Engaging with Bath's Uncomfortable Past

VIP EVENT 1

Event outline

- Welcome
- Presentation
- Discussion panel
- Creative sharing activity

Creative Activity

- Create a memorial
- How?
- When?

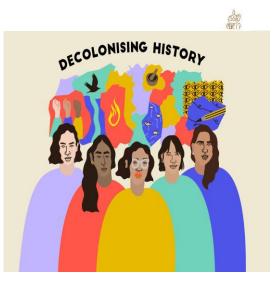


- How can I share?
- Email it to: <u>Walkbathuncomfortablepast@gmail.com</u>

Defining Decolonisation

- Decolonisation traditionally refers to the 'undoing of colonial rule'
- Recently understood more widely as a cultural/ideological phenomenon
- 'Freeing our minds from colonial ideology'
- Challenging existing power structures
- Based on a concern about how forces of colonialism have shaped our past and present

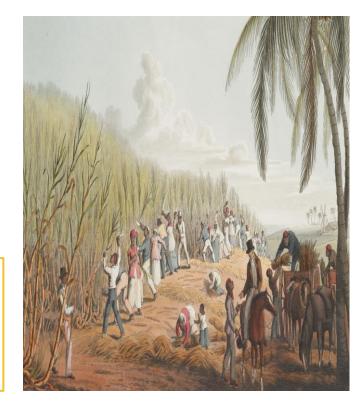




Why should we talk about this now?

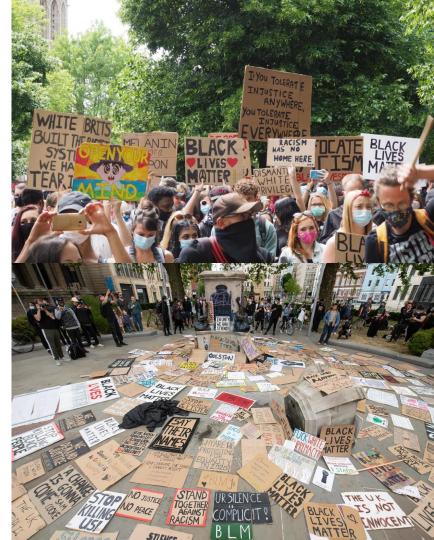
- Britain was largely built on colonial slavery
- No one is seperate from this history
- Cannot ignore parts of history that don't serve you
- History as a political tool for patriotism
- Need to tell more BAME stories
- History does not belong to white people

"For our society to cohere, to find a successful identity in the 21st Century with a vision to carry us all forward, we need to shake off some of the shibboleths of the past. Otherwise our vision will be unbalanced by a false sense of what Britain has been, by omission of the contributions of far too many of our citizens." - Navasha Wray



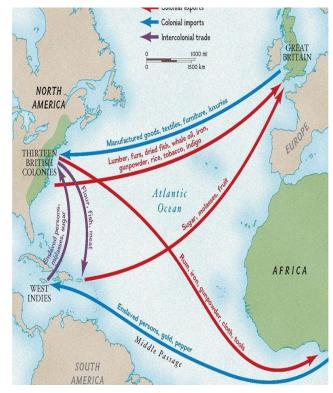
Summer 2020 Events

- Toppling of the Edward Colston Statue in Bristol
- Contentious event some argued this was 'erasing history'
- Statues function as a cultural value system
- Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests brought this debate to the public
- Petitions initiated to teach Britain's colonial history in schools
- Many BAME writers, artists and academics have been calling for this for decades
- Our question is now: what is the best way to decolonise this history?



Britain's links to colonial slavery: Brief History

- British Slave Trade became dominant -1640
- Three dominant slave trading ports were London, Bristol and Liverpool
- Estimated that Britain transported 3.1 million Africans
- The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 formally freed approx.
 800,000 Africans
- In 1833, there were approx. 46,000 British slave owners
- The British government distributed £20 million to compensate for 'the loss' of slave-owners
- Former enslaved individuals received no compensation
- Resistance movements amongst the enslaved individuals in







A Walk Through Bath's Uncomfortable Past

Bath, a UNESCO world heritage site, is better known for its Georgian splendour than its association with transatlantic slavery. While Bristol and other harbour cities were directly involved in the trade of enslaved Africans and the products of West Indian plantations. Bath's connection with wealthy slave owners who enjoyed the Georgian ana city's leisure and contributed to hardine many of the citv's grandiose building projects has remained largely ignored.

This walk through Bath's uncomfortable past invites you to discover the city's complex links to transatlantic slavery as we guide you through the untold stories of the people who were involved in this system. Their stories represent a departure from the dominant narrative of white male abolitionists' to a more transparent reflection of sociery during this time. It tells stories across pender and race of both days owners and abalitionists. who load in Bath or visited the city from the secenteenth to the ninetcenth century. The walk highlights the impact Alro-descendants had on abolition, both via the protests they led in the Carfibean and their anti-slavery activism through art and public speaking. This project does not claim to tell an all-encompassing narrative of transatlantic slavery in Bath since these legacies are influenced by a multitude of intertwined individual stories. Rather, we offer insight into the lives of some of the many Bath residents and visitors who were involved in creating or dismantling this system.

Colonial slavery shaped modern Britain and we We hope that you find the walk mughtful and will share all still live with its legacies. From 1625, when the first colonies of the British Empire were set up in the West Indies until the time of abolition in 1833. the British had transported an estimated 3.1 million Africans to their colonies in the Caribbean and beyond. Although Britain banned the trade of facebook http://www.facebook.org/Nate Rate Unconjutable Plat enslaved neonle in 1807 emancination was not in mediate As the UCL Legacies of British Save-own ership project (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/Rs/) has re waled not all Britons involved in confavement in final Nakhathascondviabinatizonal.com

 Bath Abbey, built between the 12th and Mth cenother site in Britain These include a plaque dedicated to larnes Holder Alleyne in the North transcort. and a glass window for the memory of James Heywood Markland

2 Emma Sophia Sturge opened an anti-slavery depot at 5 Terrace Walk in 1859. It was a fair trade business

3 Pulsency Bridge, completed in 1774, connected the (2) in the 1830s, at least three of the houses in Park wished to develop. It was designed by Robert Adam in the Palladan style.

0 Commissioned by William Pultency: Great Pultency Street completed in 1789 was desired by Thoma Baldwin. Former residents include Jare Austen 4 Subey Pace, anti-slavery campagners Harnah (3) Lansdown Crescent was designed by John Palmer

G The Holburne museum, formerly Sidney Hotel was completed hetween 1796 and 1799. It belonged to the Sidney Pleasure Garden and was used for promerades, public breaklasts and summer evening galas.
(5) William Becklord bought No. 19 Landown Cree cert in 1822. Later he also accured No. 18 and 20 cert in 1822. Later he also accured No. 18 and 20 cert in 1822. Se Thomas William Holburne (1793-1874) using funds derived from slavery. The museum displays portraits of the wealthy Georgian elite painted by Gamshor-

The Institution for the Blind and Deaf-and-Dumb at No. 9 and 10 Walcot Parade opened in 1843 and Locksbrook Cemetery is a manicipal cemetery io ments from pupils. Girls aged 6-13 and boys aged 6-10 were admitted for 5-7 years or longer. Murral baptised as Arasie Jane Elwin, lived here from 1856 until her death in 1866.

in the Walcot area was built between 1777 and 1790. The parents of Jane Austen and William and Barbara Wilherforce were married here

() The Museum of Bath Architecture occupies the

(D) The Assembly Rooms were built by John Wood the

were powerful landowners. Some of them were ordinary citizens who owned small shares in plantations, 40% of which were women. When the Slavery Abolition Act was finally passed in 1833, there were 46,000 slave owners in Britain to whom the execoment distributed (20m to compensate their loss. This sum made up 40% of the total govemment expenditure for 1834 and is the equivalent of El7bn today. The formerly enslaved labourers received no compensation and wree forced to work for four more years following abelition under the rule of 'apprenticeship' They often renained bound to sugar estates for even longer as there were few other work opportunities in the

institutions and linked to economic development

through the redeployment of 'slave wealth' into

your reflections with us through an online survey.

balls, concerts and social functions. Famous visitors

The Circus is a ring of elegant townhouses designed

ing part of its space as his portrait studio.

by individuals who lodged claims for compre-

died there in 1856

pleted by his son in 1768. The painter Thomas Gam

borough leved in No. 17 between 1758 and 1774. us-

Street (No. 9, 26 and 340 were owned or occupied

following the abolition of slavery in 1833. One of

these is Nathaniel Wells (1779-1852). Sheriff of Mon-

mouthshire, who was of mored African/Webb her-

cent in 1822. Later he also accured No. 18 and 20

and all the land between his home and the top Lans-down hill where he created a garden over half a mile

in length and built Beckford's Tower, a neo-classical

pagener Olaudah Equiano (1793).

these subscratters at all fould haths an emissioniation and

ution, you can contact us and follow us

other forms of investment

Caribbean

This walk seeks to bring these statistics to life by sitsuatine them within Bath's architectural and demographic contexts. The man was created in 2020-21 by a team of students and academics involved in the VIP Co-Creation project at the University of Bath, with the aim to promote critical reflection about Bath's bistory. It encourages walkers to reflect on their understanding of the multiple legacies of colonial slavery in the city, including physes varied enormously. Some, like John Report, lived comfortably ical levacies manifested in the architecture of and rose to prominence like the Westminster shopkeeper, lettra domestic residences, country houses, and public monuments; cultural legacies encapsulated in art objects and collections, philantheopism or cultural

Ø

6

0

B



00



Is the wealthirst roan in Great Britan

inica shortly after its segure by Britain in 1763. He was reputed

Selina Hastings, Counters of Hantigdon (797) 7790 was an Erglish leader and philambropist. She marted Theophika Hastings the 9th Ead of Hartzendors in 1728 and had seven children with her (0663-0240) a weakby plantation corper and Linstemant Gos of 64 chapels in England and Wales, including the one balt in Bath i an interest in the colories, including assess related to Native Ameri Oladah Epano. Sie was one of many infgous benefactors and enc enfreenth century English landscape. A lew years lat y although it is likely that they never met. Paradonically, she also er, on the occasion of another visit to Bath, the Byamis eld became a slave owner in 1770 after the death of her chaplan George est daughter Selma (1760-1846) was added to the painting while Garsboroogh updated the colour of Louna's dress The Byam plantation was one of the largest on the sland, with Whitefelds above, she booght additional enslaved labourers for the



366 years marked by 172 endland biburners

The mainter Thomas Gainshermuch (777-1788) settled in Bah-Olaudah Equiano iz 1745 - 31 March 1797) was born in Benin with his wife Margaret, a duke's disaghter, in 1759. Although he as the son of an Igbo environce. Kidnapped as a child, he was taken to Barbados and sold to a New Officer. Michael Henry have sams painting antioents politicians, landowners, doctors ing Later, he was sold again to a Quaker merchant, Robert Knig who encouraged him to engage in prolitable trading and pro lamles. Gamborouth first rented a townlooze in Abev Stee which he filed with lodgers to meet the rest. His sater, Mary, view the latest portraits in an adjoining gallery. As the studio moved to Landown and eventually to No 17 The Circ He toured Botan, campaging for aboliton and spoke at a large number of meetings, including in Rah in (793) His book sage of the British Save Trade Act 1807 Equiano married an her of the Boool Academy in IDS8 and secretard corre-Endsh wyman named Swarinsh Cullen in 1792 and they had



daughter of a school master. She began writing and publishing a teersager. Her first play. The Indexable Captive, was stages in 8ath in 1775. In the early years of her career, she taught along with her sitem at the family run school. However, her true in William Wilberforce, who shared her belief in social reform and mntmerr to evangelical Christianity, and encouraged him to take up the campaon for immediate rather than oradial abitton Sie contributed to the aboliton society through her wri Martha, she established several schools for the poor and women from the 1780s. In her later Me, she dedicated her time to relations Act was passed, leaving more than £30,000 leganalers to about £2,000,000 to charmes and religious societies



performed from the age of seven and his father took han or ours to Pars, Brotol and Bath He took the city by storm with 50 guests attending his first concert at the Assembly Rooms Wales took han under his patronage and gave han the opporanty to learn from the finest musicians next decade. Bedgetower would play almost 50 public confum in 1821, he received a master's degree in music from Carr Indge University and became a member of the Royal Philha mone Society. In 1816, he married Mary Leake, they had not laughters. Latte is known about Bridgetower's later years, at cone point, he seems to have stopped performing, making his



James Hewarood Markland (CRI 1854) band at 1 Landown Con-

in the West index and as the Tarasseer of a Charch of Topheni run

pel in Foreien Piets', he was awarded £8.558 fabour £755,000 sp-

the Codrigton estate in Barbados. He was the most important fig

la Planters and Merchants in the 1820s, which was an organisation

pamphlets, publishers, newspapers and journalists. He authored

comments the sensors of booksellers and roblabers. He was also let

ent in Bath from 1841 till his death. He was a parliamentary agent

ø

Nuthanial Walls (1770-1997) was been in Sciller. He was the over of Wilson Wels, from Caddl, who canned three some planta tations and E20,000. After the abolition of slavery in the colsom on the Eilies and Ottom sigar estates on St Kits. He became an energial part of Monmosathdure hash society, being ppointed as the justice of the Prace in 1805. In 1818 he became Betanis fest black shertf. Shertf of Monmouthshure. He ever second individual of African descent to hold a commission in le manted Harriet Este in London but settled in Bath where he

B



powerfid family of sagar estate owners. He was son of John For ter Alexee (762 1828) bother of Charles Toesus Alexte and a member of HMs Council for St James, Barbados. He married Elizabeth Mary Lowe larses in \$85 and the couple resided in Clifton id's Bay estate and additionally bought two more estates. Swan's and Grow Farm and The Sna plantation. In 1834, he classed commonwhile his brother, readent of 2 Liffeld Place. Bostol, received £18 128 for 865 endaved labourers in Barbados. Alleyne died on 2nd July 1842 in Chehenham, Gioscestenhae, His memoral can be found in the north transect of Bath Abbey, which is known for having more mana Barbados Antinua Bermada and Grenada than m any other feal restog place in Gesit lictum



people wanting to obtain their freedom after the 1807 Act for the Assistencest of the Save Trade. This rebellers was one of three ma-sor upprays that took place in the Botth West Index between 1807 and proreid emuncipation in 1838, the other two hears the stheling was accompanied by a propaganda campage orthestrated by jeant, who shared information across Barbados. The rebellion was troops, which included black england solders. Today Bossa's re-

Surah Parker Remond (IEM, 1924) was an African Investore by man risks activity suffraently, and physician who got insolve to rate lands for the construction of churches and schools in Back communities. When white male abolitorist useaken represented the norm, she used the novely of being a young black female outor to influence British society to put pressure on the taboos by addressing the second exploration of endaved wom en Sie encountered more resistance when she campaigned for women's rights and when she sought support for the confederate states during the US Civil War (1864-1865) which led to a cotton famme. In October 1859 the enrolled in Bedford College as the feet black student. In 1866 she graduated as a mase from Unive the are of 42 she coulded as an obstetricun. She later married a

Emma Sophia Starge, nee Mundy, was a Qualer engaged in

products of slavery. She was born in Bath in 1825. Her father had a batcher shop at 5 Orange Grove. She married Thomas Starge. nephew of the abolitorist losen's Starge, who became interest ed in the plight of the eralized labourers in Januaca and wrote a number of books pressing for intrudute and full emancipation in Rorah remtones. In 1850 the counie moved to Ameri ca with their four children but after Thomas was killed in 1852 came an overseer of the Melksham meeting. She died in 1895



Annie Jane Ebrin (Manual (103) or (64) (866) was precised as a child from a vessel carrying emlayed people and placed in the country of origin. Hearing impaired from birth, she was invited to flath at the age of 15 to receive an education free of charge at the Bath Institution for the Blind and Deal and Dumb at 8.9 Walfve years. Her teachers praised her sotelligence, affectionate naton uni she ded, after a short finess, in May, 1866, at the age of

books furniture and art. cated in Lower Weston which occupies 12 acres. It opened in 1864, originally serving the parishes of Walcor, Weston and St Saviour's Annie lane Elwin (Marnat, one of Bath's once endaved residents, is The Anglican Church of St Swithin on The Paragon Oueen Square was the first speculative develop-

ment in Bath. Designed by John Wood the Elder. It included a thoughtfully designed central garden for naradow The Woods coetributed to rushe city's yish status through grand building projects handwhose wealth was to a great extent derived from slavery lane Austen lived at No 13

(B) The plans of Green Park were laid in 1799 by John Palmer. It was completed in 1808. Jane Austin lived



Ø

Ō

neorie accumulated by his father, who had served taker as lord tured a blettine of lamb speeding. It allowed Recklord to indulate transe leavers from Mozart, and write sprices pieces including West Industatives but rever set foot in the West Index. In his latwere numbers 20, 19 and 18 which he left empty for privacy Inundertaking his eccentric extravagances as a builder and collector he managed to dospare his fortune, which was estimated by his of his capital remained at his death.

lane Austen (775-1877 readed in Bath between 1799 to 1806 at

four different addresses, 13 Queens Square, 4 Sydney Place, her principal domicile in the city. 27 Green Park Buildings and 25

Can Street She had comira who settled in the West Index and

Langlord Nibbs, who was also godfather to Jane's brother Jane

Autori's other brother. Sir Francis, was satisficient to stop Eng-

port his degust and revulsion for both the trade and the entre

ult in Austen having intruste knowledge of the social and ec

nome realizes of the Carbbearis plantation societies, which she

used in her nearly Manufeld Park (1811-1873). From (1814-1815)

and Persaasion (1815-1806). These novels, written in the decade

after the 1807 Abaltion Act reflect lane Austeria dataste for

y general of Bernada. Her father, Reverend George Aus







at the Friends' Meeting House. Lower Borough Walls, in July Freedom, a compelling narrative that reached wide audences is Great Bettain and the United States. In 1868, they returned to the US and opened an agricultural school in Georgia. They



Alexander Scott (1790-1850, was an Anglean elergyman who loss at 18 Grout Publicary Street in Bath with his Barbalina horn wife in Refusion. He was also a traster on Thilacon Fetter in Antonia In nation, the way and a tomer of channel plane in beings. From these plantations he derived a fortune of £220,000, In 1896, a rebellion took place in Barbados, led by an African born tane er Boss, a draw at the Baley Plantation Respected by both en-





Discussion panel

Dr Shawn Naphtali Sobers, a photographer, filmmaker and academic at UWE Bristol, Director of the Critical race and Culture Research Network and trustee of Fairfield House whose work explores personal narratives, hidden histories and Rastafari culture;

Professor Alan Rice, Director of the Research Centre in Migration, Diaspora, and Exile at the University of Lancashire, Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research, and activist involved in building a memorial in Lancaster to remember the victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade;

Jill Sutherland, an emerging Bristol-based academic and Curatorial Fellow whose work at the Holburne Museum, Bath, has focused on interpretation and a new permanent display of a Plantation Book from Barbados, 1722;

Dr Richard White, a Bath-based artist-researcher who uses walking as a tool to engage different audiences with reluctant heritage in Bath and elsewhere;

Ralph Maingrette, an artist based in Montreal who runs the Centre of Arts at Maison Haiti and uses art as a pedagogical tool to engage young audiences in creative workshops.

Discussion panel

- 1. How does this silence impact our city? What makes it challenging to break the silence? What strategies can be used?
- 2. What is the purpose of memorials in our society? Who should be involved in making/unmaking memorials?
- 3. How should the legacies of slavery and slave ownership be made visible in the public space? How can art help us move towards reflection and regeneration rather than shame?
- 4. Can museums, cultural institutions and memorial practices be decolonised and made more inclusive and attractive for minority audiences?

Discussion panel

Dr Shawn Naphtali Sobers, a photographer, filmmaker and academic at UWE Bristol, Director of the Critical race and Culture Research Network and trustee of Fairfield House whose work explores personal narratives, hidden histories and Rastafari culture;

Professor Alan Rice, Director of the Research Centre in Migration, Diaspora, and Exile at the University of Lancashire, Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research, and activist involved in building a memorial in Lancaster to remember the victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade;

Jill Sutherland, an emerging Bristol-based academic and Curatorial Fellow whose work at the Holburne Museum, Bath, has focused on interpretation and a new permanent display of a Plantation Book from Barbados, 1722;

Dr Richard White, a Bath-based artist-researcher who uses walking as a tool to engage different audiences with reluctant heritage in Bath and elsewhere;

Ralph Maingrette, an artist based in Montreal who runs the Centre of Arts at Maison Haiti and uses art as a pedagogical tool to engage young audiences in creative workshops.

Final thoughts

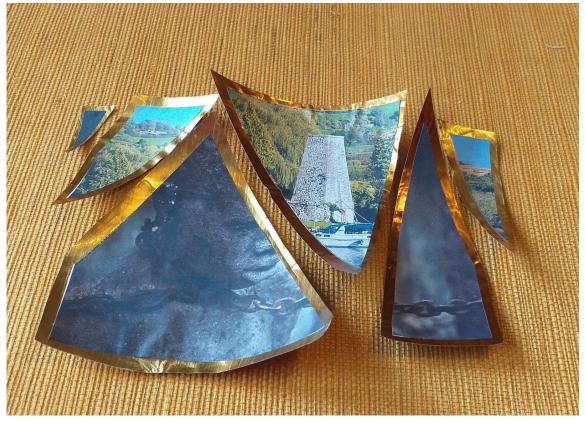
- To see the artwork:
- Padlet Password: BUP https://padlet.com/bvp20/f21vx301l0ofkgr0
- Email: <u>Walkbathuncomfortablepast@gmail.com</u>
- Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/walkbathsuncomfortablepast</u>
- Instagram: <u>https://www.instagram.com/walkbathuncomfortablepast/</u>
- Online survey: <u>https://bathreg.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/walk-baths-uncomfortable-past</u>
- Map <u>https://www.co-creation-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Collage-Pack-Uncomfortable-Past.pdf</u>



References:

- 1. what is decolonising methodology? (warwick.ac.uk)
- 2. Slavery in the British colonies (article) | Khan Academy
- 3. https://theconversation.com/statues-are-just-the-start-the-uk-is-peppered-with-slavery-heritage-140308
- 4. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53305729
- 5. How Britain is facing up to its hidden slavery history BBC Culture
- 6. BBC History British History in depth: Your Local Slave Trade History
- 7. LBS Centre Overview | Legacies of British Slave-ownership (ucl.ac.uk)
- 8. Britain can no longer ignore its darkest chapters we must teach black history | Books | The Guardian
- 9. The history of British slave ownership has been buried: now its scale can be revealed | Slavery | The Guardian
- 10. David Olusoga in Conversation: Black History Matters YouTube
- 11. Statues, Slavery and The Struggle for Equality YouTube
- 12. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/slavery/pdf/britain-and-the-trade.pdf
- 13. https://thebathmagazine.co.uk/the-slave-trade-local-truths/
- 14. https://thebathscrinium.wordpress.com/2013/02/04/slavery-in-bath/
- 15. https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Abolition-Of-Slavery/
- 16. Decoloniality: A home for us all | Aliyah Hasinah | TEDxYouth@Brum YouTube
- 17. Civilisations Stories 10of11 The Remains of Slavery video Dailymotion
- 18. The danger of a single story | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie YouTube
- 19. Academics: it's time to get behind decolonising the curriculum | Universities | The Guardian
- 20. https://this.deakin.edu.au/study/four-reasons-why-you-should-study-history
- 21. Decolonizing the Curriculum: Why Black History matters | Green World
- 22. David Olusoga Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners | 5x15 YouTube
- 23. What Can We Learn from the Germans About Confronting Our History? | The New Yorker
- 24. Slavery in Bath | thebathscrinium (wordpress.com)
- 25. The slave trade: local truths The Bath Magazine
- 26. Students want to confront it': academics on how to decolonise the university | Universities | The Guardian
- 27. britain-and-the-trade.pdf (nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Some submitted artwork



To the 3.1 Millions kidnapped and enslaved Africans whose unvoluntary and unpaid labour contributed to build the UNESCO World heritage city of Bath. This monument was erected in 2021 to express the city's apologies and commitment to reparations.

Sankofa is an Akan symbol which represents the importance of learning from the past. Bath Abbey, a site that has more memorials to slaveowners than any other site in Britain, bears witness with this plaque to the 3.1 million Africans who were enslaved by Britain between 1562 and 1833.

....

....

++++

....

To violin virtuoso George Bridgetower (1778-1860) who performed in the Assembly Rooms in Bath before the king and 550 guests on 5 December 1789









