

Alderney's Bayeux Tapestry on Guernsey schools' tour

by Stephen King

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ALDERNEY'S portion of the Bayeux Tapestry has been explained in detail while being taken around some of Guernsey's schools.

The project team visited Blanchelande, Elizabeth College and Melrose to give an assembly on the history of the tapestry and how it is linked to the Channel Islands.

The team carried the important message of 'Why we are English', and discussed the changes that ensued after the Battle of Hastings in 1066 – when William the Conqueror became the King of England.

Project director and creator of the Alderney Tapestry Kate Russell said the time period had a huge impact on our modern-day lives, and was incredibly interesting.

'I would like people to appreciate how cataclysmic the changes in England were following the Battle of Hastings,' she said.

'The tapestry shows how the Channel Islands was involved with the Norman Conquest – it is an important part of our history.'

Elizabeth College students Henry Gray and James Kennedy, both 11, said they had never imagined a tapestry to be like it actually was.

'I thought it was very interesting,' Henry said.

'It was amazing how the words and the borders around the pictures explained what they meant.'

'I am not big on history, but this



Elizabeth College Year 7 students are pictured at an assembly by project director and creator of the Alderney Bayeux Tapestry Kate Russell.

was very interesting – it would be good to go on a trip to see the whole thing,' James added he liked how history could be disputed, it was something he said he hadn't realised before.

'The woman [Mrs Russell] said

there were only two facts we could take away from that – that William the Conqueror won and that it was fought in 1066,' he said.

'I really like the idea that there are lots of stories, and you don't know which are true.'

The Alderney tapestry is three metres in length, and 50cm tall, compared to the full original tapestry extending to over 68 metres-long.

Replicas of the original, which is still owned by the Alderney

team, have been distributed to displays around Western Europe.

■ More information about the creation and history of the tapestry can be found at www.alderneybayeuxtapestry.com