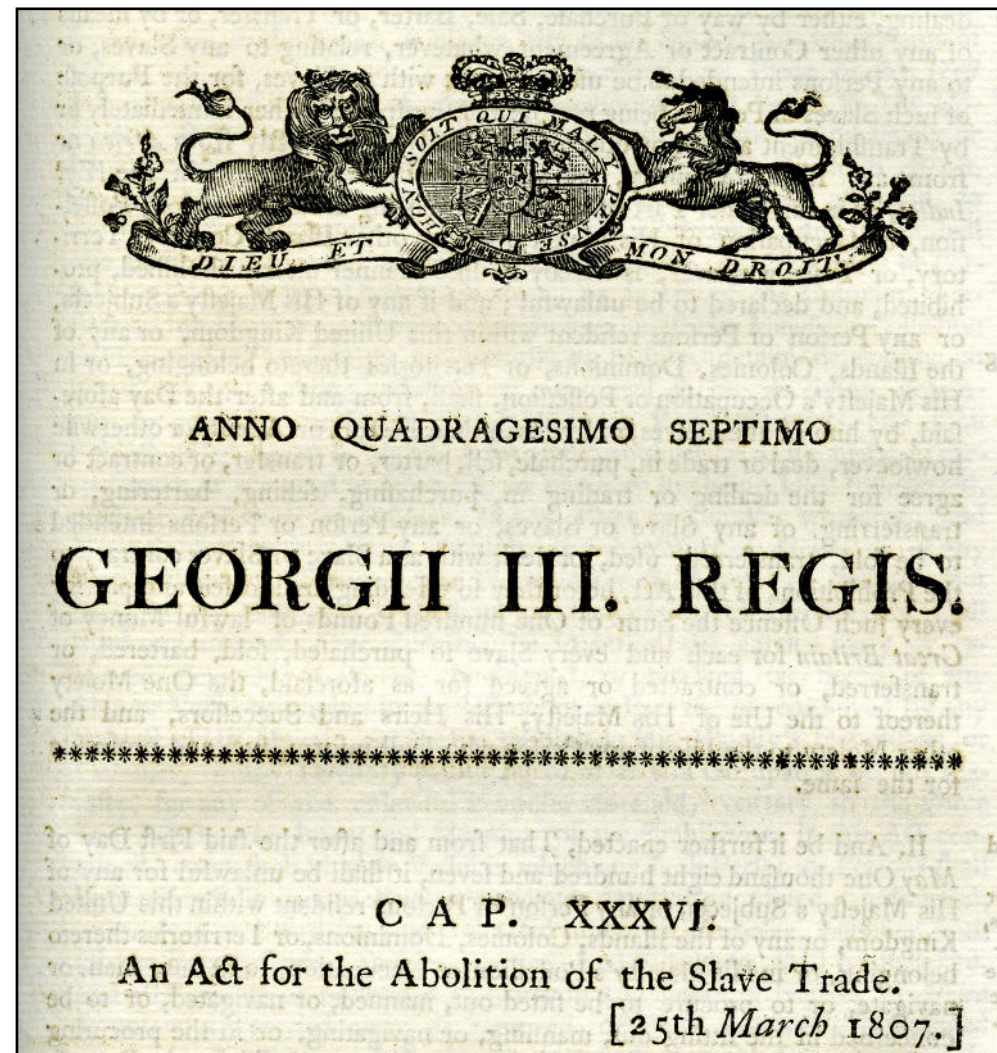


Making A Difference Today

Get Active. Take note of the power we all have in how we purchase food, clothing and other goods. How are they produced? Is bonded or slave labour involved in production? Are the terms of trade fair on all participants?

Join with Others. Anti-Slavery International is one such option. This is the organisation that derives right back to the original Anti-Slavery Society that campaigned for the end of slavery before 1833. Look them up on the web at www.antislavery.org, or telephone 020 7501 8920.

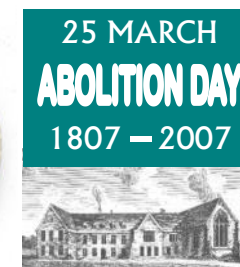
Consider Tear Fund, the Christian charity that works with people in Africa enslaved in poverty. One recent dramatic programme was the provision of tightly guarded night shelters for African children to prevent their capture and abduction into forced service in a renegade army. On the web at www.tearfund.org or telephone on 0845 355 8355.



The day on 25 March 2007 at the Rothley Court Hotel is organised by a planning group of Rothley Parish Church, and the Committee of the Rothley History Society.

Both groups are indebted to the management and staff of the Hotel and to the proprietor Olde English Inns for their free provision of the Hotel for this event, and to their constant helpfulness throughout.

The planning group is grateful to Charnwood Borough Council for including the new plaque in its Community Heritage Programme, and to Stowfledge Ltd at the Candle Stick Factory, Sileby Marina, for making reproductions of the manacles and chains used in the Slave Trade.



The Programme

2.00pm
Wilberforce Room

The book featuring Thomas Babington is published. The Abolitionist Work Table on view. The History Society Exhibition in the Chapel. Visitors are free to also view the Macaulay Room on the first floor, where Lord Macaulay was born.

Proceedings hosted by Sandra Herbert, BBC Broadcaster

2.30pm
Templar Suite

Performance of Dramatic Readings from 18th century documents from the story of the struggle to abolish the Slave Trade from 1787-1807. Upstairs in the Templar Suite.

followed by

At about
3.20pm

Interview with a descendant of Thomas Babington. *followed by* The Receiving of a gift to Rothley Church of a copy of a Doctoral Dissertation on the Soke and Manor of Rothley, by the Author, Dr Vanessa McLoughlin.

4.00pm
Templar Suite

The Kainé Gospel Choir Concert. 30 minutes of lively close harmony from this young singing group from Leicester.

4.45pm
Rothley Court

The Act of Commemoration. Outside on the Lawns on the existing monument, a new plaque marking this day will be unveiled by Rob Gladstone in the presence of the Mayor of Charnwood, remembering the immense suffering of the African peoples, and the part played in ending the Trade by Thomas Babington, William Wilberforce and their friends.

Throughout the afternoon the Bar Lounge will be open serving drinks and other Tea-Time refreshments

An Abolition Timeline

May 1787 Wilberforce agrees to lead the cause in the House of Commons

May 1787 The London Committee is formed. Thomas Clarkson starts his journeys to collect evidence

April 1789 Wilberforce's first major speech, lasting over 3 hours

Summer 1789 Olaudah Equiano publishes his book and goes on the road on speaking tours

Summer 1790 Wilberforce, Babington and Gisborne work weeks of nine-hour days summarising Select Committee evidence

April 1791 Babington & Gisborne as Wilberforce's staffers in London. Abolition Bill lost 163-88

Summer 1791 Wilberforce at Rothley with Babington planning strategy. The St Dominique rebellion, never crushed, leading to independent Haiti in 1804

Spring 1792 Staff Team at Wilberforce's house again. Bill for Gradual Abolition passed 230-85 in Commons

1793-1805 Dark period of War with France.

From 1800 Babington joins Wilberforce as MP. Unofficial PPS

1806 The clever Foreign Slave Act passed, halving the Trade

March 1807 The Act to Abolish the Slave Trade passed

The Ages of this Place

1086

The King holds the manor & soke of Rothley with its 22 dependent settlements like Grimston, Caudwell, Keyham, Gaddesby, Wartnaby, et al.

1231-
1312

The Templars

The Knights Templars set up a regional base here to recruit funds and knights for their task of helping pilgrims to reach Jerusalem in safety. The Chapel is added to the Preceptory. A power struggle with the Pope and the King of France sees them closed down.

1313-
1540

The Hospitallers

The Knights of St John of Jerusalem were granted the manor & soke after the Templars, and ran it at arms length from their base at Old Dalby. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Hospitallers were wound up and their lands temporarily reverted to the King

1565-
1845

The Babingtons

A Babington Hospitaller Knight who had been leasing the house for 29 years bought the manor and soke and developed the buildings into a family home. The family lived here through many generations until the death of Jean [nee Macaulay] in 1845

1845-
1893

The Parkers

No Babington sons were willing or able to take on the estate after the death of Thomas. In 1842 it was purchased from the executors of Thomas by son-in-law Sir James Parker, a leading lawyer, who died in 1852. The manor house was always tenanted until Sir James' son Harry sold the whole estate in lots in the grand sale of 1893.

From
1893

The Modern Era

In 1894, Frederick Merrtens, the new owner, refashioned the main structure to the layout we see today. With an eye on the property development opportunities afforded by the coming of the railway to Rothley, he set in train the idea of the Rothley Garden Suburb, with this house as its cornerstone.

The Readers

Annette Piper RGN. RMN. RCNT. FETC. came to the UK in 1960 from Trinidad to train as a nurse. She qualified in both general and psychiatric nursing and became a nurse tutor before training in psychotherapy. Now retired, but very active with Inner Wheel of Rotary International, the Mothers' Union and being President of her local Women's Institute branch. Annette is married with two sons, Mark and Jason.

Jason Piper BA. trained at The Place, London and took his honours degree in dance before joining Richard Alston Dance Company for four years. He has performed with other companies since, including backing Kylie Minogue on two tours and the lead role in Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake'. He also writes and performs songs, works with under-privileged groups with dance workshops and finds time for occasional acting and film roles. He has just been appointed Senior Lecturer, Field Leader for Dance at Kingston University, Surrey.

Annette and Jason are the voice today of our ex-slaves, Davis Spens, Quobna Ottobah Cugoano, Olaudah Equiano and Ignatius Sancho.

Professor David Wilson, a preacher himself as a long-serving Anglican Lay Reader, delivers the evidence given by John Newton, the slave ship captain turned Evangelical clergyman.

Norman Harrington has lived almost next door to Rothley Temple for 44 years. He is a writer of plays and poetry, and a much sort after performer of poetry on the Leicestershire county scene. Norman reads the letters of Thomas Babington, and the evidence of slave ship conditions recounted by ship's doctor, Alexander Falconbridge.

Christopher Baines is a writer and photographer. Previously an actor, he appeared with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and on film and television. Christopher reads the Wilberforce speech.

Helen Sheppard is a director of children's television programmes. Among the series she has worked on are Fimbles, Tweenies, Numberjacks, Jim Jam and Sunny, Words and Pictures, Stop, Look, Listen and Playdays. Helen reads the letter sent by Marianne Sykes to her mother

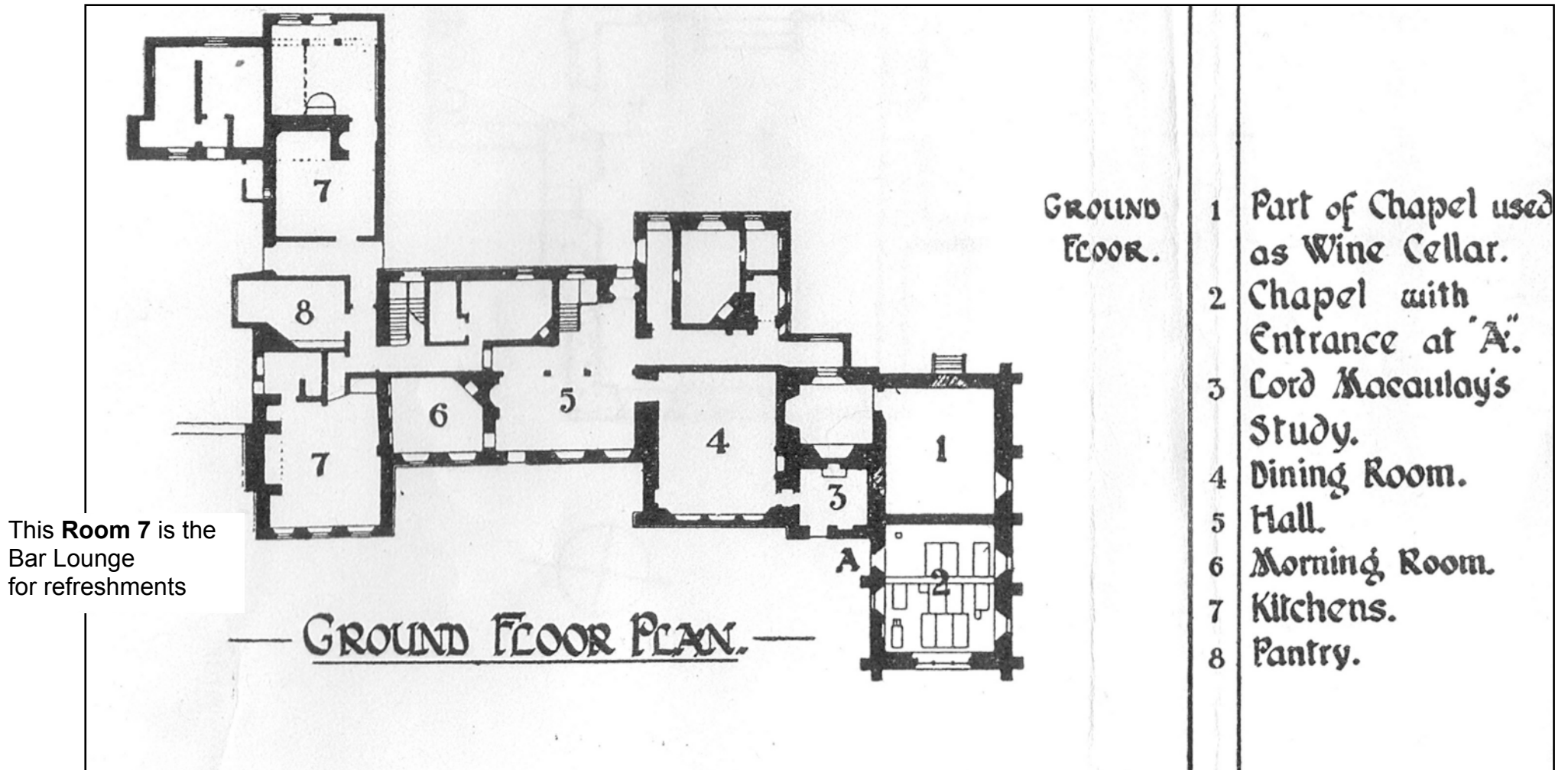
Dr Iain Whyte is a Church of Scotland minister, the co-author of the book launched here, and an assiduous researcher of the life of Zachary Macaulay, whose letters he reads today.

Felicity Austin, who arranged the order of this piece, and is an accomplished performer in many guises, ends the readings with the stirring hymn verse written by Leicester Abolitionist Susannah Watts.

Babington's House, before the 1894 Changes

Room 7 at this end now rebuilt, is called the **Wilberforce Room**. Here is the **Book Sale** point, the **Work Table Exhibit**, and the **Anti-Slavery International** exhibit

Location 3 has been taken down, and is the door to the **Chapel**, which includes the whole of **Locations 1 and 2**. The doorway shown as **A** has been blocked up



Location 6 is the main way in, now the **Hotel Reception**