

A photograph of the Anti-Slavery Arch in Stroud, England. The arch is a large stone structure with a central archway. Above the archway is a stone plaque with Latin text. The arch is illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun. In the foreground, a crowd of people is blurred, suggesting movement and a busy atmosphere. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the top right corner, there is a vertical bar with three colored segments: green, tan, and red.

the anti-slavery arch: stroud

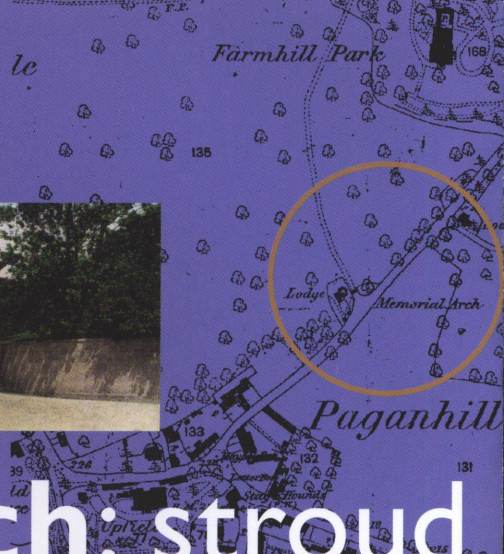
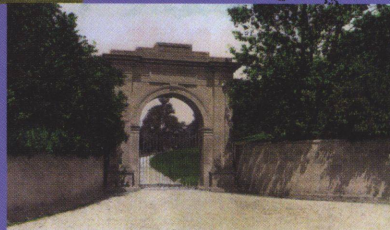
HISTORY: SEE IT, FEEL IT

Wyatt's legacy

On the corner of the Paganhill Estate in Stroud, Gloucestershire stands an Arch, the only memorial of its type left in Britain, to the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies. It was built in 1834 as the grand entrance to a Georgian mansion, Farmhill Park, by its new owner Henry Wyatt. The house, carriage drive and gates are gone, leaving the classical arch with its diminutive lodge house.

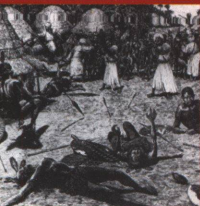


Memorial Arch, below, as carriage entrance to the now demolished Farmhill Park House, left



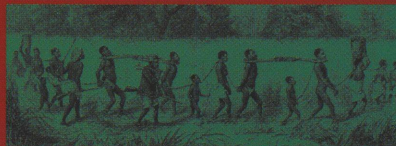
the anti-slavery arch

the atlantic slave trade

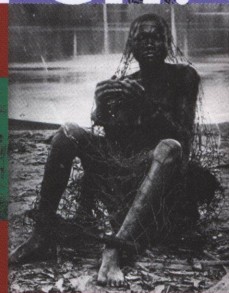


Human trade

Between the 15th and 19th centuries millions of Africans were transported across the Atlantic Ocean to a life of slavery. It was a triangular trade. Goods, often cheap and shoddy but most commonly cloth, were sent out from Britain and exchanged for slaves in Africa. The slaves worked, for example, on cotton and sugar plantations in the Americas. The money from the sale of them was used to buy these products for return to Britain.



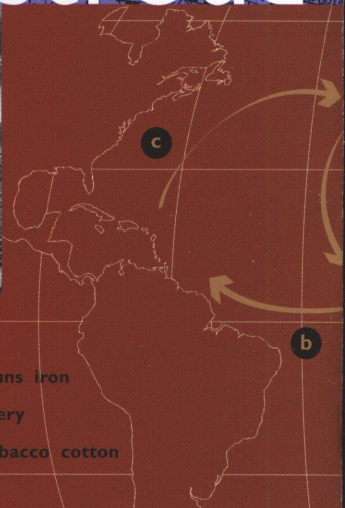
After being captured in raids, for left, men, women and children were made to walk for several weeks to reach the market or port, above. Right: A man waiting on the Congo shore to be sold and shipped

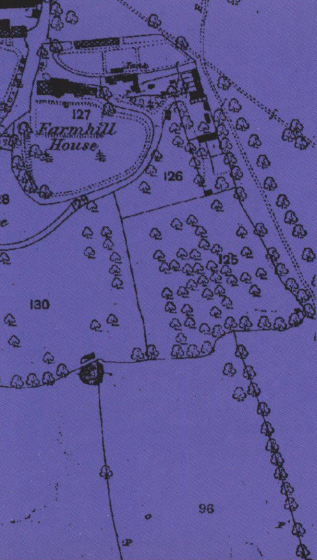


LERAY/MUSEE DE L'HOMME PARIS

Triangular trade

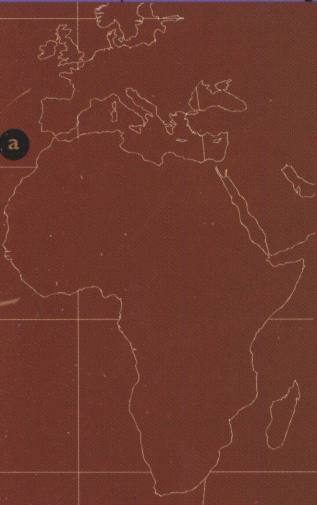
- a wool copper guns iron
- b humans for slavery
- c sugar coffee tobacco cotton





Henry Wyatt

Henry Wyatt, 1793-1847, was born in Stroud and began his working life as a clothier in Slad. He became a wealthy local businessman and magistrate with banking and brewing interests. He was associated with the Stroud Anti-Slavery Society which in 1832 put pressure on the newly-elected MP for Stroud, Mr W. H. Hyett, who had promised to support the abolition of Slavery in Parliament.

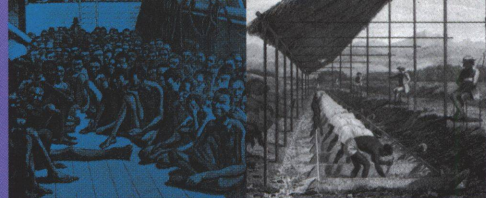


Human cargo

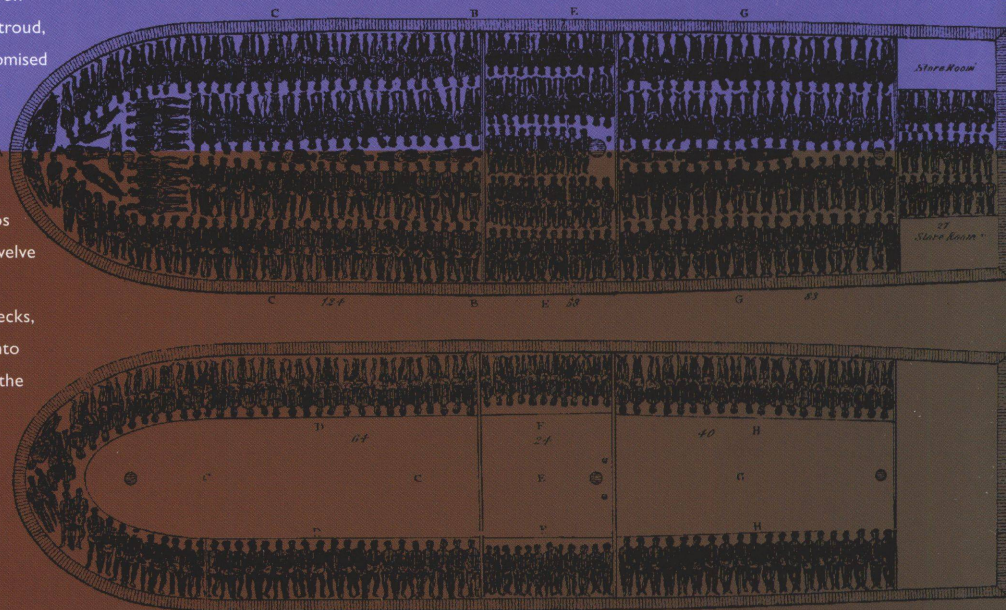
Conditions on the slaveships were appalling. For up to twelve weeks the captives were crowded together below decks, only occasionally allowed into the fresh air. Many died on the way. Sharks would follow the ships to feed on those thrown overboard.

Stroud protests

The lengthy battle to reform the system of slavery saw numerous petitions from all over the country sent in 1830 and 1831 to the Houses of Parliament, including Randwick Church and France Chapel at Chalford Hill. Other local Stroud groups also sent petitions to show their opposition to slavery



Slaves were inhumanely packed into ships for the transatlantic voyage, *above left and below*: a plan of the 'stowage' on the 18th century ship 'Brookes' shows the density of the human cargo. *Above*: Slaves working in a Brazilian diamond mine



Restoration

Archway School, named after the arch, was built in the 1960s on the site of the mansion, Farmhill Park. Stroud Urban District Council spent over £1,000 on repairs raised from voluntary donations, following a campaign to save it from demolition. By 2000 the Arch was again in need of repairs. A local group 'The Anti-slavery Arch Group' raised funds of £25,000 for a community project. This included major stone repairs to the arch and works to the footpath, a bronze plaque, a leaflet, a website and a community play.

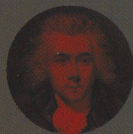
The Memorial Arch in 2000 before the recent restoration



STEVEN MARSHFIELD

Material project

The Arch is built of a local oolitic limestone with the top constructed in a durable fossiliferous limestone. In 2001 stone repairs and cleaning were carried out by Nicholas Quayle of Tetbury using specialist conservation architect Annie Page of Andrew Townsend Architects of Faringdon.

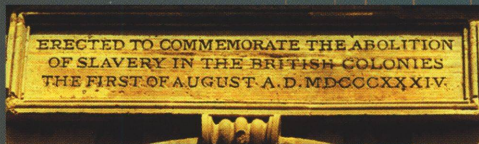


William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce (1759-1833) devoted his life to getting the slave trade abolished

Abolition

The first organised Anti-Slavery Societies appeared in Britain in the 1780s. In 1807 the British slave trade was abolished by Parliament and it became illegal to buy and sell slaves, although people could still own them. In 1833 Parliament finally abolished slavery itself, both in Britain and throughout the British Empire. The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society formed in 1839, gave inspiration to the abolitionist movement in the USA and Brazil.



The restored inscription

AL M. CAFFEY

A grand design

Described by David Verey in Pevsner as a "Stone Arch, flanked by coupled pilasters and crowned with an entablature and a dentilled cornice", it is listed as grade II. It has two inscriptions: 'ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES, THE FIRST OF AUGUST, A.D. MDCCCXXXIV' and 'DEDIT DEUS LIBERTATEM DETUR DEO GLORIA' which translates as 'God gave freedom. May glory be given to God'. The original wrought iron gates are now at Doddington Hall.



location: how to get there

Directions

From Stroud take the A46 signed Gloucester. Turn left to Whiteshill, continue past the Leisure Centre and Stroud College. Turn right at the next roundabout to Whiteshill and the Arch is on the corner of the second road on the left named Farmhill Estate.



Walk 30 mins from Stroud town centre through Stratford Park

Bus Regular service to Paganhill from Stroud town centre; tel 01453 763421

Taxi Available from town centre



Archway School Stroud

The Arch, after which Archway School is named, suggests that slavery has been abolished. However the school is committed to highlighting the plight of modern slaves and is using the restoration of the Arch to bring the issue to public attention. The school has joined five other schools in representing Britain in a world-wide project run by UNESCO called 'Breaking the Silence'. It also now teaches the history of slavery as part of the curriculum.

Archway School, Stroud, uses the Arch as its school badge and logo. Many of the pupils pass daily through the arch on their way to and from the school, *left*



Community play

The play 'Freedom's Arch' commissioned to commemorate the restoration of the Arch, was researched and written by Helen Street and Jane Ford. The Stroud Football Poets worked with pupils of Archway and Brockworth Schools and

The production 'Freedom's Arch' was performed before schools and the public

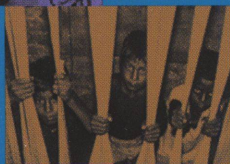


Gloucester SDA Gospel Choir to bring this major historical story to life. The play took us on a journey through the development of the anti-slavery movement from Bristol Docks to the West Indies and Stroud.

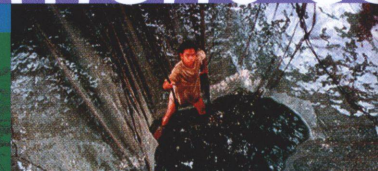
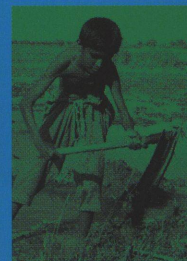
archway school the anti-slavery movement to modern day slavery

Slavery in the 21st century

Under international law slavery is illegal. In practice, women from Eastern Europe are bonded into prostitution, children are trafficked between West African countries and men are forced to work as slaves on Brazilian agricultural estates. These people are enslaved because existing laws are not enforced.



All work and no play for children involved in *(left to right)*: agriculture, Pakistan; carpet weaving, India; mining, Nepal; agriculture, Pakistan and net fishing



Lost childhood

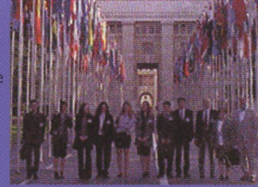
It is estimated that there are more than 80 million children aged under 14 years old worldwide who work in conditions hazardous to their health. At the worst end of that spectrum are child slaves. There is no accurate estimate of their numbers.



United Nations link

Each year Archway pupils take part in an International United Nations conference on modern day slavery in Geneva. Students meet victims, hear testimonies and personal accounts that confirm slavery has not ended, merely changed its face. The suffering is the same as it ever was - families separated, violence, poverty, hunger, poor health and the fear of beating or death. New forms of slavery are present in almost all societies, including here in Britain. Funds are raised each year for the United Nations Trust Fund for Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

Pupils, staff and United Nations personnel at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva



Experiences

Archway pupils have met Zenabou, a girl in her mid-teens who had been given as a slave to a newly married African couple. They have also met Anita, a 16 year old Nepalese girl who had been kidnapped and transported to India to work as a prostitute for five years.

Anti-Slavery International

Through research, awareness raising and campaigning, Anti-Slavery International is committed to eliminating all forms of modern day slavery.

For further information:
tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8920
email: antislavery@antislavery.org
www.antislavery.org

oday

below are listed the types of slavery that exist today

Bonded labour

A person becomes bonded when their labour is demanded as means of repayment of a loan or money given in advance. Worldwide, millions of bonded labourers are caught in a cycle of debt and forced to work in conditions that violate their human rights.

Forced labour

Affects people who are illegally recruited by governments, political parties or private individuals, and involuntarily forced to work, usually under threat of violence or other penalty.

Worst forms of child labour

Refers to children who work in exploitative or dangerous conditions. Tens of millions of children worldwide work full-time at the expense of their education and their personal and social development.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children

Children are exploited for their commercial value through prostitution, trafficking and pornography. They are often kidnapped, bought, or forced to enter the sex market.

Trafficking

The transport and/or trade of humans, usually women or children, for economic gain and involving force or deception. Often migrant women are tricked and forced into domestic work or prostitution.

Early and forced marriage

Women and girls who are married without choice and forced into a life of servitude, and often physical violence.

Traditional or 'chattel' slavery

Today people are still bought and sold as commodities. They are often abducted from their homes, inherited or given as gifts.



Local
Heritage
initiative



Heritage
Lottery Fund

Nationwide

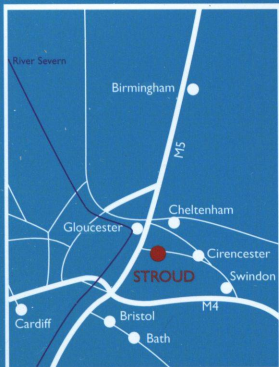
The
Countryside
Agency

www.anti-slaveryarch.com
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AL. McCaffrey

Memorial plaque Sculpted by Clive Soord Canterbury Cast in bronze at Pangolin Foundry Chalford



Further information

- www.anti-slaveryarch.com
- Stroud Versus Slavery by Philip Walmsley, booklet 20pp published by Stroud Local History Society 2003 price £2
- www.antislavery.org
- Tourist Information: Subscription Rooms, George St., Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1AE tel: 01453 760960
- Project conceived and managed by Stroud Preservation Trust tel: 01453 766273 registered charity number 284255



THE LANGTREE TRUST



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