



# Moor House School News and Events

## 3H Visit to 1066 Country

Thursday 13th July 2006



On Thursday 13th July, Class 3H were up bright and early for a full day of exploration of '1066 Country', an area of south-east England with strong historical connections to medieval times.

After our journey down to the Saxon Shore, our first stop was at Pevensey beach where the wind and spray revived us, and where Duke William of Normandy and his forces invaded England in September 1066. Crabs were discovered in rock pools, and mussels were noticed on the groynes, and a shoe was nearly claimed by a particularly boggy patch of sand (thanks to Miss Davis for wading in to retrieve it!)

We moved on to Pevensey Castle, which was originally used as a fort in Roman times, then reinforced in medieval times by Duke William of Normandy, and used most recently in World War II as a base for American and Canadian soldiers to look out for German warplanes. We found the dungeon for commoners, and a dungeon for rich people who had been captured; we stood underneath 'murder holes' and thanked our lucky stars that hot sand or boiling oil was not poured on

our heads, and touched giant stone balls that had been flung by catapults during sieges, before rolling into the moat only to be re-discovered centuries later.

Senlac Hill was our next stop, which is actually a ridge on which the English army formed their shield wall against the Norman invaders during the Battle of Hastings (1066). We had brought along our own kite shields and used them to form our own shield wall in almost exactly the same spot, and recreated the battle scenes with a charge up the very same hillside that saw bloody warfare nearly 1000 years ago. Thankfully there were no casualties in our recreation although we may have frightened away some tourists with our blood-curdling war cries.

Finally we ended up at Bodiam Castle, a beautiful moated castle built near the end of medieval times. After a tasty lunch we crossed the bridge into the castle to explore the ruins and immediately noticed the relative comfort that this castle would have provided to its guests, with nearly all of the 35 rooms having a garderobe (toilet) and a fireplace. We investigated all areas of the castle, from the sunken well near the kitchen right up to the top of the three towers, which afforded wonderful views of the surrounding countryside.

Thanks go to Miss Horniman and Miss Davies for their unfailing support throughout a very long day, and especially to Mr. Crowhurst who also drove the minibus.