

**History Project Brighton – Le Havre**  
**March 2009**

Dear Colleague,

I hope you find the Powerpoint Presentation for the projected visit to Le Havre interesting. It would be very useful for your pupils to see it before they come to France because, unfortunately, the timetabling doesn't allow us to present it before we set off for Bayeux.

The presentation concerns the visit to Lillebonne, planned as a half-day visit, as well as the visit to Bayeux and the Normandy Landing Beaches. The presentation is in seven parts :

- The Norman Conquest
- Motte and Bailey Castles
- La Motte d'Aplemont
- Lillebonne Castle
- The Roman Amphitheatre
- The D-Day Landings
- Aftermath

In the first part the presentation follows that of the Bayeux Tapestry which places the Normans on the left and the English on the right. This first presentation is a general introduction to the Norman Conquest and doesn't explore it in detail.

The second part explores the concept of the Norman Motte and Bailey Castles as an introduction to both the Bayeux Tapestry and the Motte d'Aplemont, which is planned into the visit to Lillebonne.

The Motte d'Aplemont presentation includes the background to the fief of Graville, details of the motte itself, a panel showing an artist's impression of the wooden structure on its summit, then a slide showing what the site looked like before it was renovated and inaugurated last February by the mayor of Le Havre, Antoine Ruffenacht (who, incidentally, lives near our school!).

The next part of the presentation introduces the history of Lillebonne Castle where William took the decision to invade England. We won't be able to visit the castle because of falling stones and also because it is on private property, although hopefully we will be able to glimpse the tower at some point. The inclusion of the artist Richard Parkes Bonington is because he was born in my home town of Arnold near Nottingham and is one of our very few claims to fame.

While in Lillebonne we will be visiting the Roman amphitheatre as well as a gallo-roman museum. The series of slides shows the history of the site, which is being excavated this year again. There is also a reference to the Roman baths built opposite the site of the amphitheatre and a slide showing the baths in the City of Bath is meant to illustrate this fact. A series of three slides looks at what the amphitheatre may have been used for, although the first is meant to be humorous. The next two slides show postcards of productions of plays performed on the site one hundred years ago to suggest that perhaps there were plays produced during the second century. This part of the presentation ends with a touch of humour.

We then move on to the D-Day landing beaches. The inclusion of the Mulberry Harbour is meant as a parallel with the Norman invasion : whereas the Normans brought their pre-fabricated castle over on the boats, the Allies brought their harbour over the Channel by floating huge blocks of concrete to form an artificial harbour at Arromanche. Montgomery is also a parallel in that his Norman origins point to the same idea that after almost a thousand years of history it is this time an invasion in reverse. Again, whereas the English had to overcome a motte and bailey castle, the Allies had the Atlantic Wall to contend with. There is also a parallel in the slide which explains the numbers involved on D-Day and the earlier slide concerning the numbers involved in the Norman invasion.

The remaining slides draw a parallel between the D-Day invasion and the Norman one. A detail from the Bayeux Tapestry shows Harold with the fatal arrow in his eye and the final slide shows the spot where Harold died.

I hope this is of interest to you and that you will be able to use it with your pupils. If you have any questions you can email me at the following address :

[garry.headland@numericable.com](mailto:garry.headland@numericable.com)

Best regards

Garry Headland