

THE GATEWAY GARDENS TRUST

The Gateway Gardens Trust creates and pays for special tailor-made visits to historic parks and gardens in Wales and the West Midlands for a diverse range of community groups, schoolchildren and Lifelong Learners.

For more information about **Bittersweet** or our other visit programmes contact: Jeanette Hill 01558 669158

Additional information about the history of the slave trade can be found on the following websites: www.antislavery.org, www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition, www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/slavery, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/slavery/



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Helpu Pobl i Ddarganfod Gerddi



THE
GATEWAY GARDENS TRUST

Helping People Discover Gardens

www.gatewaygardenstrust.org

BITTERSWEET



St Mary the Virgin C.W Primary

visits

Dyffryn Gardens

in

National Tree Week

on

Thursday 29th November 2007

for

'Privateers and Pirates'





A **pirate** is a robber who travels by water. Throughout history, there have been people willing to rob others transporting goods on the water. The most precious prizes were chests of gold, silver and jewels. Coins were especially popular because pirate crews could share them out easily. Emeralds and pearls were the most common jewels. However, pirates did not only seize precious cargoes like these. They also wanted things they could use, such as food, barrels of wine and

brandy, sails, anchors and other spare equipment for their ship, and essential tools such as those belonging to the ship's carpenter and surgeon, as well as people they could sell as **slaves** or put to work for them.

The **carpenter** was a very important man on board any ship including pirate vessels. His duties included inspecting the ship for defective timbers and examining the state of the masts. After battle, he repaired any shot holes and other damage to the vessel. The ships were built from wood. Different types of wood were used for different purposes.



Pirates were sometimes known as **corsairs**. They were pirates who operated in the Mediterranean Sea between the 15th and 18th centuries. Muslim corsairs, such as the **Barbarossa (red beard) brothers**, had bases along the Barbary Coast of North Africa. They built many strong fortresses to defend the Barbary ports of Algiers, Tripoli and Tunis. Christian corsairs were based on the island of Malta. Corsairs swooped down on their targets in swift oar-powered boats called galleys to carry off sailors and passengers. Unless their prisoners were rich enough to pay a ransom, they were sold as slaves or put to work as oarsmen on the corsair galleys.



Privateers used similar methods to a pirate, but acted while in possession of a commission or letter of marque from a government or King or Queen, authorizing the capture of merchant ships belonging to an enemy nation. They often ended up becoming pirates themselves.



The gardens you are visiting today are part of the **Dyffryn** estate. It dates back to the seventh century A.D. In the sixteenth century, it was bought by the Button family, who built the first house. Many generations of the family lived here. **Admiral Sir Thomas Button** was the fourth son of the man who bought the land. He joined the navy and became a privateer. In 1620-21 he was involved in raids on the headquarters of the Barbary pirates in Algiers. His ghost is said to still haunt the grounds of the estate today.



Two famous Welsh pirates were **Howell Davis** and **Bartholomew Roberts** also known as Black Bart. Bart Roberts was from West Wales, he had - like many others - 'turned pirate' when the slave ship he was working on was captured by pirates in 1720.



He was actually captured by fellow Welshman, Howell Davis, whose crew were raiding the slave ports and forts along the coast of West Africa. **Jack Sparrow**, the captain in the film 'The Pirates of the Caribbean' is said to have been based on Black Bart.

Women could also be pirates but had to disguise themselves as men, as they were not allowed on pirate ships. A well known female pirate was **Anne Bonny**. Anne was an expert with pistol and cutlass, she was considered as dangerous as any male pirate. She was fearless in battle. She was born in Ireland in 1698. Her father left Ireland to make his fortune in America and bought a large plantation. A ne'er-do-well pirate/sailor named James Bonny married Anne in an attempt to steal the plantation, but Anne's father disowned her instead, so she ran away to sea.



In some parts of the world, especially the South China Seas, piracy still exists today. This is also true of slavery. **2007** commemorates the 200th anniversary of the **1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act** in Britain. This meant that British ships would no longer be allowed to transport slaves, but slavery continued in the New World: in the British Empire until 1834, in the French Empire until 1848, and in Brazil until the 1880s.

