

## **History – Bitesize Audio Clip Script (if you have no access to the internet to listen to the animated video)**

### **King Alfred**

#### **Ruled 871 to 899**

Alfred was one of the greatest Anglo-Saxon kings. After years of fighting, Alfred made peace with the Vikings. They agreed to divide up the country - the Vikings took an area in the north and Alfred controlled the south.

When he was scarcely more than 20 years old, our noble Alfred took a brave stand against the Danes.

He drove them out of western England, and made them agree to stay in the east, in the land we later called the Danelaw.

Alfred ruled in the west - building forts and ships to keep us safe in our beds and creating laws to make us peaceful.

No wonder we all call him Alfred the Great.

I've heard tell that young Alfred burnt a batch of cakes while he was plotting against the Danes. His head was so full of plans he forgot to watch the cakes! When the lady returned, she kicked up quite a rumpus.

Little did she know the lad who burnt her cakes would go on to become our great King Alfred.

### **King Athelstan**

#### **Ruled 924 to 939**

In 927, Athelstan conquered York, the centre of the last Viking kingdom. This made him the first Anglo-Saxon king to rule over the whole of England.

Athelstan was a daring soldier who fought many battles. But his greatest triumph was the Battle of Brunanburh, when he was faced with an army of Scots and Welsh and Danes.

After this great victory, he seized control of York - the last of the Viking strongholds. Then he forced the kings of Scotland and Wales to pay him large sums of money.

Athelstan wasn't just a soldier. He worked hard to make his kingdom strong, writing laws and encouraging trade.

Athelstan was buried at Malmesbury. At the time of his death he was recognised as the very first King of All England.