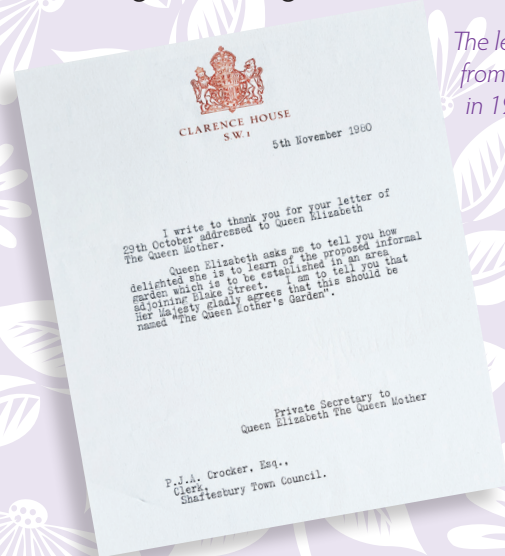


History of the garden

Originally created in 1980, and named in honour of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, this small, secluded garden is adjacent to Castle Hill Green and has far-reaching views. Having been updated in 2024 the garden now comprises of a lawned area with planted trees and borders, as well as benches to pause a while for chatting or reflecting.



The letter received from Clarence House in 1980

In addition to this, by public subscription during winter 1980/81, an avenue of eighty trees, mostly beech, was planted along Christy's Lane in commemoration of the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday.



Location of the garden



In updating the garden the Town Council has been privileged to work with a number of prestigious national and Dorset-based businesses:

Benches were handmade in England by **Branson Street Furniture** and fitted by **Richard Moore Contractors** of Gillingham.

Melbury Stone in Cann supplied boulders and **The Fusion Workshop** in Sturminster Newton engraved the plaques for them.

Ian Thackray in Chettle made the info podiums and **Dorset Signs** in Milton Abbas the info panels to go on them.

Garden Exposures provided plant photographs for the leaflet, signs and website.

Poems are by **Bruce Larkin** (butterfly), **Leanne Guenther** (bat) and **Chris Legg** (hedgehog).

With thanks to the volunteer planting team: **Shaftesbury in Bloom**, **Shaftesbury Snowdrops**, and **Shaftesbury Abbey**; supported by the **Chris Berwick** landscape team.



Plant photography © Andrea Jones / Garden Exposures



Renovation carried out in 2024 thanks to a generous grant from



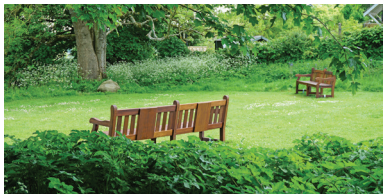


This tranquil garden was updated in 2024 with the help of various community groups, and thanks to a grant from the *Reconnecting with Nature Spaces* project.

The project aims to increase biodiversity in small green spaces across Dorset, improving health, wellbeing, and access to nature. It is specifically aimed at local residents with learning disabilities or dementia, helping them to gain better access to outdoor spaces and promoting wellbeing following the pandemic.



Three beautiful benches were handmade in England with sustainable hardwood, to a bespoke specification. Two are 'chatty benches': gently curved to encourage garden visitors to spend time together whilst enjoying magnificent views across the garden to the landscape



Scan the QR code to find out more about the garden, and what flora and fauna to look out for this season.
www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/qm-garden

beyond. The L-shaped bench at the end of the pathway enables friends to face each other as they talk, and ensures wheelchair-users can easily join the conversation.

A wide variety of species has been planted to create interest through the seasons, with the aim of including some of The Queen Mother's favourite flowers, including one bearing her name, African Lily Queen Mum (*Agapanthus 'Queen Mum'*), pictured on the front cover.

To bring more nature to the garden, bug hotels and hedgehog houses were made by Shaftesbury School in collaboration with the Friends of Breach Common.



Look out for boulders of local greenstone with poems about our creeping, crawling and flying friends

