

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, particularly those living in Communities First areas.

Our Bittersweet Project will look at the links between the slave trade and historic gardens, their makers, what they planted and the wider links with the local community in Wales. If you would like more information about the Bittersweet Project or The Gateway Gardens Trust, please contact:

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Helpu Pobl i Ddarganfod Gerddi

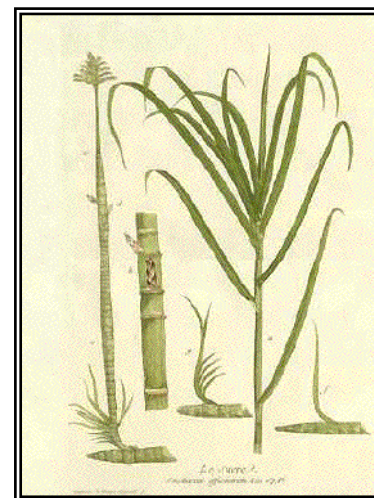


THE
GATEWAY GARDENS TRUST

Helping People Discover Gardens

www.gatewaygardenstrust.org

BITTERSWEET



The Black Heritage Association Cymru

Visits

Singleton Park and Swansea Botanical Gardens

and

The National Waterfront Museum

on

Tuesday 23rd October 2007



*Image of Singleton Abbey
from University of Wales
Swansea, Library and Info
Services (archives)*

At **Singleton Park** you will discover the 19th century Park and

ornamental gardens owned by the **Vivian** family of Swansea. The Vivian's were originally from Cornwall and made much of their wealth from the copper industry.

In 1851, the walled garden was the kitchen and flower garden serving the needs of the family. In 1919 the council purchased the estate for use as a public park.



Within the walled garden you will now find the **Botanical Gardens**. The greenhouses contain plants that show the modern and historical trading links

Britain has had with countries from around the world. Before the 18th century the diet in Britain was largely based on meat and bread. Soups and gruel (made with oatmeal)



were eaten for warmth. Exotic fruits were rare.

In the 1700s, many products grown in the tropics changed from being luxury to everyday items in Britain. There was also a massive growth of coffee houses as imported **tea** (which became the national drink) and **coffee** became popular sweetened with **sugar**. Every household used sugar for sweetening puddings (such as rice pudding) as well as drinks. A typical person in Britain in the 1790s ate about four kilograms of sugar a year so fuelling the demand for sugar produced by slave labour in the Caribbean. Today you will see sugar cane, tobacco, banana and pineapple plants growing in Singleton Park.



The **Tropical House** also has plants from the rain forests and jungles of the world including beautiful orchids.



PLATE XI.—Coffea arabica (Coffee). (From Jackson: Experimental Pharmacology and Materia Medica.)

In the **Economics House** you will find plants from Mediterranean countries and sub tropical regions that provide us with such important foodstuffs as coffee, olives, rice, coconut, herbs and spices.

The **Cactus House** is home to plants from hot desert regions, and in the **Temperate House** you will find plants from Australia, Brazil, Europe, South Africa and Mexico.