

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

Additional information about the history of the slave trade can be found on the following websites: www.antislavery.org, www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition, www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/slavery, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/slavery/



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!



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales



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THE
GATEWAY GARDENS TRUST

Helping People Discover Gardens

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BITTERSWEET



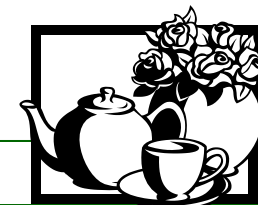
The 'Time Together' Group

visits

Dinefwr Park and Castle

on

Saturday 29th 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.

Lifetime bondage, or slavery, was firmly and legally established in the British North American colonies by the late 1600s and continued to exist in every colony in some form until the American Revolution. After the Revolution, Abolition Societies were formed in every part of the United States. **Dinefwr Park and Castle** seem a very long way from America and thoughts of the American Revolution, but a close connection exists: Its owner, **George Rice** (1724-1779) was a member of parliament for Carmarthenshire between 1738 and 1764. He was appointed Lord-commissioner of the Board of Trade and Foreign plantations in 1761. He was an expert on the colonies. He was a hardliner when it came to taxing America, but he predicted the dangers of Britain trying to squeeze too much money from the colonies through taxes. The **Boston Tea Party** was an act of direct action by the American colonists,



in which they destroyed many crates of tea, owned by the East India Company, on ships in Boston Harbour. The incident, which took place on Thursday, December 16th 1773, has been seen as helping to spark the American Revolution.



The history of Dinefwr goes back much further: **Dinefwr Park** is an 850 acre estate near the historic town of **Llandeilo**. There is evidence that people have lived on this land for over 2,000 years. Archaeologists have found two forts on Dinefwr Home farm dating back to 79AD when the Romans occupied the area. According to legend, the first Dinefwr Castle was built by **Rhodri Mawr** – King of Wales in 877 AD. The present **Newton House** dates from around 1660 when its formal gardens were created.

Dinefwr Park is one of only three remaining medieval enclosed deer parks in Wales. There has been a herd of **fallow deer** here since 1660. It numbers around 100 today. Some of the trees within the park are believed to be over 700 years old.

The herd of famous rare **White Park Cattle** were reintroduced to the park in 1992. There have been white cattle here for over 1,000 years.



A History of Afternoon Tea



Afternoon tea was first invented by **Anna, Duchess of Bedford** in the early 1800s who decided the wait between lunch and dinner was too long so she asked her butler to bring her tea bread and butter to her boudoir. The fashion took off and provided a new opportunity for gossiping, socialising and social posturing. Throughout the 1800s tea parties became a very popular pursuit for wealthy women, adding interest to their domestic lives. Blended black and green tea from China would have been served in china tea cups from a silver tea urn. 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.

This habit was adopted by the working classes who enjoyed a tea of bread, cake, biscuits and jam. This was a relatively cheap and filling meal using ingredients that were readily available. What was eaten reflected regional differences. - in Wales, cakes and biscuits were traditionally made on a **bakestone** - **Welsh cakes, teisen lap** and **Bara Brith**. Bara brith means speckled bread. Tradition was that the stove would be lit once a week for baking day. When the bulk of the bread had been cooked, some dried fruit would be added to a piece of dough and bara brith was the result. Teisen Lap (cake on a plate) is a shallow moist cake - cooked on a plate! You'll also find **picen ar y maen** in most bakeries in Wales but they'll be sold under the English name of 'welsh cakes'. They are now cooked on a griddle (maen) and then dusted with sugar.



Perhaps if you visit the tearooms at Dinefwr today and sit down for a cup of tea and piece of cake, you might think of the historical connections with America, Dinefwr Park and its owner George Rice. George did not own slaves, but his role in eighteenth century British politics undoubtedly affected them. In Newton House also look for the painting of the great entrepreneur **Thomas Kymer** of Kidwelly (1722-1784), dressed 'à la chinoise.' He was a friend of George Rice and left money to him in his will. He was also said to be a trader of silk and slaves.

