

THE WILTON DIPTYCH

KINGLY COLOUR



This diptych (two panel painting) is a bit like a book – can you see the hinges? So, you could close the two panels to hide the inner pictures. The book is made from Baltic Oak – a hard wood that has lasted well. It is around 600 years old!

Spot some more details below:

red socks

jewellery

a lamb

a crown

an arrow

some flowers

badges in the shape of a White Hart (a white deer)



These two panels are the cover of the diptych. Look closely. Can you see that some of the paint has worn away?

On the panel on the left, can you spot a lion? It is just an outline now.

Spot a red and white hat with a tail – these were sometimes worn under a crown to help keep it on your head.

On the right is a beautiful White Hart like the badges on the inside.

The colours used on the panels were expensive and some are toxic.

Gold Leaf was used for the background and some details. All the pigments (colours) were mixed with egg yolk to make long lasting paint.

Blue – made from Lapis lazuli – a precious powdered stone.

Red – made from vermilion – powdered cinnabar – a crystal form of poisonous lead sulfide.

Green made from malachite – a powdered stone. Or by soaking copper in vinegar to produce a chemical reaction – veridgris. Much cheaper!

Science time! Soak some 1p or 2p coins in vinegar for a few days... watch what happens...