

AETHELSTAN, FIRST KING OF ALL ENGLAND TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1185311

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Wiltshire
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Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF ANGLO-SAXON HISTORY IN ENGLAND BY EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE REIGN OF AETHELSTAN, THE FIRST KING OF ALL ENGLAND, AND HIS LEGACY BY THE PROVISION OF LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, TALKS AND BY ANY OTHER MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE, AND BY THE PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND EXHIBITION OF OBJECTS RELATING TO ANGLO-SAXON HISTORY AND THE CREATION OF WORKS OF ART HAVING REFERENCE TO ANGLO-SAXON HISTORY AND ART.

Activities: The charity participates in events to promote the understanding of the Anglo-Saxon period and Aethelstan, First King of All England in particular. It has created a website to promote understanding of both. It is fundraising to create artefacts with relevance to the period that will encourage interest and understanding of the time when the United Kingdom first came into being.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£3,000	£4,740	-	-
2024-04-30	£2,500	£6,073	-	-
2023-04-30	£0	£9,348	-	-
2022-04-30	£8,388	£1,840	-	-
2021-04-30	£0	£1,423	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Janet Marjorie Casselden		2023-03-02
Julia Frances Bowen		2023-03-02
Peter Osgood		2023-03-02
Sarah Caroline Wilde		2023-03-02

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Chairman's report to 30 April 2025

No of Trustee meetings 6

No meetings with wider Project Group 1

The Trustees worked to continue the Trust's key project.

Birdcage Walk and Statue Project

Project summary

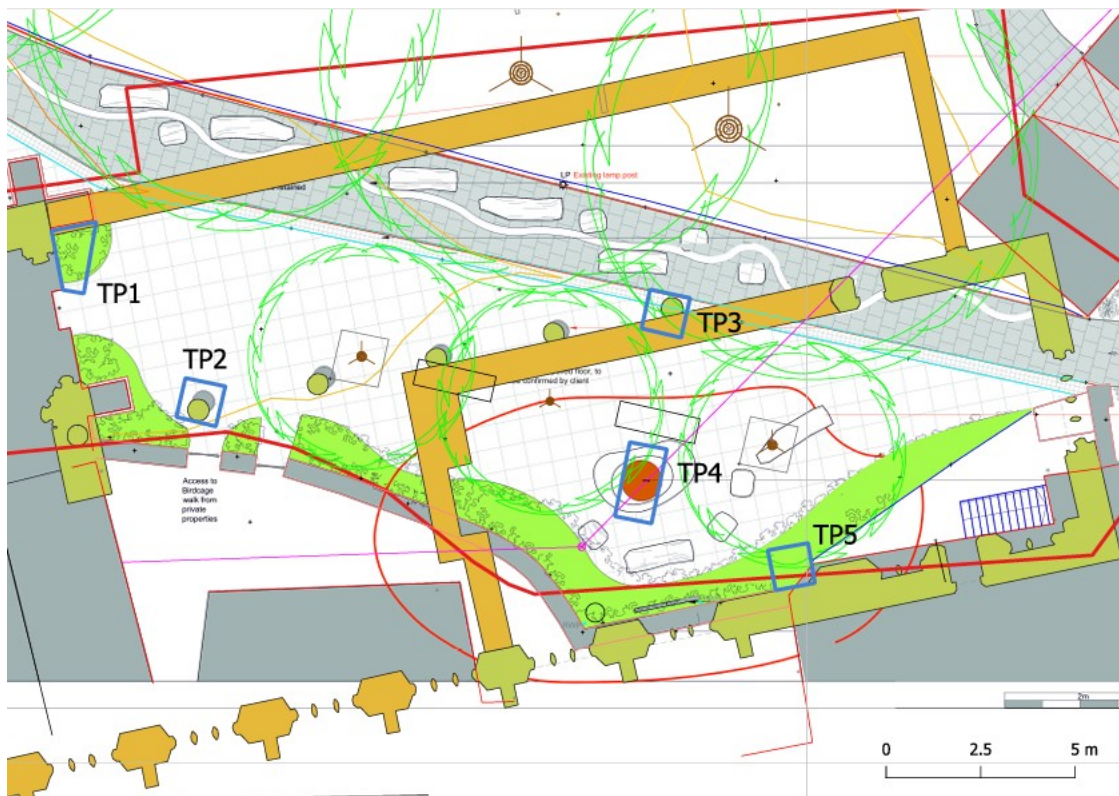
The project has developed from a stand-alone erection of a statue of King Athelstan in central Malmesbury into the regeneration of Birdcage Walk, with reference to the original St Pauls Church (now demolished) and associated landscaping.



Trust activities 24-25

- Display of information regarding the project in a vacant shop on Malmesbury High Street as part of the Athelstan 1100 celebrations- May, June & July 24

- Received positive response to Pre-Application from Wiltshire Council and made requested amendments to Project Plan.
- Applied for and were awarded £550 grant from Malmesbury Carnival Committee to cover project fees.
- Nov 24 provided update report for Malmesbury Town Council (major stakeholder)
- Dec 24 – appointed an archaeologist to investigate the site prior to full planning being submitted (as per the Pre App response).
- Dec 24- Wessex Week donation of £3000 to the project
- Dec 24 – Trustees visited the foundry to discuss elements of the statue design
- Jan 25 – Further meeting with foundry (Pangolin, Stroud)
- March 25 – started process of applying for permissions from Diocese for archaeological test pits.



Above - **Plan of Birdcage Walk with original footprint of St Paul's Church overlaid and test pits marked.**

Aethelstan, First King of all England Trust - Charity Number:1185311

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April 2025

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	4/30/2025		4/30/2025
Donations			
Wessex Week	3000.00	Donation to museum	150.00
		Architects	4590.00
Total	3000.00	Total	4740.00
		Excess (Expenditure) over Income	(1,740.00)
Total	<u>3000.00</u>	Total	<u>3000.00</u>

I have examined the books and supporting records and find the accounts to be a true and fair view of the financial transactions

Jenny Budgell ACMA

January-26

Account Balances @ 30/04/2024

Lloyds 52006168	9030.25
	<u>9030.25</u>

Memo

Movement in Funds for 2024/25	
Opening Balance	10,770.35
Excess expenditure over income 2024/25	(1,740.00)
Closing Balance	9,030.35

AETHELSTAN, FIRST KING OF ALL ENGLAND TRUST

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Chairman's report to 30 April 2024

No of Trustee meetings 4

No meetings with wider Project Group 4

The Trustees worked to continue the Trust's key project.

Birdcage Walk and Statue Project

Project summary

The project has developed from a stand-alone erection of a statue of King Athelstan in central Malmesbury into the regeneration of Birdcage Walk, with reference to the original St Pauls Church (now demolished) and associated landscaping.

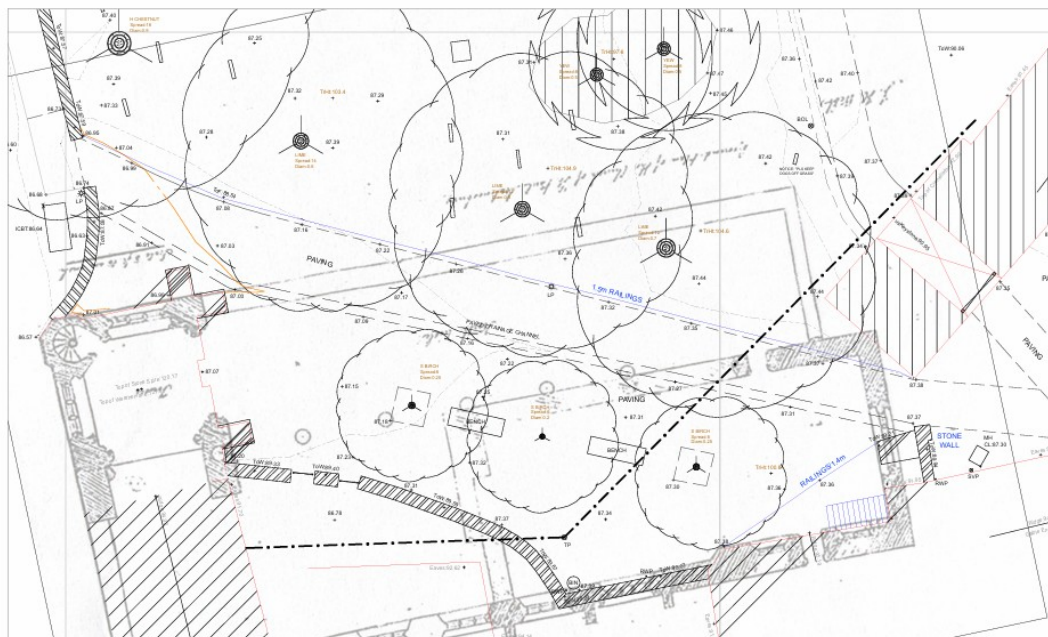


Trust activities 23-24

- Appointment of architects (Rixon Architects, Cirencester)
- Appointment of Heritage Consultant (Natalie Fenner ncfheritage.co.uk)

- Appointment of Structural Engineer (James Birdwood bta.co.uk)
- Preparation of Pre-Application for Planning including:-
 - o Statement of Need
 - o Heritage statement
 - o Architectural plans
- Submission of Pre-Application documents to :-
 - o Wiltshire Council
 - o County Archaeologist
 - o Historic England
 - o Diocese of Bristol
 - o Malmesbury Abbey

Site Analysis



*not to scale

Plan of St. Paul's Church overlaid on Site Survey
Birdcage Walk

The Trustees also presented a Project update to Malmesbury Town Council Planning Committee (Feb 24). Malmesbury Town Council are major stakeholders in the project as they lease Birdcage Walk and so their approval of the scheme is vital to its success.

Aethelstan, First King of all England Trust - Charity Number: 1185311
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April 2024

<u>INCOME</u>	30/04/24	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	30/04/24
Donations			
Wessex Week	2000.00	Website	55.00
Civic Trust	500.00	Architects	3122.40
		Birdcage Walk Heritage Statement	2576.08
		Planning Fee	134.00
Total	2500.00	Total	5887.48
		Excess (Expenditure) over Income	(3,387.48)
Total	<u>2500.00</u>	Total	<u>2500.00</u>

I have examined the books and supporting records and find the accounts to be a true and fair view of the financial transactions



Jenny Budgett ACMA

February-25

Account Balances @ 30/04/2024	
Lloyds 52006168	10770.35
	<u>10770.35</u>

Memo	
Movement in Funds for 2023/24	
Opening Balance	14,343.83
Excess income over expenditure 2023/24	(3,387.48)
Clearance of PY Chq 000026	(186.00)
Closing Balance	<u>10,770.35</u>

AETHELSTAN, FIRST KING OF ALL ENGLAND TRUST

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Chairman's report to 30 April 2023

No of meetings. 6

The Trustees worked to continue the Trust's projects.

1. A Sword Fit for King Aethelstan to present to the Athelstan Museum
2. Erect a statue to King Aethelstan in Malmesbury Town Centre
3. Any Other Business

1. A Sword Fit for King Aethelstan

On Saturday June 11th 2022 at Malmesbury's Town Hall we enabled the presentation of a 'Sword Fit for King Aethelstan' to be presented to Athelstan Museum. The sword was created by Hector Cole MBE using the same materials as the Anglo-Saxons would have used during King Aethelstan's lifetime.



The process of creating the sword had been filmed by Rufus Exton and produced by our Chair of Trustees, who attended several filming and editing days, also providing the script and voice-over. No charge was made for those services. The finished film was edited to create a short, snappy, informative to be viewed on an audio-visual display beside the sword, for the pleasure and education of visitors to the Museum.

The sword creation, supply of audio visual equipment and cost of filming the project had been generously funded by The Masonic Order of Athelstan. Their objectives to bring awareness and understanding around the life and times of England's very first monarch, matched our own.



The Lord High Sheriff of Wiltshire and the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire were both in attendance at the Presentation along with Malmesbury's Mayor and other local dignitaries.

We further funded the hiring of an additional room in Malmesbury Town Hall so that local, historic resident's group 'The Warden & Freemen of Malmesbury' could lay out an exhibition of their amazing archives and silver maces for the added interest of the 100 visitors invited to attend the event.

The Trustees also agreed to fund the production of a booklet about the sword, written by Hector and including photographs of the processes, that could also educate visitors to the museum.



2. Statue to King Aethelstan for Malmesbury Town Centre

A public Consultation Day on March 4, 2023 was arranged to display and discuss our proposals with the local community. Covid had restricted such an opportunity before now.

Information boards, booklets and volunteers from within our team were organised to be onsite for the day in Malmesbury Abbey, courtesy of the helpful co-operation of vicar Oliver Ross who had offered the venue for the occasion.

Over 300 people visited the abbey during the event, most of whom viewed the exhibition, took the opportunity to discuss with member of the group and the sculptor. They were encouraged to leave comments (the majority of which were supportive).

The maquette of the statue was on display and is now on permanent display in the Athelstan Museum.

Brochures were left in the Abbey and also placed in the Town Hall (TIC) and the Museum.



A Malmesbury Community Day was held on Saturday April 15th, where the Trust again showed the maquette to the public and other contributing groups.

3. Any Other Business

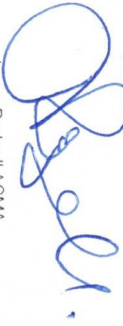
Recruitment of new Trustees began during the second half of the period as the existing Trustees had served their term.

Five new Trustees have now been sworn in.

Aethelstan, First King of all England Trust - Charity Number: 1185311
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	30/04/23	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	30/04/23
Donations			
		Website	25.00
		Marketing incl Filming	2037.71
		Design	2000.00
		Sword	3500.00
		Booklet	1767.55
		Subsistence	17.25
		Total	9347.51
Total	0.00	Excess Income over Expenditure	-9347.51
		Total	0.00

I have examined the books and supporting records and find the accounts to be a true and fair view of the financial transactions



Jenny Budgetell ACMA
 February-24

Account Balances @ 30/04/2023	14343.83
Lloyds 52006168	<u>14343.83</u>

Memo	
Movement in Funds for 2022/23	23,505.34
Opening Balance	(9,347.51)
Excess Income over expenditure 2022/23	186.00
Undeclared Chq 00026	14,343.83
Closing Balance	<u>14,343.83</u>

AETHELSTAN, FIRST KING OF ALL ENGLAND TRUST

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Chairman's Report to April 30, 2022

The Trustees were able to meet twice in the period between October 2021 and April 2022. We have met together a total of 11 times since forming the Charity.

We have also attended all the general committee meetings called to develop our projects of which there have been 25 since inception, but of which there were only 4 in this period as a result of the pandemic. It was not practicable to discuss our projects on zoom given the need to look at our creative projects in 3D

As Trustees, our terms of engagement are either technically over already or were due to come to an end during this period but we all agreed to stay on given the impact of the pandemic.

We continued to develop our projects to:-

1. Assist with funding a speaker for Wessex Week 2021
2. Erect a statue in Malmesbury town centre.
3. Create a sword to present to Athelstan Museum

1. Supported Wessex Week with funding the visit by writer, broadcaster and historian Michael Wood to give a talk in Malmesbury Abbey about 'The Lost Life of Aethelstan' during October 2021.

We continued to collaborate with Wessex Week Organisers who have been bringing annual history events associated with

Malmesbury to the town (subject to pandemic). Whilst their events cover Malmesbury's entire history into the C20th we are able to support those related to the Anglo-Saxon period which in 2021 included Michael Wood's talk on the Lost Life of Aethelstan. Whilst we accepted that there might be a limited audience attending in person the talk, given the uncertainty around the pandemic we explored the opportunity for live streaming to viewers in their homes from the chosen venue of Malmesbury Abbey. The event proved highly successful in bringing an audience of over 100 people personally into the Abbey - easily spaced out as required by the appropriate precautions at that time - as well as being broadcast into the homes of several more.

We covered the speaker's travel costs and arranged for him and his wife to be accommodated at The Old Bell, next door to Malmesbury Abbey, whose owners generously gave the overnight stay for nothing. We also bought our guests a meal after the event which again was generously subsidised by The Old Bell.

Wessex Week proved particularly successful in 2021 and the organisers generously voted to support our charity with £6000 from the profits generated by the events which were received during February 2022.

2. Erect a statue to honour King Aethelstan in Malmesbury Town Centre.

Although the Statue Steering Group had not able to meet for a large period of time because of the pandemic, the statue design had been agreed and Pre-App Approval granted, subject to final details. As previously reported the Trustees had decided therefore to use the time to prepare a full planning application. This was submitted to Wiltshire Council in March 2021.

The submission was withdrawn in June when unexpected objections arose from within the community. It had not been possible to engage with the community during the pandemic so our withdrawal was agreed on the basis that we would resubmit once the issues raised had been addressed and we had been able to fully consult within the community.

3. Present a 'Sword Fit for King Aethelstan' to Athelstan Museum

Our project to create the sword was largely completed in the period. We were finally able to film the final processes and set about editing the film that would accompany the sword to the Athelstan Museum.

Blacksmith Hector Cole MBE worked with our film maker Rufus Exton in his forge in creating the sword.



Our chair of Trustees had written the script and executed the voice-over at no cost, with the use of Stroud based MMOUK studio's generously offered free of charge by the owner, Andrew Longhurst, for the 'love of history'.

We liaised with Athelstan Museum over the script, placing of the sword, and arrangements for the video display.

A date was set for the Presentation of the sword, to be June 12 2022 and we began to compile a guest list of local and county wide invitees, in conjunction with the Masonic Order of Athelstan who has generously funded the creation of the sword, the making of the film and the acquisition of the audio visual unit. They have similar objectives in highlighting the life and times of King Aethelstan, as we do ourselves so it was with enormous gratitude that we received in October 2021 the sum of £2,388.00 from their Order to cover these costs.

As the period ended we were looking forward with great pleasure to the forthcoming event that would complete our first objective in bringing an artefact directly associated with King Aethelstan into being in Malmesbury.

Report Ends

Aethelstan, First King of all England Trust - Charity Number: 1185311
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April 2022

<u>INCOME</u>	30/04/22	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	30/04/22
Donations	8388.00	Website	240.00
		Marketing incl Filming	1600.00
Total	8388.00	Total	1840.00
		Excess Income over Expenditure	6548.00
Total	8388.00	Total	8388.00

I have examined the books and supporting records and find the accounts to be a true and fair view of the financial transactions



Jenny Budgett ACMA

February 23

Account Balances @ 30/04/2022

Lloyds 52006168	23505.34
	23505.34

Memo

Movement in Funds for 2021/22	
Opening Balance	16,957.34
Excess income over expenditure 2021/22	6,548.00
Closing Balance	23,505.34

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Trustees Report to April 2021

This report follows on from the first report submitted in February 2021 for the period up to April 2020.

Unfortunately owing to the Covid pandemic our activities were heavily restricted, few meetings occurred and we were unable to create any events to further our objectives. However the Trustees were able to meet 3 times in late 2020 & 4 times between July and October 2021 and we were able to collaborate with Malmesbury's Wessex Week Organisers to support events being planned for October 2021.

Our website is now beginning to draw interest with hits rising up to 2638 by the end of April 2021.

Given our restrictions, the focus for the period therefore has been to collaborate with Wessex Week Organisers to plan events that could take place in October 2021. We committed to funding the visit by Michael Wood and to the venue hire for him to give a talk in Malmesbury Abbey about 'The Lost Life of Aethelstan'. We accepted that there would be a limited physical audience but explored the opportunity for live streaming to viewers in their homes.

We have received donations to progress two projects for the future:-

A). A sword "Fit for a King" to be made in the Anglo-Saxon way for presentation to Athelstan Museum:

We have commissioned blacksmith Hector Cole MBE to make the sword who, unfortunately had to shield from the virus and could not allow anyone else in his forge. As we have also commissioned filming of the processes involved to accompany the sword, this we could not progress this element during the period.

B). Continue to explore the possibility of erecting a statue of King Aethelstan in Malmesbury town centre.

As a design has been agreed and a Pre-App Approval granted subject to final details, the Trustees agreed to prepare a full planning application to submit to Wiltshire Council. The outcome was still awaited at the end of the period.

Aethelstan, First King of all England Trust - Charity Number: 1185311
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April 2021

<u>INCOME</u>	30/04/21	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	30/04/21
Donations	0.00	Sculpture Costs	1213.36
		Website	210.00
Total	0.00	Total	1423.36
		Excess Expenditure over Income	-1423.36
Total	0.00	Total	0.00

I have examined the books and supporting records and find the accounts to be a true and fair view of the financial transactions


 Jenny Budgett ACMA

February 22

Account Balances @ 30/04/2021

Lloyds 52006168	16957.34		18,380.70
	<u>16957.34</u>		(1,423.36)
		Closing Balance	16,957.34

Memo

Movement in Funds for 2020/21

Opening Balance	18,380.70
Excess income over expenditure 2020/21	(1,423.36)
Closing Balance	16,957.34