

St Aldhelm's Fair

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To determine if the Town Council will hold St Aldhelm's Fair in 2019
- 1.2 If agreed to hold the event, to allocate a budget

2. Background

- 2.1 Malmesbury has traditionally celebrated the life of St Aldhelm (c. 639 – 25 May 709) Abbot of Malmesbury Abbey (675 to 709), Bishop of Sherborne. Latin poet and scholar of Anglo Saxon literature. He is said to have been the son of Kenten, who was of the royal house of Wessex. After his death he was venerated as a saint, his feast day being the day of his death, 25th May, hence the event traditionally taking place on the late May Bank Holiday.
- 2.2 Previous events have been based around archery with crafting in a tent as well as a couple of stalls. There has been a flower festival and activities at St Aldhelms Church and a wandering minstrel played at various locations in the town. Morris Dancers usually perform.
- 2.3 Last year, St Aldhelms Day was celebrated on the Saturday nearest the 25th May which was unpopular with potential stall holders.
- 2.4 Bad weather on the day has occasionally meant that the event is less well attended than it could be, therefore a contingency could be arranged.
- 2.5 Last year Tony McAleavy held a talk in the town hall from which 20% was donated to a charity of Mr McAleavy's choice by way of payment.
- 2.5 Expenditure last year totalled £665.00 & income from stalls, donations collected and the talk by Tony McAleavy totalled £487.50, this also provided a separate income for the bar in the town hall.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 That members determine whether or not to hold the event in 2019
- 3.2 If so, a budget is agreed based on previous years' budgets
- 3.3 If so, a working Party is formed and Terms of Reference agreed (appendix 1 to this report)

4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 A budget is allocated to hold the event, to be determined by Councillors.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the proposals at 3.1-3.3 and determine a course of action.