

THE GATEWAY GARDENS TRUST

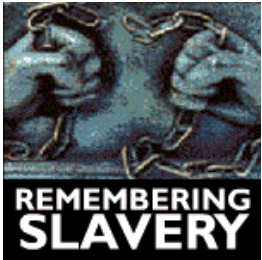
The Gateway Gardens Trust creates and pays for special tailor-made visits to historic parks and gardens in Wales and the West Midlands for a diverse range of community groups, schoolchildren and Lifelong Learners.

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

This visit has been supported by the Communities First Trust Fund



communities first **cymunedau yn gyntaf**



The link between Britain's increased tea-drinking and increased sugar consumption had significant consequences for the enslaved sugar plantation worker:

For every pound of sugar produced, one slave life was lost.

By the end of the 18th Century, Britain was the biggest importer of tea and sugar in the world.

When sugar tax was lifted in 1874, many years after the abolition of slavery, the demand for sugar was such that to meet it, cane sugar was imported from areas still using slave labour.

Tea remains the 'drink of the nation' - as many as 165 million cups of tea are drunk in this country every day!



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Helping People Discover Gardens

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BITTERSWEET



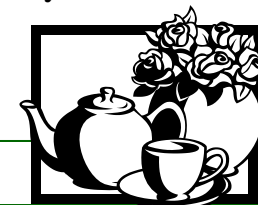
The 'Growing Together' Group

visits

**Picton Castle
and Woodland Gardens**

on

Tuesday 25th March 2008



2007 commemorated 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. Our **Bittersweet Project** looks at the links between the slave trade and historic gardens, their makers, what they planted, Welsh abolitionists and the wider links with the local community in Wales through traditions such as afternoon tea.

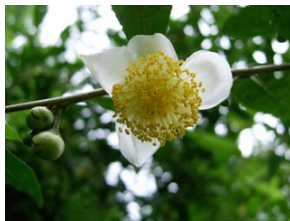
Today, throughout the world people enjoy drinking **tea**. After water, it is the most popular beverage. Tea drinking is global, there may be differences in the way it is processed, how it is brewed, what is added to it to enhance its flavour and the rituals associated with it, but it can be traced back to a single country and a single species. Tea drinking began in China more than 5,000 years ago. According to legend, **Shen Nung**, an early emperor was a skilled ruler, creative scientist and patron of the arts. He demanded, among other things, that all the drinking water he consumed be boiled as a hygienic precaution. In 2737 BC, on a summer's day, while visiting a distant region of his realm, he and the court stopped to rest. The servants began to boil water for the court to drink. Dried leaves from a nearby bush fell into the boiling water, and a brown liquid was infused into the water. As a scientist, the Emperor was interested in the new liquid, drank some, and found it very refreshing. The leaves were from the plant today's botanists call ***Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze**.



Tea was then introduced to Britain by **Catherine of Braganza**, the Portuguese wife of Charles II. Blended black and green tea from China would have been served in china tea cups from a silver tea urn. Tea-drinking became popular in the eighteenth century and was highly taxed making it an exclusive habit of the upper classes. Early teas were bitter and strong and it became customary to add sugar - resulting in an increase in sugar consumption and sugar imports and so fuelling the demand for slave labour.



The lowering of tax on tea increased its popularity so that by the end of the 1700s the drink of the elite became available to all. Labourers and the working classes also began to enjoy sweetened tea, and by the early 1800s they were spending as much as ten percent of their budget on sugar and tea and less than three percent on beer.



All of the world's tea (other than herbal teas) is made from the leaves of that one small-white-flowered species of *Camellia*. Other *Camellias* are grown as ornamentals for their flowers.



Regency Corner, near the courtyard of Picton Castle, contains a collection of ornamental camellias, two rare magnolia trees and two giant sequoias around 30m/100ft tall.



Picton Castle was built in the Thirteenth Century by Sir John Wogan and his descendants still occupy the Castle today, carrying the name of Philipps since the Fifteenth Century. The Castle is still a home retaining its medieval features in the undercroft. The principal rooms were remodeled in the 1750s by **Sir John Philipps** the sixth Baronet, with plastered rooms and fireplaces by Sir Henry Cheere. There are 40 acres of Woodland Gardens.

Cheere. There are 40 acres of Woodland Gardens.

Sir John Philipps was given a gift of a black boy in 1761. He was brought from Africa by Captain Parr, an officer of the British army who had been working in Senegal. It was mentioned in Sir John's journal that he was given Cesar along with "a parakeet and a foreign duck." Nothing is known about him from those early years in Senegal. Senegal was a major slave trade departure point in the Eighteenth Century. He was named **Cesar Picton**, after Picton Castle, the Philipps family home in Wales.



Cesar was brought up as a servant. It was not unusual to have black servants in wealthy households, but from letters the Philipps family seem to have been abolitionists. They were against the slave trade and supported overseas missions. Cesar was educated by the family, and became very religious and hard working. He was close to Lady Philipps and mixed with the family on equal terms, often entertaining visitors with them, perhaps joining them for afternoon tea. When Lady Philipps died in 1788 Cesar was left £100 in her will. This was a considerable amount and it gave him independence. He eventually became a wealthy coal merchant living in Kingston upon Thames.

