

## *The Saxons at Shaftesbury - art activities*

In the year 888 King Alfred ordered Shaftesbury Abbey to be built. He made his daughter Aethelgifu the first Abbess, in charge of the Abbey. On this sheet are two things from Alfred's time. The first is a silver coin with a picture of his head on it. The second is a piece of stone found at Shaftesbury, which you can see in the Abbey Museum.



- ◆ Look carefully at the coin and make a copy of it. The writing around the edge is AELFRED REX which means KING ALFRED in Latin.
- ◆ Now make your own coin design, with yourself in the centre and your own choice of writing around the edge. You could also make a design for the other side of the coin.
- ◆ Look carefully at the pattern on the stone. The Saxons were fond of this kind of design, which was meant to look like knots and threads. Make a copy of the design. Can you follow the different threads? There are four separate threads in this design. Colour each one differently.
- ◆ Make a Saxon knot design of your own.