



Timeline

6000BC Mesolithic flints found dating from this time indicate temporary settlement in the parish

Bronze Age 25 round barrows, including Four Barrows, and settlements at Upham and Woodsend date from this time

Iron Age There is occupation at Upper Upham at this time

Roman Times There are settlements between North Farm and Lottage and settlements and a field system at Upper Upham and Shipley

10th Century The village is founded by the Saxons and a wooden church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene is built on the site of the present-day church

1066 Earl Harold or his mother Gytha held the manor of Aldbourne.

William I seized the manor of Aldbourne.

Aldbourne was permitted to the Count of Perche.

Aldbourne was assessed at 40 hides.

1086 Held by King William I. Domesday Book records enough land for 45 plough teams, 4 mills, a church belonging to the manor and a population of between 670 and 740

Domesday Assessment - Aldbourne returned

1. 10 plough teams with 25 serfs and 14 coliberts were assigned to the demesne
2. Woodland measuring 2 leagues by ½ a league
3. Four mills, valued together at 16s. 8d.

1135 Aldbourne was held by Rotrou, count of Perche (died 1144),

1144 Aldbourne passed upon the death of Rotrou, including the title Count of Perche to his son Rotrou

1150 A Norman stone church with a central tower replaces the wooden Saxon church

1191 Rotrou gave the church at Aldbourne to the priory of Nougent-le-Rotrou (Eure-et-Loir). Upon the death of Rotrou, Aldbourne and the title Count of Perche passed to his son Geoffrey

1202 Geoffrey of Aldbourne, Count of Perche died.

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Thomas, son of Geoffrey inherited Aldbourne and the title of Count of Perche.

1217 Thomas, Count of Perche dies at the battle of Lincoln and the manor of Aldbourne confiscated.

The manor of Aldbourne was granted to the Earl of Salisbury.

1220 St. Mary Magdalene's church destroyed by fire, with only the south doorway surviving, and is rebuilt.

1226 The manor of Aldbourne passed to Ela, Countess of Salisbury upon the death of her husband.

1228 The living of a Vicarage was ordained.

1229 The manor of Aldbourne was granted to Sir William Longsword, son of the Earl of Salisbury & Countess Ela by Henry III

1230 Countess Ela was ordered to release the manor to her son.

1250 Aldbourne Feast possibly held from this time

1260 The advowson of the Vicarage was claimed by both the priory of Nougent-le-Rotrou and by Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III, in the right of her ward Margaret Longespee, Lord of Aldbourne manor. Judgment was found in favour of the Priory but the Longespee claim persisted.

1285 The manor of Aldbourne is 16 years in arrears to the Hundred of Selkley

1291 The vicar received £8 13s. 4d., rather less than most incumbents in Marlborough Deanery.

1295 A mill valued at 33s. 4d., was perhaps the windmill which was part of Aldbourne manor in 1311 and 1347. Its site may have been south of Aldbourne village, where there was a Windmill field.

Hurdlemaking documented for the first time

1301 Richard de Whityngdigh was the first known Vicar of Aldbourne even though the living of Vicarage was ordained in 1228.

1302 From this year the bishop of Salisbury collated the vicars.

1307 Lord of Aldbourne manor had a park and rights of free chase and warren at Aldbourne. Earliest mention of a market, worth £1 6s. 8d. a year to the lord of Aldbourne manor. The demesne of Aldbourne manor included 306 acres of arable, 80 acres of meadow in Wanborough, several pasture for 24 oxen, and pasture for 500 sheep

Documented evidence of rabbits on Aldbourne Chase being killed and eaten

1311 There were 21 yardlanders and 8½ yardlanders, owing services valued at £5 6s. 1d. The yardlanders' services included ploughing in winter a strip for each beast, ploughteam, and yardland they held and in spring a strip for each beast and yardland. Each yardlander owned seven boonworks of reaping and services of hoeing and shearing. Halfyardlanders were to plough three strips and owned services of washing and shearing sheep. Hay in the lord's meadows in Wanborough was cut by tenants of Wanborough manor but carried by those of Aldbourne.

Windmill for grinding corn in existence; a Thursday market held by this time

- 1318 William Walrond is appointed Reeve of Aldbourne Forest. The family remain as Rangers of the Chase until 1620.
- 1339 Aldbourne passed to the Duchy of Lancaster.
- 1365 John of Gaunt receives Aldbourne from the Earl of Salisbury.
- 1377 A wealthy parish with 332 poll tax payers
- 1390 Trade in rabbits from the warrens worth £40 per year
- 1400s An inn on the site of the Blue Boar in existence
- 1460 Central tower removed from St. Mary Magdalene's church, a west tower built by Richard Goddard, a chantry chapel established and the church re-dedicated to St. Michael
- 1500s Dudmore Lodge built in the early part of the century
Houses built in Castle Street by this time
Court House built during the latter part of the century
Fairs held annually on 10 March and 22 July by this time in the late part of the century
- 1516 The oldest bell of the eight now in St. Michael's church hung
- 1546 Chantry chapel in St. Michael's church dissolved
- 1553 South Street is first mentioned; the market is now held on Tuesdays
- 1599 Upper Upham House built
- 1600s Local tradesmen issue their own tokens
Brewhouse in existence at back of Wall Cottage on the Green
Annual average stock of rabbits in the warrens between 8,000 and 20,000
- 1614 West Street first mentioned
- 1617 An inn in Grasshills Lane in existence
- 1627 Much of the manor land sold along with the rabbit warrens
-1631
- 1636 Last deer in Aldbourne Chase killed
- 1637 Parish registers commence
- 1643 Civil War: Parliamentary army attacked by Prince Rupert's cavalry north of Dudmore Lodge and forced to withdraw to Hungerford
- 1644 Civil War: A muster of 10,000 Royalist troops takes place on Aldbourne Chase
- 1648 Plague in the village
- 1649 William and Robert Cor establish their bell foundry in the grounds of Court House
- 1660s Fustian weaving begins in the village as a cottage industry

- 1669 300 dissenters meet outside Court House to hear sermons from parsons ejected from their living
- 1672 The house of Charles Gilbert licensed to hold Presbyterian meetings
- 1600s Late in the century John Aubrey describes rabbits from Aldbourne as the best, sweetest and fattest in England
- 1700s The Crown built as a coaching inn
- 1706 William Wild, a non-conformist preacher, dies at the age of 116
- 1737 Presbyterians meet in a newly built house in West Street
- 1750s Fairs discontinued
- 1760 72 houses and buildings, valued at £20,000, and including a fustian warehouse and the Independent's Meeting House, are destroyed by fire
- Market discontinued
- 1764 Village cross restored
- 1765 Robert Wells opens a bell foundry at Bell Court
- 1777 80 houses and 20 barns valued at £10,000 destroyed by fire
- 1778 Two fire engines known as Adam and Eve purchased
- 1790s Straw plaiting industry introduced as a cottage industry by the Society for the Betterment of the Poor, producing tuscin for local milliners
- Fustian weaving industry in decline
- 1800s Trade in rabbits ceases following enclosure of the land at the beginning of century
- Willow weaving begun in the village as a cottage industry sometime this century
- 1800 Workhouse opened in Bay House in South Street
- 1807 Wesleyan Methodist chapel built, probably in Lottage Road
- 1809 50 acres of Southwood Common given for the use of the poor of the village in perpetuity
- The Bell Inn in existence
- Court House now used as the vicarage house
- 1811 Waterspout causes severe flooding in South Street
- 1812 Jane Bridgeman maintains a school for sixteen poor children at Snap
- 1817 Fire destroys 15 cottages, 3 barns and 2 malshouses
- 1819 Workhouse in South Street destroyed by fire
- 1822 Blue Boar Inn open by this time

- 1825 Well's bell foundry closed
- 1826 William Cobbett in his book Rural Rides describes the village as "a decaying place" that might be "depopulated in twenty year's time"
- 1829 New bell foundry opened by James Bridgeman at High Town
- 1830 Hat making industry in existence
- 1833 House of Thomas Barrett licensed to hold Baptist prayer meeting
There are five fee paying day schools in the village
- 1835 A brass and reed band formed, the precursor of the present day Aldbourne Silver Band
Aldbourne becomes part of Hungerford Poor Law Union
- 1839 A National School built
- 1840 Cottages in West Street converted into a Primitive Methodist chapel
- 1841 Cottages in Back Lane converted into the Strict Baptists' Little Zoar chapel
- 1844 Wesleyan Methodist chapel built in Lottage Road replacing the earlier chapel
- 1845 Wesleyan Methodist chapel built at Woodsend
- 1851 A new windmill beside Baydon Street built by this time
- 1855 Thomas Orchard begins making chairs
National School opened at Woodsend in a converted cottage also used as a chapel
- 1856 John Brown bequeaths £200 to the National Schools of the parish on the death of his wife
- 1858 High Town foundry closed
New National School opened
- 1867 St. Michael's church restored by William Butterfield
Chairmaking begun in Castle Street
Fire engine house built at the side of the Green
- 1868 A new Strict Baptist Zoar chapel built
- 1873 A schoolroom for infants is added to the National School
- 1878 Bronze Age Barrows north of the village excavated by Canon Greenwell - finds which are now
-1879 in the British Museum include the Aldbourne Cup
- 1880 The last drunk locked up in the Blind House between Lottage Road and Baydon Street - the building is later demolished
- 1885 Joseph Wentworth bequeaths £200 to provide an annual gift to the two oldest agricultural labourers born and living in the village
- 1887 St. Michael's church restored and a new clock installed in the tower

- Thomas Orchard opens a chair factory in South Street
- Aldbourne Football Club founded
- 1892 Reading Room opened at Wall Cottage
- William Brown gives the Green to the village
- Parish Council replaces the Court Leet
- 1800s Baydon Street renamed Oxford Street towards the end of the century
- 1900s Memorial Hall in Oxford Street built early in the century
- 1900 Windmill on Baydon Hill demolished; malting ceased
- The Post Office is on the Green by this time
- 1902 Responsibility for the National School in Aldbourne passes to Wiltshire County Council
- 1905 Rachel Fisher, the last resident of Snap, moves to Aldbourne
- 1906 A new Primitive Methodist chapel built on the site of the former chapel in West Street
- 1910 Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Woodsend closed
- Malthouse in South Street is converted into a theatre
- A production of The Village Wedding is performed and attended by George Bernard Shaw
- 1911 Iron foundry and agricultural engineering business begun by W. T. Loveday
- 1912 Theatre in South Street closed
- 1914 World War I
- Most of the houses in Snap destroyed by Army gunnery practice
- 48 men from Aldbourne lost their lives in the war
- 1916 National School at Woodsend closed
- 1920 Barnes' Coaches established
- 1921 Hightown stables destroyed by fire at which the fire engines Adam and Eve are used for the first time
- 1925 Carnival held for the first time; James White of Foxhill presents the Band with a set of silver instruments
- 1927 Chair making ceases with the closure of the chair factory
- 1936 Primitive Methodist chapel extended
- 1937 Women's Institute erect a seat near the Old Rectory in commemoration of the coronation of King George VI
- 1939 W.T. Loveday iron foundry becomes the Aldbourne Engineering Company

- 1939 13 men from the village killed in World War II
-1945
- 1940 Severe flooding in the centre of the village
- 1943 Company E of the US 506th Regiment of 101st Airborne Division stationed in Aldbourne prior
-1944 to the Normandy landings
- 1949 Egg packing factory built north of Stock Lane for Wiltshire Poultry Farmers Ltd.
- 1950s Village pond filled in early in the decade
Mains gas supply provided to the village
Sewerage system constructed
- 1952 Ramsbury and Aldbourne Bowls Club founded
- 1956 Court House ceases to be used as the vicarage house
- 1956 Closure of the Bell Inn
- 1960s Library opened in The Green, the smallest library in Wiltshire
- 1960 Egg packing factory extended
Mains water available for the first time
- 1963 National School building replaced by the present school (St. Michael's Primary School) in
Back Lane
- 1964 The tradition of "beating the bounds", a distance of 18½ miles, is revived
- 1965 Benefices of Aldbourne and Baydon vicarage united
- 1968 The Queen Victoria inn closed; Wesleyan Methodists join the Primitive Methodists to form
Aldbourne Methodist Church in a newly built hall in Lottage Road which is also used as the
Methodist Youth Centre
- 1960s Village expands with the provision of approximately 150 new private and council houses and
-1970 flats
- 1970 An 18th century Festival held
- 1971 Public convenience opened in The Square
Village used by the BBC for the filming of an episode of Dr Who
- 1972 A new wing added to St. Michael's Primary School
Civil War skirmish in Aldbourne re-enacted on the original site by the Sealed Knot Society
- 1973 Aldbourne wins Best Kept Village Competition for the first time
Aldbourne and Baydon benefice combined with Ramsbury vicarage
- 1974 Parish Council undertakes a village appraisal
-1976

- 1976 Aldbourne Engineering Company sold and renamed West Street Motors (Aldbourne) Ltd.
- 1977 Church bells at St. Michael's church remounted and the clock gilded in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
- 1982 Primitive Methodist Chapel in West Street demolished
- 1986 Post Office moves to The Square
- 1990 First issue of the bi-monthly parish magazine The Dabchick produced
- 1991 New and enlarged pond built on site of the old pond
Evelyn Glennie, percussionist, gives a recital at St. Michael's church
- 1993 Crotal bell castings made by Robert Wells in the 18th century and purchased by the Whitechapel Fell Foundry returned to the village on permanent loan
- 1997 BBC film part of their drama The Last Salute on the Green
- 1999 A new electronic organ installed in St. Michael's church
The Parish Council undertakes a village appraisal
- 2004 Aldbourne community website wins Calor Village of the Year (ICT Section) award
-2005
- 2006 Aldbourne Oral History Project begun
Clock on the tower of St. Michael's church undergoes major refurbishment including the installation of a mechanical winding mechanism
Development of Palmer's Field adjacent to Sports field on Farm Lane as a recreational and sports area begun
- 2008 Public convenience refurbished and part of the building converted to a community room.