



Citizenship -Pupil's Notes

Theme - Artistic Development

Introduction

A large collection of work by the artist Brian Hatton (1887-1916), is held by Hereford Museum. There are over 1000 paintings and drawings including items such as photographs, painting equipment, and costume. There are oil paintings, watercolours and pencil and pastel drawings, together with a small number of prints. The collection represents a large proportion of what Brian created. It ranges from slight sketches on paper to large oil paintings. Brian's work covered various themes.

Brian was born in Hereford and spent most of his childhood and early adult life here. Much of his work reflects the influence of Herefordshire, his home county. Brian lived with his family in Whitecross and later Broomy Hill, Hereford. Very early in life he made remarkable drawings which showed his considerable natural ability. His parents, Amelia and Alfred, carefully nurtured his prodigious talent. Brian's younger sisters, Ailsa Marr (b.1893) and Marjorie (b.1895), became the subject of many of his pictures. As a boy, he sketched around his home in Hereford. His subjects included: landscape views, horses and other animals, agricultural activities and country people. He also drew imaginative subjects inspired by literature.

As a young man, he travelled at home and abroad. On his travels and later as a soldier, he recorded the people and places around him.

When he began to accept commissions he painted portraits (sometimes of local people). Eventually he had a studio in London and began his professional career as a portrait painter.

Tragically, Brian was killed in action in Egypt, whilst serving with the Worcester Yeomanry, in the First World War.

Useful web link

[Hatton Gallery](#)

Lesson activities - To sell or not to sell?

<p>Key question - Is it important to keep the works of Brian Hatton in the local area?</p>

Resources

- Image of the Brian Hatton artwork of Lugg Meadows - go to [Artistic Development, Art Works, Trees and Landscape](#)

Useful web link

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-nature-reserves-lugg-meadows.htm>

Lugg Meadows

<http://www.herefordshirewt.org/reserves/luggmeadow.htm>

Herefordshire Nature Trust

Background to the artwork 'Lugg Meadows'

'Lugg Meadows' 1906 - oil painting by Brian Hatton (1887-1916)

'Lugg Meadows' was painted by Brian Hatton when he was still a young man. At the beginning of 1906, Brian was at Trinity College, Oxford, but in August of that year he had started to attend the Hospitalfields Art School in Arbroath, Scotland. This view, however, is very much a Herefordshire scene. It represents a gamekeeper on horseback and squire with two dogs, passing through the water meadows on the River Lugg, a few miles from Brian's home in Hereford.

It seems likely that this painting represents a breezy summer's day when the meadows have just been opened up for grazing; a few sheep are visible just below the trees in the middle of the picture.

When the painting was being conserved the conservator discovered that the sheep under the trees had been over-painted rather clumsily in paint which was not contemporary with Brian's. Therefore someone (we don't know who) decided the sheep should not be there! This may be to do with the fact that the Lugg Meadows are Lammas meadows that are closed for grazing for part of the year and opened up in August. They are closed from February 2nd (Candlemas) to August 1st (Lammas). We have assumed that the painting is in late summer because the sheep are grazing, but in fact, the atmosphere seems more spring-like, perhaps April or May, in which case maybe the sheep would not have been there. The truth is we don't really know what happened – so you can decide what you think.

Information about the Lugg Meadows

The Lugg Meadows are a large, flat area of grassland, which lies alongside the River Lugg near Hereford. They are the largest known surviving example of Lammas Meadow - areas of common land that date back to Medieval times. This meadow has been continuously managed for hay since Medieval times. It is of great ecological and historical importance.

The Lammas Meadows are 'shut up' by the landowners for hay growth, between February 2nd (Candlemas) and August 1st (Lammas) each year, after which they are opened up to commoners for grazing. These ancient grazing rights are still exercised by a few local farmers on the Lugg Meadows.

Over 85 plant species have been recorded on the meadow. Plants thriving on the meadows include Oxeye Daisy, Yellow-rattle, Meadowsweet, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Common Knapweed. Other wildlife present includes wintering birds such as curlew, sand martins, kingfisher, widgeon and golden plover.

The meadows flood regularly in the winter, but the underlying gravel allows fast drainage so that they do not stay waterlogged.

Activity 1 - The painting

Look carefully at the image of the artwork, 'Lugg Meadows' and read the background information.

Activity 2 - Making money

Imagine that a rich American with family ties to the area has approached the council and offered to buy the painting Lugg Meadows for a large amount of money to take back to the United States. The American will display it in his/her own home. The painting has been on display two or three times but is currently in a store. Working with a partner write down the pros and cons of selling the painting.

Class discussion

- What could the money from the sale of the painting be used for?
- What happens if we start to sell parts of our heritage?
- If you gave a treasured family heirloom to a museum for the enjoyment of the public and the museum sold it, how would you feel?
- Would people stop giving art works to galleries and museums if they thought they might be sold?

Activity 3 - The discussion, 'To sell or not to sell'

Use the information about the painting and your notes to take part in a class discussion.



Lugg Meadows