill Chapel was struck by lightning and subsequently closed.	Tisbury
1982	Rank Hovis contributed £10,000 to the restoration of the cobbles on Gold Hill.	Shaftesbury
1983	National reorganisation amalgamated the Girls High School, Christy's School and the Boys Grammar School to form Shaftesbury School.	Shaftesbury
1983	A new first school and King Alfred's Middle School replaced the old primary schools.	Shaftesbury
1988	Shaftesbury first win in the regional 'Britain in Bloom' competition.	Shaftesbury
1991	Census shows 15% of Fontmell Magna's population is under 16 years old, and 31% is of pensionable age.	Fontmell Magna
1985	Modern altar blessed on 18th June 1995 at Shaftesbury Abbey. Built to a design by Richard Grasby and based on Anglo-Saxon models.	Shaftesbury
2002	Golden Jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II. Over 100 specimens of bee orchid were discovered in the allotments. Previously unseen.	Tisbury
2002	Shaftesbury wins silver in the national finalists in 'Britain in Bloom'.	Shaftesbury
2007	Shaftesbury Town Enhancement Project was carried out	Shaftesbury
2007	Shaftesbury Abbey was awarded the South West Tourism's Silver award for the best small tourist attraction in the South West	Shaftesbury