

BATTLE 910AD VICTORY

BY LADY AETHELFLAED

AN ANCIENT BATTLE BETWEEN WEDNESFIELD &
TETTENHALL

VIKING
AGE
CRAFTS &
HISTORY



AETHELFLAED
FACTS &
GOODIES
INSIDE

DEFEAT OF THE VIKING KINGS

EOWILS

HALFDAN

INGWAER



MONTHLY ART & HISTORY
WORKSHOPS

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY
LITCHFIELD STREET WV10 1DU
FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2025



WaterProphetArt

BATTLE OF WODENSFIELD



The Battle of Tettenhall & Wednesfield, otherwise known as THE BATTLE OF WODENSFIELD 910AD

The Battle of 910 AD stands as a pivotal moment in English history, marking a significant step towards the unification of the United Kingdom. Led by the remarkable Aethelflaed, the eldest daughter of Alfred the Great, this conflict was a testament to her strategic brilliance and unwavering determination.

Since September 2023, a small group of people have been exploring this local and unique history while learning simple craft techniques to respond artistically to the artefacts and replicas of the period. This work will lead to a prototype model of what sculptures and interactive displays could look like across the city. There is time for people to still join in.

To find out more and you want to join, in wether your input is small or large, here are contact details.

Rachel Arnold Creative Director
waterprophetcustomer@gmail.com 07939232414
<https://tdcic.org.uk/battle-of-910ad>

Art Consultant **Rebecca Creswell**
See how she is forging the plan on this website
cresswellcreations@outlook.com
<https://tdcic.org.uk/districtmuseum>

Ray Fellows Chair of Wednesfield History Society. He has written books and researched this Battle for 40 years. See what his team are up to here.
<https://wednesfieldhistory.org>



FREE

MEDIEVAL ART & HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Inspired by the Viking age

SATURDAYS 10.30AM-4PM

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

LICHFIELD STREET WV1 1DU

WOLVERHAMPTON

The gathering space

THE LAST WORKSHOPS OF 2025

10th May

7th June

12th July

2nd August

13th September

**Sewing leather bags repousse memorial for 3 kings
celtic-knotwork print blocks wire torque**

TEXTILE WEEK 4TH TO 8TH AUGUST CENTRAL LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER ART EXHIBITION

Central library of Wolverhampton. Snow hill. WV1 3AX

15 to 27th September 2025



PEACE WEAVING

Textile Week Wolverhampton Central Library

Snow Hill WV1 3AX

Monday August 4th to Friday August 8th

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP IN

Morning 10am to 1pm

Afternoon 2pm to 5pm

Combine your style of sewing with the shapes and patterns of medieval times. Anglo Saxon and Celtic knot-work began in the East thousands of years ago as goods were carried along trade routes across Europe from the Silk Road. What ever shapes have meaning to you , whatever your country of origin , let's weave our ideas together. Anglo Saxon women, and women from other ancient cultures had the important role called peace weaving. Aethelflaed had that role here in ancient Britain, Pocahontas in America in the 16th Century and there are many more. Whatever symbols and shapes that have meaning to you, whatever your country of origin, let's weave our dreams together. In these modern times, all colours and genders can be peace weavers.

We provide a range of fabric, felts, beads, sequins, ribbon, buttons, metallic clothe, needle and thread and fabric glue If you are working on anything, bring it along and see what you can add. Below is Rachel Arnolds sewing during Lock Down.



ARTIST STATEMENT OF RACHEL ARNOLD

[WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/WATERPROPHETARTS100](https://www.instagram.com/WATERPROPHETARTS100)

Graduate (BAHons) Interactive Arts 1996 Caerleon University: video, interactive electronics and performance. She has performed in Mumbai, and Corby, drama in Germany, and has been a Theatre Intern in Portugal. She has painted in many countries, and has many drawings of the Battle of Hengston. A mixed media poet whose theme is bread history and the Fertile Crescent about the Battle 910AD. She did a test in 2023. In 2023, She started a Creative Blacksmithy in the Battle 910AD where Anglo Saxon Laitha Tetterhall and Wednesfield. She is a public ; poetry, crafts and digital expression. She has a prosperous future in the UK. Her class has been making clay pipes inspired by the Staffordshire hoard and she has been enjoying illuminating letters the medieval way! **The Battle project together with her fine art is on the instagram above.**



*If
The sun
Blesses
The farmers
And the many mouths
To feed
And fire
Blazes
The ground
To prepare
The next
Seed*

Rachel Arnold designed the lay out of this pamphlet, the beautiful celtic knot work that has been used to border the poetry and illustrate the front cover has been taken from the designs of **Scottish Tattoo Artist Treubhan** based in Brighton.

He has published his own book called **Patterns and Motifs from the Anglo Celtic Isles**, artists can use to keep the art form alive, by expanding it into their own craft of ; jewellery glass work, wood, stone and graphics.



E-book £20. Hard Back £80.
www.treubhan.com

@treubha



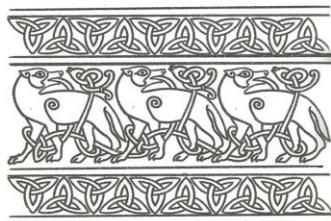
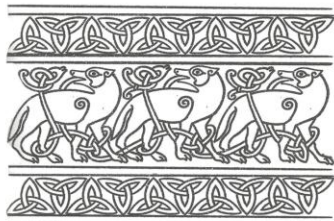
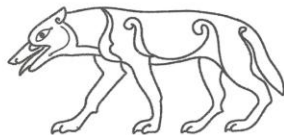
THE WOLF KNEW

WINGED BEASTS WITH CROOKED BLACK FEATHERS
MOUNTAINOUS FORESTS WITH BOAR HUNTING
DWELLERS
OWLS SWOOP OVER MOONLIT MOUNDS
OF BURIED DANES
WHO STORMED THROUGH WODENS FIELD
NEVER TO LEAVE AGAIN

THOUSANDS OF WARRIORS AND FARMING MEN
LAY IN THE MARSHES, BY THE WOLVES DEN
THE WOLF STANDS IN THE WATER
WITH SHARP PAWS, IN THE SHALLOW AND PEBBLY



PRICKED UP EARS
THE MARSH IS RED
AFTER AXE DEADLY





HEAD HUNG, THE WOLF WHIMPERED
HER FERRAL HEART SINKING WITH THE
WEIGHT

THAT MEN, KILL MEN
WILL HER PACK SURVIVE?
STAY ALIVE? BESIDE?

THIS TWO LEGGED BEAST, WHO DOES END ITS
OWN LIFE

WOLVES ARE COMMITTED TO THE PACK OF
THEIR OWN
LOYALTY TO FAMILY, THE OLD AND NEW
GROWN

WATCHING MAN FALL, SLAIN BY THEIR OWN
SHE HOWLS ALONE

THE SPIRIT IN THE ANIMAL, HUMAN AND TREE
WANT TO LIVE, THRIVE AND BE FREE
THIS WOLFS EYES SOAK UP THE PAINFUL MESS
FLOATING LIMBS, BELTS, BUCKLES, LINEN DRESS

THIS WOLF DOES FEEL THE SADNESS AND HEAT
OF ALL MEN WHO DIE
FOR NOTHING
BUT A KINGS SEAT

RACHEL ARNOLD 2024





If you wish to donate financially to the project above is the bar code or follow the link :

<http://910adfund.tdcic.org.uk>

An easy book explaining The battle of Tettenhall & Wednesfield with Lady Aethelflaed, written for local children . Buy at £10 in the shops below. £5 goes towards the project. Written by David Guest.

St Peter's Bookshop,

The Collegiate Church of St Peter, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TY

Open weekdays 11am to 2pm.

Weybridge Lane Gift Shop

Meadow View, Wolverhampton WV6 8NX

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm excluding bank holidays.

Sunday 10am to 3pm.

**BATTLE OF TETTENHALL & WEDNESFIELD
RE-ENACTMENT**

**Wightwick Manor
9th and 10th of August
WV6 8EE**

Public hike along the canal between Wednesfield and Tettenhall on June 1st 2024. Written by Rachel Arnold.

A crowd of 80 walked 9 miles along the canal from The Nickelodeon pub Wednesfield to Tettenhall Cupcake Lane with the odd viking in chainmail and Rachel dressed as Lady Aetheflaed in a bright pink and orange medieval gown. Every 1.5 mile she read boldly local poetry about the battle, in outbursts of violent verse, along the pretty waters of cute ducklings, lily pads and the smells of elderflowers. Chattering walkers, aching feet, David Guests halting us all at various junctions to bellow our stories of the area, and Vikings moving up and down the canal to answer peoples questions. How much further? A few hours later, and the walkers reduced from 80 to 60, at cupcake lane, were greeted by more happy vikings complete with ; swords, shields, furs, games and replicas with plenty of mead and spelt loaves. Rachel stood on a stool and bellowed the last bloodthirsty poem on three glasses of mead radiating the importance of Lady Aethelflaed's success in winning a war, but also the peace. The camera-die between walkers and vikings was so much fun that we didn't get to finish the walk at the Plaque in smestow valley that commemorates this Battle of Tettenhall and Wednesfield. Next time we shall have the mead and re-enactors at the end of the walk. The dispute has been going on between Wednesfield and Tettenhall for a long time, but this day proves, the whole city can be included in the excitement of designing monuments together, that will be in both parts of Wolverhampton as well as the middle.

There was a stop gap on this rambling day of legs and lectures, at Wolverhampton Art gallery, where people could look at an exhibition of work made by the project participants ; clay plaques, illuminated letters, scratch art, anglo Saxon bridges, and dragon ships. We are discussing a smaller version of the walk at the next stage of funding. This work has been a response to the Staffordshire hoard.



Lady Aethelflaed and who was she? By David Guest.

After retiring from teaching four years ago, I was able to find the time to thoroughly research the events around Wolverhampton in 910. In doing so I went back to the primary sources to find out why the site of the battle is so disputed. In doing so, it soon became apparent to me that the site of the battle was of minor importance compared to the name of person in command of the Mercian army and the consequence of her victory.

The person in command was undoubtedly Aethelflaed, the daughter of Alfred the Great. Her Mother was Mercian and she was married to a Mercian lord, who disappears from all records in 901 until his death in 911, thus leaving Aethelflaed as the effective ruler in Mercia for 17 years. As a woman and as someone too closely associated with the Mercian court, Anglo-Saxon chroniclers, writing in Wessex, pointedly omit her from the history of this period.

Despite her incredible achievements, the Tudors, and then the Victorians were equally keen to write Aethelflaed out of history, while promoting the exploits Boudicca as a warrior queen - a Celtic woman whose 'achievements' were to slaughter two civilian populations before leading her tribe to be annihilated by a vastly smaller Roman army.

By contrast, following her victory over the Danes, Aethelflaed went on to recover all the territory north and east of the Watling street, which her father had given to the Danes after his modest victory over one King, Guthrum, at the Battle of Edington. This was mostly done by peaceful means, only using force when absolutely necessary, such as at Derby. In 918 the Viking city of York willingly submitted to her rule thus, for the first time creating the territory which we call England. Aethelflaed won battles, won wars and, crucially won the peace! Is this not a lesson for so many of our leaders today? Six years later, Aethelstan, the son of her younger brother who had been brought up in Mercia, by Aethelflaed, was crowned the first King of England.

When we take pride in calling ourselves English and join together to support our national teams; or when we celebrate the achievements of the English language in literature and, as technology has advanced, in becoming the universal language of choice, it is surely worth celebrating that it was Aethelflaed, and a city uniquely named after an Anglo-Saxon woman, that set this in motion. (Otherwise I might well have been writing this in Danish!)

As to the Battle, I have to ask by whom it is known that it took place on Wednesfield? In all my research and reading, I have found no careful analysis of the primary sources, however, coupled evidence, would suggest that Wednesfield was the logical place for the Mercian army to gather and that the Smestow Valley, near Tetbury, was the site of the attack on a raiding army. (For a modern equivalent this would be a column heading to Kiev through wooded marshy land and



LADY OF MERCIA

**WOLVERHAMPTON'S MOTTO, 'OUT OF DARKNESS COMETH LIGHT'
BUT WHAT ABOUT AETHELFLAED WHO REALLY LED THE FIGHT ?**

**WAY, WAY BACK, CENTURIES AGO, THERE WAS A BRAVE WOMAN
THAT VANQUISHED OUR FOE
OF ROYAL BLOOD, HER FORCES SHE'D SUMMON**

**HER FATHER KING ALFRED AND BROTHER KING EDWARD WERE
ENGAGED FAR AWAY.
WHEN OUR LADY MERCIA DECIDED TO SEIZE THE DAY.**

**LADY MERCIA WAS COMPELLED TO STRIKE AND GATHERED HER MEN
WITH SWORD AND WITH PIKE.
LADY MERCIA ATTACKED OUR INVADERS WITH HER MOTLEY CREW
AND TETTENHALL VIKINGS ALL BUT SLEW.**

**FROM TETTENHALL TO WEDNESFIELD THE GORY BATTLE RAGED
AND JOINED BY HER FAMILIES ARMY
THE BATTLE WIN PROCLAIMED.**

**3 DANISH KINGS WERE SLAUGHTERED WITH THOUSANDS OF THEIR
THRONG
LADY MERCIA THE VICTOR PIOUS
BRAVE, AND STRONG.**

**LADY MERCIA...YOU SAVED US FROM THE VIKINGS AND THE DANES
YOU STOPPED US BEING TAKEN AND ENSLAVED, AS YOU BATTLED
OUR COUNTRY LANES.**

**AETHELFLAED, LADY MERCIA YOU CERTAINLY CHANGED OUR LOT
AND ALTHOUGH NOT KNOWN BY MANY
SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOT**

WRITTEN BY JANET CHAND 2024



Creative Black Country start up grant £5000 awarded to Rachel Arnold to fund a series of workshops with the public exploring the perspective of Lady Aethelflaed and her leadership with a modern response to Anglo Saxon art. The public have asked for an art trail from Wednesfield to Tettenhall and have done a walk to heal the city. The Tettenhall Community Interest Trust are fundraising the next stage based on Rachel's leg work. Below are clay plaque fridge magnets made by her art workshop participants. They have been selling at £5 each at various festivals.



**CREATIVE
BLACK
COUNTRY**

**WOLVERHAMPTON
ARTS & CULTURE**



Rachel Arnold has 300gsm mounted **prints for sale** of her own contemporary art work. A4 £20 each. West Park is A5. Email waterprophetcustomer@gmail.com for postage details.

