Historical Slavery

Slavery has existed for thousands of years. In ancient times tribes would capture people from enemy tribes and use them to do their work for them. But slavery only expanded on a large scale in the 1700s, after the beginning of the triangular transatlantic slave trade in the 17th century. This was a three-way trade between the Americas, Africa and Europe. Manufactured goods such as guns were shipped from Europe to Africa. These goods were traded for Africans who were forced into slavery and sent to the Americas on ships. Conditions on the ships were so bad that many people died before they even reached America.

In America the enslaved Africans were sold and with the money the traders bought tobacco, mahogany, cotton, sugar and rum, which they brought back to Britain. Lancaster was a major port in the North West and the fourth biggest slave trading port in England. This tour will show you around the houses and buildings connected to the transatlantic slave trade and the campaigns for fair trade.

Modern Slavery

Although the trading of slaves was abolished by Britain in 1807, slavery itself was not officially abolished in British colonies until 1833; enslaved Africans still worked on American plantations until then. This does not mean, however, that the cruelty of slavery is confined to the past. Although no longer permissible by international law, millions of men, women and children are enslaved. For example, in West Africa, children are sold to cocoa plantation owners and beaten or tied up if they try to escape. In Asia, families are tricked into sending their children to work in carpet workshops, where they work 14 hours a day, every day of the week. In this country hundreds of people are trafficked through our borders and forced to work for no pay, with no possibility of escape.

If you want to know more about modern slavery and what can be done about it, visit: www.antislavery.org

If you want to ensure that no enslaved people produced the food you are buying, make sure you buy fairly traded products.

For further teaching resources on slavery or fair trade visit:

Global Link, YMCA, New Road, Lancaster, LA1 1EZ
www.globallink.org.uk

The FIG Tree Fairtrade Visitor Centre and Café

The FIG Tree is the world’s first international Fair Trade Centre located in Garstang. It focuses on three interconnected local heritage themes:

• Fair Trade and Fair Trade Towns (with Garstang being the world’s first Fair Trade Town)
• The British Transatlantic Slave Trade and its abolition (with nearby Lancaster being the fourth largest slave trade port in Britain)
• The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which was founded in 1652 country that lies to the north of Garstang and Lancaster

For further information contact us at:
Café: 01995 603256
Bruce Crowther, Director: 07526 713255
www.fairtradecentre.org

Or just call in at the north end of Garstang High Street, opposite the Arts Centre. The FIG Tree also provides an educational outreach and learning centre for all ages, an exclusively fair trade and local café, a fair trade gift shop and fair trade refreshments at the start of the Fair Trade Way, the world’s first long-distance fair trade heritage trail that links Fairtrade Towns between Garstang and Keswick.

Thank You

This trail was originally written by Dallas Roadchild Community Primary and illustrated by children of School. They were helped by their teachers, Dianne Tennant and of Global Link, Matinda Elder, historian, Lancaster and the Slave Trade and Sue Flowers, artist, helped with the drawing. The Friends of Lancaster Maritime Museum funded the initial trail with an Awards for All Lottery grant.

This town trail has been edited and updated by Global Link to include Fairtrade and Quaker heritage sites.

The updated trail was initiated and funded by The FIG Tree in Garstang as part of their Heritage Lottery Funded Fairtrade, Slave Trade and Quaker Project.

www.fairtradecentre.org