

ROTHLEY AND THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE

The mutual endeavours of Babington, Gisborne, Wilberforce and Macaulay

A NEW BOOK

The Bill that brought the slave trade to an end was signed into law on 25 March 1807 and this book is being launched to mark the 200th anniversary of that event. The launch will be at the Rothley Court Hotel, Westfield Lane on Sunday 25 March 2007 beginning at 2pm. In the morning at the parish church, Iain Whyte, co-author of this book and a renowned anti-slavery scholar, will preach at a special service.

A SPECIAL EVENT

The book launch on 25 March 2007 at the Rothley Court Hotel will be set amongst a full programme between 2pm and 5pm, including a series of dramatic readings from 18th century documents, a 16-panel storyboard exhibition of the history of slavery over 200 years, a gospel choir, tours of the Rothley Court, and the unveiling of a new plaque.



Thomas Babington (1758-1837) was the last Babington lord of the manor of Rothley, with his home and estates based at Rothley Temple.

William Wilberforce (1759-1833) was the acclaimed parliamentary champion of the anti-slavery cause.

Thomas Gisborne (1758-1846), inherited the family estate of Yoxall Lodge in Staffordshire, and became Vicar of its parish. Married Babington's sister Mary.

Zachary Macaulay (1768-1838) was Babington's brother-in-law, the son of a highland manse, who endured five years as an overseer on a slave-worked Jamaican sugar plantation, before undergoing at profound change of heart on his return, at Babington's home, Rothley Temple. Zachary was later the father of Lord Macaulay, the ennobled historian, born at the Temple.

Babington, Gisborne & Wilberforce forged a lasting friendship as under-graduates at St John's College Cambridge, a relationship that was to later carry forward vital parts of the subsequent campaign to abolish the iniquitous trade in shackled Africans across the Atlantic. This book tells their story as it fits into the unprecedented campaign in Britain that changed the world.

To reserve your copy of this specially written book, **pre-signed by the authors**, there are two ways:

- 1 Leave your name and address on the list in Rothley Post Office, paying for your order direct to the Postmaster, or
- 2 Cut out the form below and post with your payment to Brenda Sutherland, 4 North Street, Rothley, Leicester, LE7 7NN.

The cost is **£6.00 each** if collected on 25 March at the book launch, or **£8.00 if posted**.

Order Form: Please reserve mecopy/copies of *Rothley and the Abolition of the Slave Trade*.

Name:

Address:

I enclose a cheque, payable to Rothley Parish Church, for £

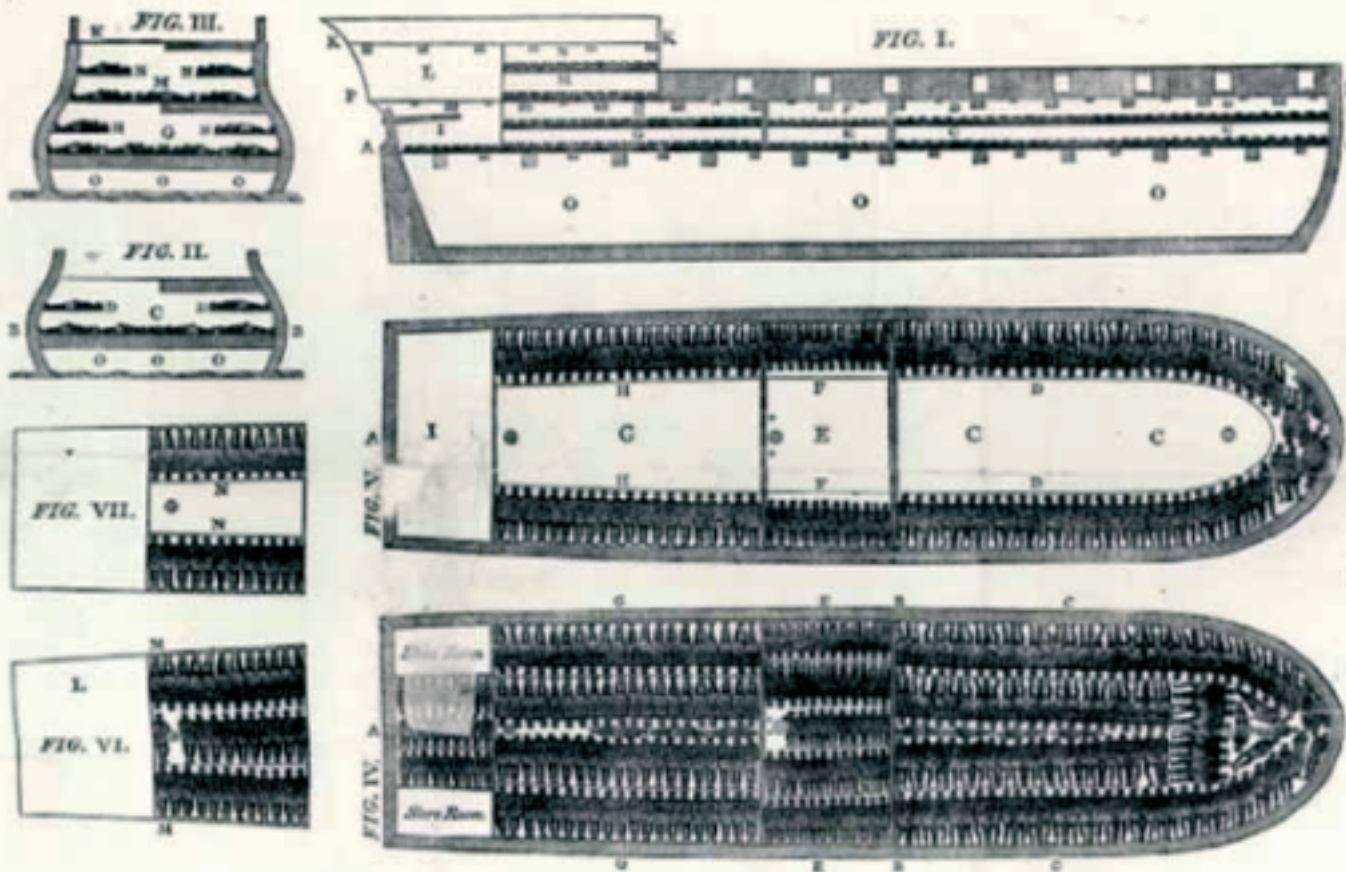
Post to Brenda Sutherland, 4 North Street,
Rothley, Leicester, LE7 7NN

Cut out and return the form to order the book ➡

Terry Sheppard
& Iain Whyte

These events are under the auspices of Rothley Parish Church, and further information is available from Brenda Sutherland, 4 North Street, Rothley, Leicester LE7 7NN, Tel 0116 230 2766. E-mail brenda.sutherland1@ntlworld.com

DESCRIPTION OF A SLAVE SHIP.



This diagram of a fully laden slave ship, *The Brookes*, was given to the abolition campaign by the Plymouth branch of the committee. The *Brookes* was owned by a Liverpool family of that name, which carried slaves from the Gold Coast to America.

Multiple copies were produced by the campaign's printing house run by James Phillips, and it appeared all over the country. It showed, tellingly, how 482 slaves were stowed lying flat and touching one other, all within the rules laid down in The Regulated Slave Trade Act of 1788. On earlier voyages, 'tight-packing' captains have carried anything between 609 and 740 slaves. It was a very powerful weapon in the hands of the abolitionists.

On the front of the brochure is the Medallion struck from the design ordered by Josiah Wedgwood, who was a member of the London Committee. The supplicant slave in chains image was reworked into all sorts of badges, brooches and buttons and was an inspired propaganda piece.
