

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack



## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

The Teacher's Pack is a series of ideas for drama using anecdotes and stories from Herefordshire Lore Society's book 'A Slap of the Hand: The History of Hereford Market' suitable for Primary aged children.

The Teacher's Pack is in three sections of themed stories, memories and anecdotes.

### **1 - Hereford Cattle Market Tales**

### **2 - The Characters of the Market**

### **3 - Auction Stories**

Following each story there are suggestions for starting points for drama for Primary

school teachers to facilitate with Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils.

The drama ideas are simple to follow and facilitate; specialist knowledge is not required. Drama has been used as a tool to bring the stories and memories alive.

Audio files of the stories and anecdotes are also available on the Herefordshire Lore Society website, so the authentic voices can be heard, at [www.herefordshirelore.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirelore.org.uk).

There are some grammatical and punctuation errors and anomalies in the transcripts of the anecdotes and memories. This is due to the process of recording and transcribing live conversation and interviews.



# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack



**Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two**

## Section 1 - Hereford Cattle Market - Tales

**All activities start with a discussion of the story or memory.**

**All activities are suitable for Primary aged children; Key Stage One and Two and can be either developed or simplified depending on the needs and abilities of each group.**

In this section there are ten stories about Hereford Cattle Market. Some of the stories are describing what the market used to be like. You can get a really good idea of the atmosphere, hustle and bustle from some of the descriptions. Some of the memories are about the animals and how they got to market.

Each story gives us some information about how people used to live, what Hereford Cattle Market used to be like and tells us something about human's relationships with animals.

The stories can be used in a number of ways. Drama activities are suggested here to give pupils the ability to recreate the market, its people and its animals.

Each story is provided here as a transcript but an audio file is also available on the website that can be downloaded and listened to.

Market Tale 1 - A fantastic place

Market Tale 2 - Who is that?

Market Tale 3 - Walking the cows

Market Tale 4 - Drive 'em

Market Tale 5 - Lamb

Market Tale 6 - Pig

Market Tale 7 - Chickens

Market Tale 8 - Cows

Market Tale 9 - Pig race

Market Tale 10 - Wife for sale



Auctioneer Mr Hammond



**Listen** to tracks 1 - 9

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 1 - A Fantastic Place

Terry Court: "The Market was a fantastic place to be. And you have to remember it's nothing like it was then. We were having anything up to 3 or 4000 fat sheep on a Monday; we'd have 500 pigs and 600 fat cattle, that's on Monday. Tuesday we'd have 600 bulls or 200 horses. On a Wednesday we'd have 12000 sheep, 1000 pigs, 600 calves, 500 weaning sturkie things - young cattle: there's calves, cows, cattle and then store cattle - and then on a Thursday we'd have anything up to 2000 store cattle up to 600 barren cows and up to 400 dairy on a Friday so it was a busy old place."

#### **DRAMA 1 - Sound creation of Hereford Cattle Market**

Following on from the discussion about the Market, ask the children to sit in a circle and to choose a sound that would have been heard on a busy market day. It could be an animal noise or a person saying or shouting something at the Market. Listen to each individual sound - encourage a wide range of different sounds. Ask the children to then practice their sounds in pairs, to practice with different volumes and intensities.

Then, working as a conductor, you need to agree and practice some signals to start the group making sounds, to increase and decrease volume, to have whole group making sounds, to end sounds. Then conduct the group to create their "soundscape" of the Market. Use just animal sounds, then just human, build the sound up to a crescendo and then slowly stop the sounds one at a time to bring the Market to a close.

Experiment with: animal noises only, human voices only, a busy day and different times of the day. Encourage the children to experiment with taking a turn as the conductor.



**Listen** to Terry Court, track 1

#### **DISCUSSION**

Have you visited Hereford Cattle Market?

What animals did you see there?

Can you describe what the market is like?

#### **DRAMA 2 - Market alive**

Repeat exercise 1, now with the children creating freeze-frames (still images) of the people or animals they were being at the Market.

Group similar animals and people together. Bring the whole thing to life - use the same commands as with the sound conducting to bring the freeze-frames to life and the children begin to move around.

Change positions of those children being farmers to control the animals if necessary. Now add in the sounds as well to recreate the market you have heard about in the story.

Use the conductor signals throughout to control the action and noise level!

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## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 2 - Who is that?

Joanne Probert: "I just remember the market as being enormous, every day of the week, horses, cattle, pigs all sorts of things. Huge market and all the stock would come in from all around. I loved the market; I used to walk to the market on the way down to the stables, just to see the animals.

All these cheapjacks. People used to bargain in the middle, selling medicines and all sorts of things. Hereford was purely a market town.

Everybody knew everybody. Many years after we had this store out here, Normans, well it was Meadow Market first of all and the supervisor down there was a lovely girl who used to be in the National Bank in Broad Street and I was talking to her one day and she said, 'Do you know, when I was in the bank, you might look through the window and you'd see somebody walking down by the Green Dragon who you didn't know and you'd say, "who is that?" You wouldn't know anybody in Hereford now, but then if you saw someone strange walking down Broad Street you would think, who is that?"



**Listen** to Joanne Probert, track 2



#### DRAMA - Market traders

Group the children into pairs. They are going to create their own imaginary market stall. The children can use a cloth on the floor to create their stall or stand behind an empty table.

Encourage the children to think about what they might sell. Ask them to think about markets they may have been to and how traders get customers' attention.

Will they shout about what they've got?

Will they try to catch people's eye or attention?

What different sorts of things could they sell?

Once the children have created their own stall and practiced selling encourage the pairs to take turns in shopping at each other's imaginary stalls.

Ask the children:

Who is a confident seller? Who has great things to sell? Who has an interesting way of selling?

#### DISCUSSION

What does this story add to what we knew about the Market already?

What kind of things do you think people were selling?

What do you think a "cheapjack" is?

Can you imagine knowing everyone in Hereford?

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 3 - Walking the cows

Colin Manning: "A long time ago, animals were walked to market, which people don't realise. There were some farmers at Hampton Bishop - Ivor Rogers, Alan Paske - who walked their cattle to market on a Wednesday morning. There was a dealer called Fred Ralph who lived at Moor Farm Lane who walked his cattle to market and caused absolute chaos with Holy Trinity Church! Prebendary Snell didn't like them stopping there to use the public lavatory! But they all came and then the others came usually by lorry or they walked."



Cattle in Broad Street, Hereford



#### Listen

to

Colin Manning  
track 3

#### DISCUSSION

Can you imagine a farmer herding his cows through the centre of Hereford today?

What must it have been like?

#### DRAMA - Cow herding

Place the children in small groups of four or five. One child needs to act as the farmer and rest as his cows.

Ask the farmer to imagine that he has to take his cows on a journey to market through the centre of Hereford. What are the difficulties he might face?

How easy is it to take them on a journey - let the cows have a mind of their own!

Gradually increase the number of cows for each farmer to herd.

Other children can take on the role of the vicar/passers by.

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 4 - Drive 'em

Mr Matthews: "Drive 'em. Drive 'em through town. I've driven cows through Hereford. Yes, we kept a bit of land at Whitecross and when I was at school, we'd take our cows that were dry, not milking, we only had that small farm at Bartonsham, and father would say 'well, we'll drive those cows up to Whitecross.' For their summer holidays, 'cause they were dry you see.

We'd drive 'em through town. We'd drive 'em right through High Town. 'Cause there wasn't much traffic about mind. It was quite legal to do that. Yes, I've walked cattle through High Town, we had 'em up Whitecross, over that bridge by Bulmer's, and on the right as you go past Bulmer's and on a bit, there's some houses with passageways, round the back, and a cow went up a passageway there once and there was some ladies doing some washing in tub and she turned the tub over and got all excited about this cow. Really good fun!

They are herd animals so there's a couple who are always leading and if there's enough people around, just blocking the odd streets. When you're going up Whitecross you've got Baggally Street, Stanhope Street, all these streets going off, and if you've got somebody standing there, they'll keep going. But of course cows were kept for a lot longer in those days, have them for six or seven years probably, and they get to know the ropes!

They know where they're going. They're knowing animals."



**Listen** to Mr Matthews, track 4

#### DISCUSSION

Mr Matthews used to take his cows on quite a long journey - what other sorts of mischief do you think the cows got into?

#### DRAMA (More suitable for Key Stage Two)

Get the children into small groups of four or five to create a drama of Mr Matthews, his cows and the ladies doing their washing in their backyards. Allow the groups some freedom in letting them choose how they present the story-the material is so rich-you are just asking them to recreate what they have listened to.

To encourage more creativity ask the children to consider some of the following points and address them in their dramas:

Think about what kind of phrases the ladies would have said if a cow suddenly appeared in their backyard.

What would Mr Matthews be doing and saying?

How can you end the story?

What would the ladies say after the cows have gone?

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tales 5 - Lamb

Peter: They used to have a bit of a system, didn't they? For if livestock got out of the market. You always used to run to shut the gates, 'cause obviously when they were unloading stock, occasionally one used to get out and we always remember this, there was a lamb got out of the market, didn't it?

Reg: Yes.

Peter: And it got down Eign Gate. Well I used to work in the slaughterhouse and we got a phone call 'there's a lamb got out up Eign Gate. Go and find the boys in the van and fetch it.' So this lamb had got out of the cattle market, run up Eign Gate and for some unknown reason it got in Dorothy Perkins. And there were two policemen outside.

Reg: They wouldn't go inside!

Peter: The lamb was inside in Dorothy Perkins and you can imagine now the lamb now going round taking all the clothes off of the railings well it could see itself in the mirror and it was ramming the mirror and trying to smash the mirror, well you can imagine what a lamb does ... all on the floor. It had done it everywhere and the two girls in the shop were stood inside up onto the counter screaming. So we just walked in and said to the cop 'oh just hold the door,' we just walked in, picked him up, we sat him in a wheelbarrow and walked him in the wheelbarrow and put him in the warehouse.



Freddy Fox, sheep drover

### DRAMA - Lamb

Ask the children to recreate the story of the escaping lamb in Dorothy Perkins.

Groups will need people to choose to be the farmer who lost his lamb, two policemen, people working in the shop and people shopping. They will also need someone to be the lamb. Ask the children to work out where the shop is and who is standing where.

Use the technique of freezing and unfreezing the action to control what's happening and also to ask questions eg;

What's going on here?

How do you feel?

What do you think should happen next?

Ask the children to think about the kind of phrases the different characters would say in this unusual situation. This activity can work as a whole group activity where you add in more and more characters and action.

Keep using the "freeze" and "unfreeze" to keep control of the story.



**Listen** to Peter and Reg Bayliss,  
track 5

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tales - Taking animals to Market

**Here are three different stories (6, 7 and 8), about taking different types of animals to market; a pig, some chickens and more cows. Listen to all three stories and then have a go at the drama activities.**

#### Market Tales 6 - Pig

John Matthews: "People would take a pig to market, they'd put a cord on the back leg of the pig, and off pig would go in front, and they'd be coming round, holding the cord. It's how you take a pig to market."



#### Market Tales 7 - Chickens

David Probert: "Even up until 5 years ago the methods of transportation, taking chickens into the market were quite extraordinary. You'd see a couple pairs of chickens balanced in a sack on either side of the handlebars of a bike and that type of thing because obviously that sort of chicken market serves smallholders and people like that who've got a few in the back garden and even up to 5 years ago that was happening."



**Listen** to John Matthews, track 6



**Listen** to David Probert, track 7

**DISCUSSION** - see page 9

**DRAMA** - see page 10

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 8 - Cows

Tom Wheatstone: "Some of the houses down Three Elms Road weren't happy with the cattle - they kept going on their gardens and digging up their gardens! There's one person I met the other day, she was there when I was on my horse and cart, those days. Dr. Chamberlain's wife. And she is still about, and still living in the same house.

And I bumped into her ages ago and I said 'Oh, hello Mrs. Chamberlain. You don't remember me. I was your milkman. I was the one who used to get the cattle out of your garden!' She had lovely green grass, and the cows would go for green grass!

We used to get shouted at. You come down Whitecross, you'd got anything up to a hundred cattle and you got a dog there and you've got to run on and stop them going down each street. Soon as you come to where the old traffic lights were, the old copper was in there. We'd stop there with the cattle that was going up to market. Oh, it was horrendous.

They would just wander into gardens. But sometimes, you'd run ahead of yourselves and shut the gates, to get them through."

Sarah: "And would they go down the alleyways?"

Tom: "Depends if the first couple decided to stray! Then they would all follow!

Sometimes, I was in front and I'd be holding them back with a stick. Then I'd go onto school and then go back after school. Sometimes there was only a few to go up, and sometimes nothing at all."



#### DISCUSSION

In these three stories the animals were all brought to the Cattle Market in different ways and different things happened to them.

Which story did you think was the funniest?

Which story were you most surprised by?

Can you think of some unusual ways of moving animals from one place to another?



**Listen** to Tom Wheatstone,  
track 8

**DRAMA** - see page 10

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tales - Taking animals to Market

**In the last three Market Tales (6, 7 and 8) we heard about taking different types of animals to market; a pig, some chickens and more cows. Listen to all three stories and then have a go at the drama activities:**

#### **DRAMA 1 - Transporting the animals**

A pig on a rope, a chicken on handlebars and cows in the garden - there were many funny and unusual sights on the way to market.

Working individually choose a type of animal that you would like to get somewhere - it could be a type of animal that goes to market or it could be something more exotic. Decide how you are going to move it and act this out for the rest of your group. See if the group can guess what type of animal you are moving by your brilliant acting.

#### **DRAMA 2 - Transporting the animals**

Working in pairs - one person is the animal, the other has to move it somewhere. Act this out for the rest of your group. Let the person have only one phrase that they can keep on saying to the animal and the animal needs to be making a noise.



Driving calves through Ledbury

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 9 - Pig race

Colin Manning: "At that time there was a local character about by the name of Cole, who came to Hereford and lived on Vowchurch Common. He won the Powderhall sprint, which was a professional sprint run at Edinburgh for a lot of money. But in those days, if you ran for money, you were disqualified amateurs. But Cole used to come to Hereford, with his bicycle on his back; he came down the market, usually with a small pig in a bag. And he saw Pearson one day and they fell out over something and Pearson said: 'Cole? Run? I've got a bloody pig that can run faster than you.' So he said 'Don't be ridiculous' and he said 'Well, I tell you what, next fortnight's time (which was Easter Wednesday), we'll have a race from my piggery in Blueschool Street to the entrance to the football ground.' Between the pig and Cole.

Of course, this spread like wildfire. Pearson's piggery was where the Red Cross used to be, on Blueschool Street, and that to the bottom market gate, which was slightly different to where it is now, was about 50 yards, that was all.

Well, what nobody realised was that Pearson, with his cunning, didn't feed his pig (which was a sow and a sizeable animal), for three days, so when they went down on the Wednesday morning, and they were all lined up along Edgar Street - they were ready to blow the whistle for the race to start - and they blew the whistle, Pearson had a bucket of pig meal up the far end, and the pig was gone! Well of course everybody closed in and Cole couldn't get by, so the Hereford Times carried a piece where Cole was beaten by a pig."



**Listen** to Colin Manning, track 9



#### DISCUSSION

Ask the children if they could imagine being in the Market and hearing about the race between Cole and the pig?

What would their first thought be?

Who do they think would win?

Do they think that people were excited about the race?

Why would they be excited?

**DRAMA** - see page 12

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 9 - Pig race (continued)

#### **DRAMA - more suitable for Key Stage Two pupils**

The story of Cole racing the pig is full of tension and excitement. It is perfect to recreate as a short piece of storytelling drama. There are a number of ways you could approach this. Here are some suggestions:

#### **1. Re-enact the first argument between the two men, Cole and Pearson**

Decide what they were arguing about.

Have the conversation where Pearson challenges Cole to race his pig.

#### **2. Cole races the pig**

Recreate the drama of Pearson talking to a friend about his plan not to feed the pig for three days.

Recreate the day of the race with most of the group as the crowd, someone as Cole (how will he be feeling before the race?).

Someone as Pearson with the bucket of feed and someone as the pig!

Use the freeze and unfreeze techniques to stop and start the action and to ask questions of members of the group.

#### **3. Spectators**

Rather than seeing the action of Cole racing the pig you could try to use the whole group as spectators.

Get the group into a crowd position imagining that they are watching the race.

Initially narrate the race so the group can practice watching imaginary action from left to right.

Encourage the group to shout out encouragement for Cole and the pig and to react at the end of the race.

Now try to recreate this without your narration.

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 10 - Wife for sale

Along with his cow or pig, a man's possessions once upon a time included his wife. Marriage, formalised in the sixteenth century, became a legal arrangement that enabled the husband to possess not only the wife, but her land and possessions too. Getting divorced required an Act of Parliament.

But within isolated agricultural communities, the poor had little need of formal marriages, having nothing material to gain from it. Local authorities, while they upheld the legalities of a formal marriage, accepted common law customs: and that included selling or exchanging a wife in the Market.

In an 1876 edition of the Hereford Times a female correspondent described three occasions in her lifetime when she witnessed the sale of a wife in Aubrey Street, prior to 1810, the site of the Pig Market. Under the heading 'Wife selling in Hereford in olden times' she wrote:

'Walking across Hereford from Barton to the other side of town with my friend Mona Delnotte Coates we passed the bottom of the Pig Market. Here we saw a crowd and in the centres we saw a woman dressed in a red cloak standing with a very smart hat in her hand. She stood very still looking down and around her neck was a rope and behind her a man was holding the other end of it. Believing she was going to be hung we asked what she had done. A bystander told us: 'Oh she had done no good depend upon it or else he wouldn't want to sell her.'

One man, Jack, offered a shilling for her.

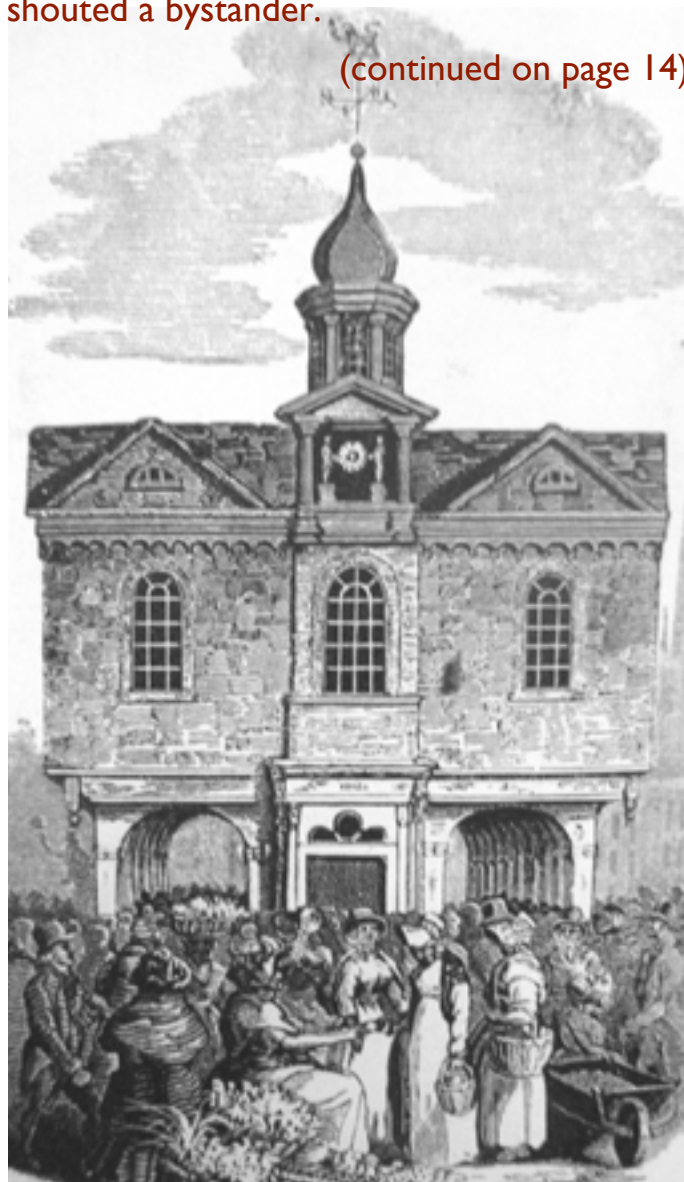
Another shouted out: 'Well done Jack. That is eleven pence more than I would give. It's too much boy, too much.'

But Jack stood firm.

'I'll take it, though her good looks ort to bring more than that,' said the husband.

'Keep her, keep her for her good looks,' shouted a bystander.

(continued on page 14)



What am I bid? Women were sold at Hereford Market in the 1800's. (Herefordshire Libraries)

# A Slap of the Hand - Hereford Cattle Market Teacher's Pack

## Drama Activities for Key Stage One and Two

### Market Tale 10 - Wife for sale (continued)

'No,' said another, 'Good looks wont put the vitals on the table without willing hands.' Well,' said Jack, 'Here's the shilling and I'll warrant she'll put the vitals on the table and I'll help her get it first.'

Turning to the woman, Jack said: 'Be you willing, missis, to leave him and take me for better or worse?'

'I be willing,' said she.

'And be you willing to sell her for what I bid?' said Jack to the husband.

'I be and will give you the rope into the bargain,' said he. So Jack walked off up the Pig Market leading his newly bought wife by the halter. Jack was a weaver by trade and later inquiries revealed this formally unhappy

woman had settled and helped in his business.

Later, wrote the correspondent, another woman was sold in the Butter Market in much the same way. Some years on several more wives were sold in Hereford, despite crying and begging on their bended knees not to be sold. The correspondent recorded that one of these women was never able to forget the humiliation of being sold in public.

The later sales occurred after 1810 when the new Butter Market was built. The practice of wife selling in the marketplace was not confined to Hereford. Market tolls record the sale of wives at Birmingham in 1773, Sheffield in 1796 and Brighton in 1826.

#### **DISCUSSION** (may not be suitable for Key Stage One)

What do you think of this practice of buying and selling a wife?

Can you imagine being bought or sold? How do you think the wife was feeling?

#### **DRAMA - Spouse for sale**

In small groups of four or five, the children create their own wife or husband sale. They need to decide who is going to be for sale, why they are for sale and discuss everyone's feelings. Choose who will be bidding for the wife or husband and decide what information they are going to share with the crowd about the person they have got for sale. Someone might decide to object to the sale - see what happens to the sale if this occurs.

#### **MONOLOGUE**

Ask the children to imagine that they are the wife or husband for sale. How does this make them feel? Ask them to put themselves into their shoes to examine what this might be like. Are they frightened? Are they angry? The children might like to write down what they want to say and then learn it to perform to the rest of the group. You might prefer them to improvise it where they decide what they want to say as they do it. Encourage them not to feel nervous-say as much or as little as they like.