

WHAT THE BADGERS

SAW 5



1066 AND ALL THAT

More trouble lay ahead for the people, and the badgers! Read on!



As we all know, 1066 was a very important year for our country!

Old King Edward had died. He'd promised William, Duke of Normandy, the throne, but on his death-bed, he said that Harold of Wessex should become king of England.

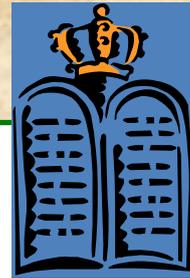
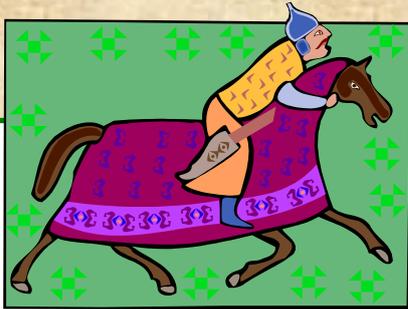
William was not very pleased about this, and decided that he would invade England and take the country from Harold. And, of course, he did just that.

The Battle of Hastings, took place on 14th October 1066, It was a huge Norman victory in the Norman Conquest of England. The battle took place at Senlac Hill, approximately 6 miles northwest of Hastings, close to the present-day town of Battle, East Sussex.



Harold II was killed in the battle. Legend says that he was shot through the eye with an arrow. There was more English resistance, but this battle is seen as the point at which William took control of England, becoming its first Norman ruler as King William I. (William the Conqueror.)

William was crowned king on Christmas Day, 1066 at Westminster Abbey.



After William had won his battle and become king, he still had a lot to do. He had a lot of trouble with the North! The people here didn't want him to be their king. Some people thought it would be better to have a Scottish king than a Frenchman.

We really were a wild lot!

In 1068, William marched north. He built castles along the way, including one at York.

Later in the year, people living north of the River Tees were causing trouble! William sent a Norman called Robert de Comines to be Earl of Northumberland. As poor Robert came to Durham, an English army caught him and killed him!

Us again!



William marched north again - not best pleased! He built another castle at York to try to keep the northerners in check! But his troubles were not yet over! Later, a Danish fleet sailed up the River Humber and joined up with the English.

They defeated the Normans at York. William marched north for the third time! He must have been very angry this time! He decided to teach the northerners a lesson! He marched as far north as the Tees, and destroyed everything in his path - crops, stores of food, houses, etc. He made it impossible for anyone to live where he had been!



William had a man called Waltheof in the east of Northumbria. But his troubles were *still* not over! Just three years later, Waltheof plotted against him. William had him executed.

Later, some Englishmen murdered William's Bishop of Durham by setting fire to a church he was in, at Gateshead.

William sent his army north again, and this time they came to Durham and Northumberland, and we suffered the terrible destruction of everything we had. This was called, 'The Harrying of the North.'



The problem of those terrible people in the North was still not solved by the first two Norman kings. The Bishop of Durham was the only person the kings thought they could trust to defend their borders. So, as time went by, the Bishops of Durham became more and more powerful, until they became Prince Bishops. They had very great powers.

Try to find out about the tale of Pollard and the boar.

The Bishop could hold his own courts, and got all of the money that people paid in fines! He could pardon criminals. He could give people land and take their money in rent. He was expected to lead his troops in battle.

During the Middle Ages, the Bishops built up great estates and became very rich men!



Our ancestors told us about the hunting they saw in the Bishop's parks. They remember the huge wild boar and the deer that used to roam here. They were really wild!!!

