


# *Bitter Sweet*



# *Project*

# Bitter Sweet Project



**Campaign! Make an Impact** is funded jointly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the Strategic Commissioning Programme for Museum and Gallery Education. 

**Alison Bodley**  
Project Manager

**Mick Stanley**  
Head of Collections, Learning & Access  
Harewood House Trust

**Script and story created by**  
The staff and students of Easingwold School

**Roger Walshe**  
Head of Learning  
The British Library

**Emma Renhard**  
Costume

**David Duffy**  
Project Teacher

**Jennifer Auty**  
Learning & Access officer  
Harewood House Trust

**Nicky Blackburn**  
Make-up

**Denise Curran**  
Photography

**Peter M. Kershaw**  
Creative Director  
Duchy Parade Films Ltd

**Johnathan Gallagher & Katherine Moss**  
Graphic Design & Web Pages  
Kooji Creative Ltd



[www.bl.uk/learning](http://www.bl.uk/learning)


[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)


[www.duchyparadefilms.com](http://www.duchyparadefilms.com)


[www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

[www.harewood.org](http://www.harewood.org)


# A historical framework to our story.


 In 1624 Barbados was first colonised by the British and within a couple of decades became a major producer of sugar.


 By 1687 Edward Lascelles was based in Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados, where he worked as a sugar merchant and supplier to the Navy.

 The Lascelles were not unusual at this time in being involved in the slave trade as many merchants and members of the aristocracy had financial and trading interests in the West Indies. The large port cities such as Liverpool, London and Bristol were made rich from the profits of the slave trade. It is estimated that between the late 17th and early 19th centuries about 12 million Africans were loaded onto boats and sold into slavery.

Barbadoes image reproduced by kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Harewood and Trustees of Harewood House Trust.

 In 1647 the first Caribbean sugar was imported into Britain and a few years later the Lascelles family began their long association with the island of Barbados. In 1672 the Royal African Company was founded and was granted a charter to carry Africans to the Americas and enslave them. This was the beginning of the triangle of trade of goods for slaves, and slaves for sugar, which ran between Britain, Africa and the West Indies.

 During the early 1700s the Lascelles amassed a large family fortune through working as sugar merchants, money lenders, slave traders, plantation owners, customs collectors and suppliers to the Navy. Between 1713 and 1717 Henry had a financial share in 21 slave ships and was partly responsible for trading thousands of slaves.

 By 1787 the Lascelles family were financially involved in 47 plantations across the whole of the West Indies not just Barbados.

Information taken from the leaflet 'Harewood: 1807' available to download via [www.harewood.org/files/news146-1.pdf](http://www.harewood.org/files/news146-1.pdf)

*Henry Lascelles returned from the West Indies in 1730 after 20 years as a successful sugar merchant. Henry married well and gained status in respectable society. His business partner was Mr George Maxwell.*

*The London home of George Maxwell...*

*Hello there. How have you been these past few months, how's business?*

*Good.. Everything is good.*

*Would you like a cup of tea?*

*That's the best question I have heard in months. A sugar please.*

*Same for me thank you.*

*Look George I have got some really important news to tell you.*

*Well go on then don't leave it any longer because we have got a lot to talk about.*

*Well I have passed the business on to my son Daniel.*

*What that good for nothing fellow!?*

*How dare you, **my son!** It was getting too much for me. I am going to pass it on whilst the loans that I trade with are good.*

*The kitchens of George Maxwell.  
Tea is prepared and the precious commodity of sugar is added...*



*George Maxwell has grave doubts about his potential new business partner.*

*Despite having married against his father's wishes, Henry's son, Daniel Lascelles was destined to inherit and build on Henry's fortune..*

▶ *The interest on my loans is at an all time high.*

*Hello father, how are you on this fine day?*

*Oh hello, we were just talking about you.*

*Oh! Really what about?*

*You inheriting your father's business.*

*Why is there anything wrong?*

*No, not at all.*

*Oh! look at the time...*

*I must be off.*

*I don't think he is too happy!*

*The American War of Independence meant that trade and prices slumped. Many planters defaulted on their mortgages (the loan that secured their property - in the West Indies these possessions included their slaves). Some of the defaulters had their property taken over by the Lascelles family.*

*In just 14 short years 27,000 acres were added to the family's West Indian portfolio despite Edwin Lascelles stating in 1788, "there is nothing I wish more than to be liberated of all concerns in the West Indies." At this time, there was a proposal that higher wages be paid which was becoming an economic necessity but would be unpopular with the slaves' overseers.*

*The Overseer in his office after disciplining misbehaving slaves...*

*Damned Negroes. They don't know how to do their jobs the fools.*

*I tell you, my whip will wear away at this rate the amount of times I have to discipline them.*

*Not a bad idea this advice lark.*

*Yeah, might get a bit more work out of them.*

*So are you going to put forward your proposal dear?*

*No, I hear they're going to invite the Overseer for lunch first.*

*Edwin, Henry's son, was an absentee owner and one of nine Barbadian planters who produced advice on the treatment of slaves in 1785.*

*The advice was morally and economically motivated, if slaves were treated well productivity should increase.*

▶ *Spiffing cake, old bean!*

*Thank you, it was one of my mother's favourite recipes.*

*And what better to wash down a nice plate of appetisers than a glass of rum.*



*I'll drink to that!*

*You really should consider cutting down on alcohol sweetheart.*

*So shall we men get down to the real issues then?*

*Of course, dear.*

*Excuse us ladies.*

*We'll just pop outside.*



*Planters debate the advice given by MPs in England.*

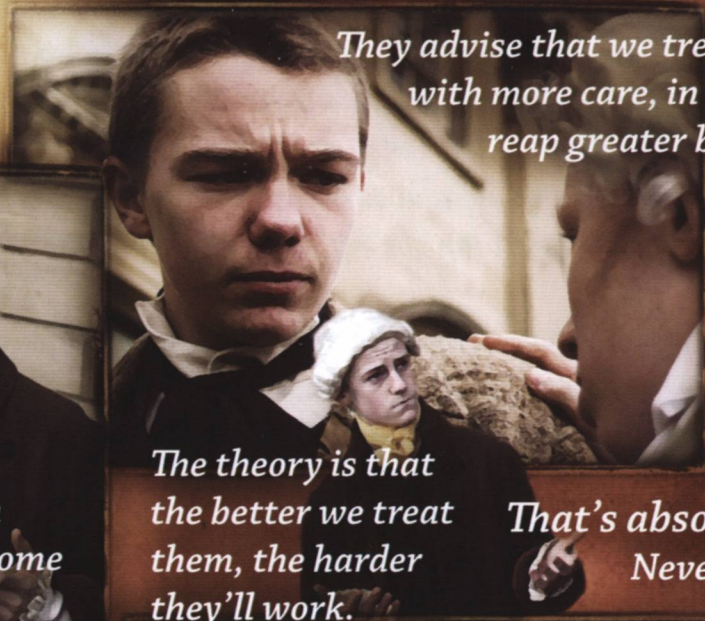


▶ *Right then, we've gathered today to tell you one simple thing.*

*Come on spit it out!*

*Yes, the thing is...*

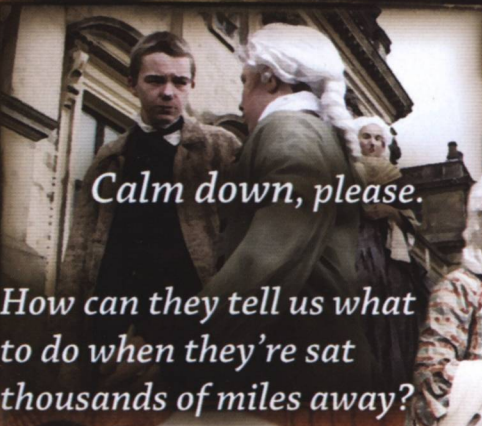
*Okay. the MPs back in England have issued some advice regarding the treatment of our slaves.*



*They advise that we treat them with more care, in order to reap greater benefits.*

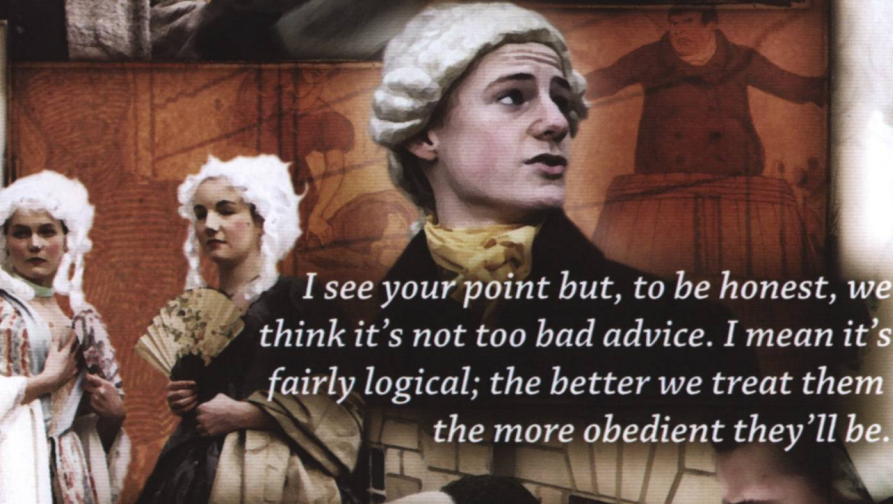
*The theory is that the better we treat them, the harder they'll work.*

*That's absolute balderdash! Never heard such tripe!*



*Calm down, please.*

*How can they tell us what to do when they're sat thousands of miles away?*



*I see your point but, to be honest, we think it's not too bad advice. I mean it's fairly logical; the better we treat them the more obedient they'll be.*

*I can't believe you're concurring with this. They don't know what it's like out there in the fields.*

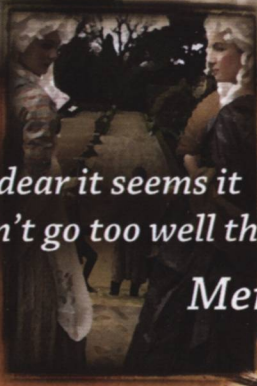
*The slaves need it hard; it's the only way they can work! In fact, I've had enough of this.*

*It can only benefit our business.*



*Oh dear it seems it didn't go too well then.*

*Men!*



*Edwin dies without an heir and the Harewood estate passes to his cousin Edward. All is not well for the slave trade and the abolitionist voice gains in strength. Henry had seen sugar as the way to get rich but Edward feared it would lose him money. The anti-slavery movement was winning the fight for abolition.*

*At the House of Commons the discussion raged in the debating chamber. Plantation owners were now finding it difficult to make money and the promise of compensation was persuasive.*

*The political debate of polite society is divorced from the life and death reality that is slavery.*

*We are present today to discuss the matter of slavery. The representative for the members of Parliament for abolition is Bob Smith and for those in the House of Commons against abolition, Albert Fredson.*

*Mr Smith!*

*Thank you Mr Speaker. I am here to represent the MP's opinions on slavery, I am here to stand against slavery.*

*I think that slavery is wrong because Africans are humans and I don't think they should be treated the way they are. The way they are tortured is evil and they should be treated like people, not savages.*

*Thank you Mr Smith, now Mr. Fredson will explain why he thinks slavery is best and why it should be allowed.*

*We believe that slavery should be kept because the amount of profit lost would be unimaginable and we would have to close down some of the major factories and industries involved in the slavery business. This is not a matter of the law it is a matter of profit and survival. Thank you.*

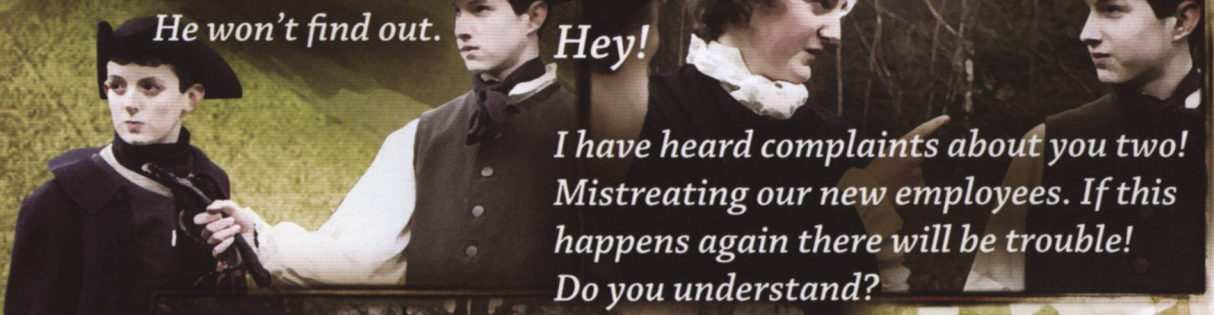
*I am here to represent the opinions of those who think that slavery is a great opportunity to make more money for buying weapons for war, also slaves are very handy as servants.*

The 1807 Bill ended the British trade in slaves but not the use of slaves which continued in the West Indies until an act of Parliament in 1833. In the 1830s, the pro slavery lobby had enough influence to gain £20 million in compensation from the British Government. In 1836 the Lascelles family possessed 3,264 acres in Jamaica and Barbados that were worked by 1,277 former slaves. Parliament granted Henry the second Earl of Harewood £26,309 in compensation. The Barbados estates survived and an interim "apprenticeship" set up but in Jamaica it was abandoned and full emancipation granted.

Although the Earl of Harewood hoped to establish confidence with the newly freed men by paying high wages there is evidence that there were complaints about overseers on at least four estates that they were mistreating their now-employees. The Lascelles were instrumental in setting up tribunals to handle complaints on their plantations and intervened to ensure fair treatment.

The attorney argues over complaints that have been made about Lascelles' overseers.

I know at this rate, if boss finds out how little they are doing and how we are treating them...



He won't find out.

Hey!

I have heard complaints about you two! Mistreating our new employees. If this happens again there will be trouble! Do you understand?



We were putting them in their place.

Yeah they were doing it all wrong!

Sir! What are the slaves doing in the sheds?

Those sheds are the slave's new homes! They are the new rules.

What else do they get?

They need two meals a day.

And you have to treat them well otherwise you lose your jobs.

I don't care about them, all I want is for you two clowns to get it right!

I wish that he was a slave!

Yeah, I would whip him 'til he bleeds!

Work harder!

Put your back into it you slob! These new employees are rubbish.



# Campaign!

**Campaign** Noun [C] a planned group of especially political, business or military activities which are intended to achieve a particular aim:

## Making an Impact - Campaigning!

Part of the educational value for the students from Easingwold School in learning about the Lascelles Family history in relation to the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade was to understand the importance of campaigning.

By the 1780s a social, political and religious movement was developing against the slave trade and slavery itself. In 1783 a 'Committee on the Slave Trade' was established by Quakers and it was largely they who spearheaded the anti-Slavery campaign.

Abolition was not purely the reserve of Britain's politicians but was lobbied for by thousands of people across the country and the world.

## How the students approached Campaigning

The whole class listed issues that concerned them internationally, nationally, locally and at a school level. Then they discussed each of the most popular issues in relation to: What could they do? and What could they hope to achieve?

A vote was held as to the issue that **most** concerned the class. 23 out of 27 voted for campaigning to improve sports facilities for the school.

One group chose to focus on a school's issue while one group wanted to focus on an international issue and chose to learn more about **Amnesty International**.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights.

In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

At the latest count, there were more than 2.2 million members, supporters and subscribers in over 150 countries in the world from different backgrounds political and religious beliefs united to work for a world where everyone enjoys human rights.



# Campaign!

**Campaign** Verb [I] to organise a series of activities to try to achieve something:

## Methods employed in mounting this Campaign

Students formed teams of four and chose 2 methods per group. Methods employed included: Posters, letters, petitions, cartoons, leaflets, letters to the media and politicians, students speaking to other forms and in assembly.

All produced posters. Photos were taken of the small sports hall. Some collected over 200 signatures and another group entered other forms to ask them to write letters with the intention of sending them to the local MP.

There is a current group looking at raising funds - School Campaign at Easingwold or ScatES. Our Campaigns aim was to raise awareness.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask for your support to back Easingwold School on their plans to get a Sports Hall built on the site of the school.

My name is Sebastian Sims and I am a pupil at Easingwold High School. I enjoy playing sport because it makes me happy and I believe sport is the best team game ever. I use advantage of the schools staff, as they help me to develop my sports skills. But I have noticed ever since I arrived at the school that the sports facilities are very poor. This is very disappointing as we are missing out on good sports facilities.

I think that almost all the sports equipment we have is over 10 years old. Also not all the sports courts are covered and Sport becomes very hot in the summer.

Group name: Steph, Charlotte, Natalie and Sammy.

25 May 2007

Dear Peter,

After we had finished the slavery project we got together as a class and discussed what to do for our campaign. The majority chose to campaign for Easingwold School to get a SPORTS HALL!! In our group we chose this because we thought it would be fun to write a letter we chose this because we thought it would be fun to get the year 7s involved. We also decided to film one of us talking to one of the forms.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask for your support and help for my school to get a new sports hall. I am a year nine student at Easingwold Secondary School and I would love it if there were a new sports hall for all the pupils to use in P.E lessons and sports at lunchtime. I enjoy all sports particularly hockey and football, which are great as you get into the real spirit of the game and you get all muddy. The school takes a vast amount of pride in many sports but due to the fact that our existing sports is that the P.E lessons are restricted in some cases due to the fact that our existing gyms are basic and out of date. We need a new sports hall so that we can do such as basketball, netball, games and gymnastics. It would also make P.E more fun as the weather is bad we don't have to stop the lesson.

Fitness is a very important and so is sport. It allows us to have fun, get fit and socialise with other people. I like to be fit and healthy. At the moment we have two small gyms, one for boys and one for girls. The boys gym is very old and the equipment is very old. We need new equipment, we could use it regularly.

I only ask for your support and help for my school to get a new sports hall.

As you can see the state of our facilities are clearly disgraceful and what we want you to do is to come up with ideas to promote how poor our sports hall actually is to the council and the schools committee. The way that you can consult these ideas to us can be via letter to be addressed to:

Easingwold School  
York Road  
YO61 3EP

We would be very grateful for any comments of yours and these can be shown on a questionnaire we will be sending to you ASAP. Thanks again...

## A Few Plain Questions to Plain Men.

Can a slave marry without his owner's consent? If so, quote the law: give chapter and verse.

Can a slave prevent the sale of his wife if the owner pleases? If so, quote the law.

Can a slave with impunity refuse to flog his wife, with her person all exposed, if his owner pleases to command him? If so, quote the law.

Can a slave obtain redress if his master deprives him of his goods? If so, quote the law.

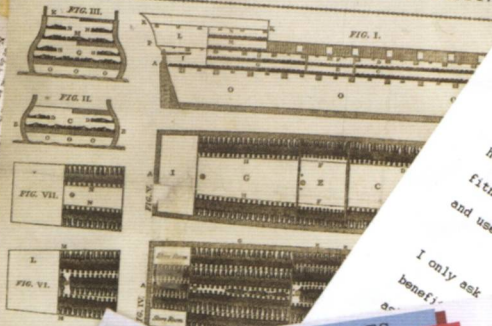
Can a slave attend either public or private worship, without the risk of punishment, if his master forbids him? If so, quote the law.

These are plain questions, which every slave-owner knows can only be truly answered in one way.

then any Englishman gets up to tell you how well the slaves are treated, or such circumstances slaves may be, tell him that he insults your understanding, and that he dishonours God.

**A HUSBAND AND A FATHER.**

## DESCRIPTION OF A SLAVE SHIP.



## Negro Slavery. SPEECH OF MR. HUTT.

To the Members of the Society of Friends, and the Friends of the Abolition of Slavery, At the Kingston Hotel, on Thursday, September 6, 1832.



**ScatES Sports Campaign at Easingwold School**

At Easingwold School we are currently campaigning for a new Sports Hall, as ours is quite frankly at the moment in a very poor state. We are now rearing the numerous amounts of problems we have with what should be a brilliant facility and is clearly very poor.

What this campaign wants to achieve is to receive permission and money from the council to build a new sports hall. We also need to raise the money to build the sports hall.

# Campaign!

**Campaigner** Noun [C] a person who takes part in organised activities which are intended to change something in society:

## How Did I Campaign?

I knew from the start that I would have to do a lot of planning to get ready to start on campaigning for our school to get a sports hall. The group and I knew that our school needed a sports hall immediately. Too long had we all suffered from not having a sports hall. It was time that someone did something about the matter. So with the information at hand we started the campaign.

The group focused on making the issue well known around the school. We started by making powerful posters with a strong meaning. Then, we put up the posters all around the school so that the pupils could see and understand what we were doing. The message was clear and had a big impact around the school.

This leads me onto, the next thing we did which was to do a letter to the parents and others adults. The letter was full of useful information about are school and the desire to get a sports hall. The letters really helped our campaign!

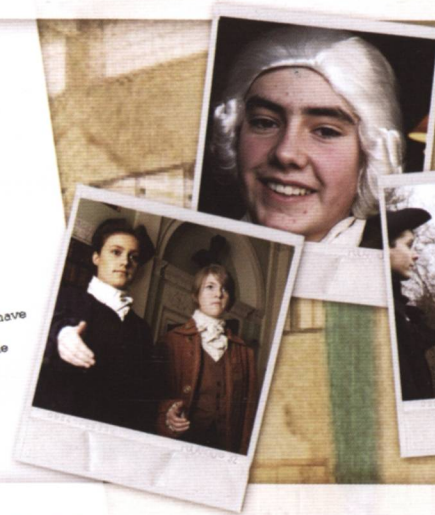
In conclusion, the work that the group and I did has helped in our campaigning. We have made more people aware of the sports hall and what we need to do. I believe that the work we have done as a group has helped us a lot.

By Sebastian Sims

## 1807

Just as elections are fought today, in 1807 speeches were made and printed in newspapers, posters were produced and scurrilous accusations were made on 'squibs' or satirical posters.

In the election of 1807 only men who owned property or who had extensive business interests were entitled to vote which was less than 5% of the population.



## Abolition

On 25th March 1807 the 'Slave Trade Abolition Bill' was passed in British Parliament.

Those African people that had already been transported to the West Indies were still enslaved. It was not until 1833 that the Slavery Abolition Act was passed in Parliament. Slaves in the British Empire were gradually emancipated via a compulsory apprenticeship system which was finally abolished in 1838.

Looking at this important moment in history helped the youngsters to understand democratic process and the tools available to them to mount a Campaign. This lesson from history demonstrated the success of campaigning and what people of conviction and commitment can achieve through democratic means.

You can view the story in this booklet online at:

[www.bittersweetproject.net](http://www.bittersweetproject.net)

&

[www.mylearning.org](http://www.mylearning.org)

Credits and thanks for website video and e-novel:

**Dave Bainbridge**

Music Composition & Performance

**Andrew Gaynard**

Camera & Editing

**Jonathan Rouse**

Sound Recording

**Duncan Laing**

Production Assistant

Thanks to:

York College, Yorkshire Coast College, Hull Museums, Fi Stevens.

With thanks to all the staff at Harewood House Trust and the Lascelles family for their support and in particular Kate Fellows and Anne-Marie Sandos for creating the project.

The photography and filming for the e-graphic novel took place at **Harewood House** in Leeds.

All images of Harewood House and its collection are copyright of **Harewood House Trust**.

[www.harewood.org](http://www.harewood.org)

All cartoons, historic documents and articles are copyright © **The British Library**.

[www.bl.uk/learning](http://www.bl.uk/learning)



Duchy Parade Films Ltd  
[www.duchyparadefilms.com](http://www.duchyparadefilms.com)

Design by Koaji Creative Ltd  
[www.koajicreative.com](http://www.koajicreative.com)

Printed and bound by Arti Grafiche Srl, Rome, Italy