

Brian Hatton

Brian Hatton (1887-1916) is Hereford's most celebrated artist. He was born in Whitecross and later lived at Mount Craig, Broomy Hill. The family businesses in the city included glove-making, boot-making and tanning.

Brian's artistic talent showed at a very early age and was nurtured by his family. He won gold medals in competitions organised by the Royal Drawing Society. Whilst still a small boy his outstanding ability led to introductions to Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's daughter, and the eminent artist G.F.Watts.

However, Brian was a boy prone to asthma and hay fever and, for the good of his health, he spent term times with friends of the family Dr. and Mrs. Lancaster in Swansea. Brian studied briefly at Oxford, and at a painting school in Arbroath. He started to work professionally at home, and later in London, mainly doing portrait commissions.

At the outbreak of the First World War he enlisted in the Worcestershire Yeomanry. He married Lydia May Bidmead of Hereford in 1914 and they had one daughter, Mary. Tragically he was killed on Easter Sunday April 23rd. 1916, at Oghratina in Egypt.

Brian captured the countryside and rural life, the people and the fast-changing farming scene, animals, workers, Gypsies, and most of all his beloved horses.



More Information

The Hatton collection of over 1000 paintings and drawings is held by Hereford Museum and is available to view by appointment. Please contact:

**Museum Resource and Learning Centre,
58 Friars Street, Hereford HR4 0AS**

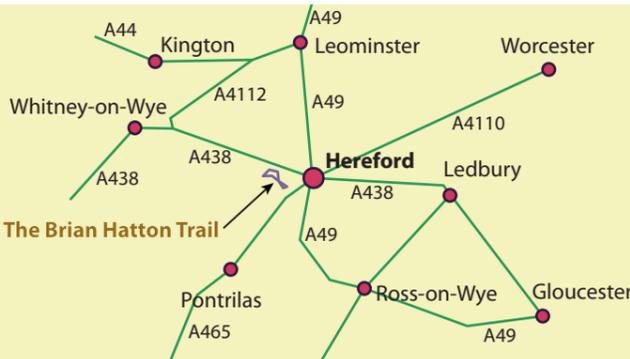
Telephone 01432 383383

Email herefordmuseums@herefordshire.gov.uk

Website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/museums>

For more information about Brian Hatton visit the website **Brian Hatton: The Life and Death of a Young Artist.** <http://brianhatton.herefordshire.gov.uk/>

To see more Hatton pictures and more of the Hereford Museum's collections online see the **online catalogue** <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/museum-collections-search/>



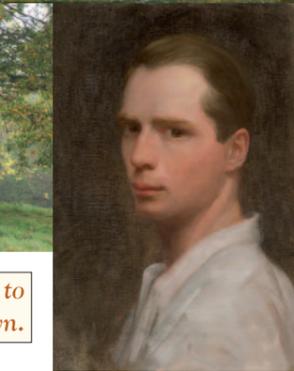
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Herefordshire
Museum Service

Hatton Country The Brian Hatton Trail

A circular walk around Breinton, near Hereford.



The full trail takes about 2½ hours to complete. Shorter options are shown.



Lydia May Bidmead.
Pencil. c.1914



Self-Portrait.
Oil. 1907

The Brian Hatton Trail has been devised by Robin Thorndyke, a Brian Hatton researcher and enthusiast.

Portraits

Brian painted and sketched numerous portraits, firstly members of his family and eventually private commissions as he began to establish himself as a professional artist.



Portrait of a Girl in a Red Beret (Marjorie Hatton) Oil. 1905



Alfred Hatton.
Red conté. 1909



Ailsa Hatton. Red conté. 1908



Amelia Hatton. Oil. 1910?



Self-Portrait.
Oil. 1908

Landscapes and agriculture

Brian had a natural affinity with the landscapes he found close to his home in Hereford. He went out into the fields and lanes, getting to know the people he found working there.



Cloudy Day at Warham. Oil. 1911



George 'Nurdy' Saunders. Ink. c.1908



Picking Stones, Warham. Watercolour. 1905



Hauling Barley. Watercolour. 1899



Gypsies on a Road. Ink. 1906/7

Horses and animals

Brian loved horses and had a great ability to capture their spirit and movement in all kinds of situations; real and imagined. He also spent time sketching other animals he found on the farm such as sheep and cattle.



Two Horses. Oil. 1910?



Sanger's Circus. Watercolour. 1901



Man and Horses. Pastel. 1905

Rearing Horses. 1910



Study of a Horse. Pencil. 1900

Please turn page.
Route map inside.

Hatton Trail - Breinton Springs Circular Walk

1. Start at the National Trust car park at Breinton Springs. GR: SO 473395. A track leads from the car park down to the river, but, turn left to start through the kissing gate. Cross the old orchard, passing the church yard on your left to a kissing gate in the corner above the wood. Follow the path along the top side of the wood with the Old Rectory lawns on your left.

Portrait of Rev. Prebendary Lushington, 1910. Red conté crayon.

Philip Lushington was vicar of Breinton between 1909 and 1914. He was an eminent theologian and keen sportsman. He was captain of cricket at Balliol College, Oxford, and captain of golf for the University. He was also captain for a year of the Herefordshire Golf Club, where Hatton's father Alfred had been a founder member.



2. Continue with apple orchards on your left, 250 metres to a kissing gate. Go straight down the edge of the field with a high hedge on your right, 200 metres. Go through the kissing gate on your right into a pasture, turn left, continue to two tall trees on the edge of the escarpment in front of a large red brick house (Warham House).

Diversion: Information board 150 metres on the left (off route).

The Lawns, Warham, 1908. Oil.

Three trees were planted to enhance the view from Warham House, looking towards Belmont across the river. Two of the three trees remain, a London Plane and a Turkey Oak, but the third tree is no longer there. The house and lawns are just off the view to the right, separated from this field by a ha ha. At the time that Brian painted, this meadow was a visual extension of 'the lawn' in front of the house. The family associated with the house had historic connections with Belmont Abbey across the river.



3. From beneath the trees bear right down the slope to a kissing gate at the bottom corner. Through the gate continue down the field with the hedge and a brook on your left. [After 40 metres glimpse through the field opening on the left, the location for the view 'Fields by the River Wye'] Continue with the brook on your left to reach the riverside at a kissing gate and bridge.

Fields by the River Wye, Warham, 1908. Oil.

The artist is looking eastwards towards the river, which runs at the foot of the wooded bank in the background. He made numerous pictures which included: cattle, sheep, and particularly horses, which came from the nearby farm at Warham Court.



4. [To view 'The Wye, Belmont Woods' turn left through the kissing gate and over the bridge for 30 metres only. Turn around and look upstream. Now retrace your steps over the bridge.] Follow the path upstream (Wye Valley Walk) with views of Belmont House and the golf course on the opposite bank, over a bridge and continue to where the path diverges from the river.

The Wye, Belmont Woods, 1908. Oil.

Melancholic and atmospheric; the view upstream as the winter sun sinks behind Belmont Woods. The river path from which he observed this view is still a popular walk from Hereford city to Breinton Springs.



5. Bear slightly right from the overgrown river bank, up onto a meadow. Follow the river along the length of the meadow to a gate. Once through the gate follow the rising cart track up the escarpment to the car park (start point) with St. Michael's Church to the right.

Portrait of Mrs. Lushington, 1910. Red conté crayon.

Frances Lushington was a prominent figure in local education and a chair of the County Federation of Women's Institutes in later life. She gave Hatton his first portrait commission and opened the first exhibition dedicated to him after the first World War. She married the vicar of Breinton in 1907 and they lived in the Rectory close to the church.



Hatton Trail - Upper Breinton Loop

1. Leave the car park and walk up the access lane to the north. Pass the gates of Breinton House on the left, to a kissing gate leading to an old orchard with tennis courts. Go through the kissing gate and cross diagonally to a small gate which leads into a lane. Cross the lane and follow a gravel path left of Breinton Court Lodge to a kissing gate on the left.

Brenda Wadworth, 1911. Oil.

Brenda was the daughter of the wealthy brewer, Henry Wadworth, of Breinton Court. Her first husband Gerald Lea was killed in WWI six weeks before their daughter Marigold was born. Brenda remarried Robin Bailey, who spent the rest of his working life in the Sudan. Sadly, her younger sister Alice was killed when her horse fell on the Callow hill, near Hereford, when she was only 16. A memorial cottage was built in Breinton Common dedicated to Alice Wadworth. To compound the tragedy, her father was killed (aged 78) at Upper Breinton, when he was thrown from his horse.



2. From the kissing gate turn right up the field (at right angles to the Wye Valley Walk) with an orchard on the right. Head for a field gate and stile. Go over the stile and straight uphill to a road gate and stile beneath an oak tree. Cross the road and through a gate. Go straight on with extensive orchards to the left via a wide gap and a gate to the corner of Green Lane Wood (Wyevale Wood). Go through the gate to join Green Lane bridle way.

[Option: Explore the paths around the wood and the bird feeding station.]

The Farm, Warham, 1910. Oil.

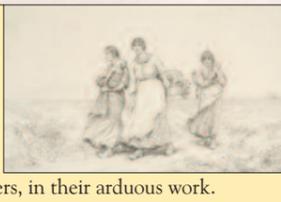
This typical Herefordshire farmhouse dates back to the 17th century and this view has changed little since Brian worked here. The house appears comfortably rooted to the ground in its apple orchard. It is a breezy early autumn day with windfall apples gathered beneath the trees ready for the cider press.



3. Turn left (bridle way) past Green Lane Park and on past Cranstone (houses) on the right to where the lane meets the road. Go straight across the road to a gate and ascend the field with the hedge on your right to the corner. Turn left at the top to reach the edge of Upper Wood. Go down and right to a gate and path into the wood. At a stile, leave the wood and turn left into an old orchard. Go left up a grassy bank and track to cross a stile on the left into a high open field.

Gypsies, 1906. Pencil.

Gypsy families camped in the Breinton district and were engaged in seasonal work on the farms. Hatton was attracted by their costumes and their character, as women who appear closer to nature than to established society. He had a natural empathy for them, and for the farm labourers, in their arduous work.



4. Keep the hedge on your left to cross the open field with views across the Wye Valley on the right. Cross two more stiles leading into a woodland path at the top of a steep slope. Turn left over a stile into a track and immediately left again through a gate into a field where the track ends. Joining the Wye Valley Walk turn right and ascend the field with the hedge on your right to reach a gate at the top right, enjoying the views behind you.

Harvesting Towards

Morehampton, 1910. Oil.

Looking towards Wales across the Wye Valley, Hatton's interest is in the harvest scene, of corn stooks and loaded wagon, under a summer sky. Some dark brush strokes suggest a sudden shower threatens to disrupt the day's activities. Moorhampton, a halt on the now-closed railway line to Hay-on-Wye, is hidden from view in the valley beyond.



5. Go through the gate and bear left across the slope and down to a gate and bridle path (still Wye Valley Walk).

Study Towards the

Malverns, 1910. Oil.

Looking eastwards the familiar skyline of the Malvern Hills provides a backdrop to the orchards and meadows of rural Herefordshire.

Hatton's viewpoint for this painting is not certain, but it could possibly be from this high ground. Hereford city, in the middle-distance, is out of view.



6. Follow the stony track down to the road at Upper Breinton. [A short detour to left 100 metres along the road leads to Breinton Manor fruit farm]

George Marshall J.P. E.S.A. (1869-1950), 1912. Oil.

George Marshall lived at Breinton Manor. He was a celebrated historian and antiquarian, as well as a fruit farmer. He was Secretary to the Woolhope Club (Hereford's long-established Naturalist Field Club) for 30 years and President in 1922. He was a fund of knowledge of all things Herefordian and a friend to Henry Wadworth (see Brenda Wadworth) and the Bulmer (cider making) family who lived in the area.



7. Turn right onto the road to pass Breinton Manor cottages (South View). At the next road junction turn right for Breinton Common, look out for steps leading to a kissing gate at the top of the wooded bank on the left, 10 metres before the sharp right bend. Go up the steps and through the gate and bear right across the lower edge of the field to a kissing gate (Wye Valley Walk). Through the gate follow the right edge of the field and exit through a kissing gate to regain the gravel lane. Turn right, then turn left past Breinton Lodge, and then shortly turn right into the lane leading to the car park (start point).

Study of a Lane and Barn,

1911. Oil.

Lower Breinton and Warham is a maze of lanes such as this one. The precise location is difficult to identify because, if the trees were elm trees, they would have been felled at the height of Dutch elm disease in the 1970's. The shed on the right hand side would have been used for storing carts and farm implements. Bold brushwork captures the scene with a few lively strokes.



The Hatton Trail is a figure-of-eight circuit. You can walk either loop by itself or combine the two to make a 5 mile total.

