**Duties of The Lord and Lady of the Manor**

The Lord and Lady of the Manor oversaw the running of their Estate. They also had power over the local area, as their estate was the biggest creator of wealth in the area.

The Lord of the Manor would have been well-educated in keeping ledgers of the expenses and sources of income that the estate had. He would have checked the estate ledgers[[1]](#footnote-1) most days, working out how much money the estate was making. He would have been the overseer of financial decisions: it was his signature on a document that made it official.

Many estates made money from slave plantations abroad. This is a very big and controversial topic that is not covered in depth in *Coram Boy*. The estate would have made money and provided local jobs by allowing farmers to live and farm on the estate’s vast acreage[[2]](#footnote-2). The Lord of the Manor would charge the farmers rent to use their land. Lords and Ladies of the Manor would regularly visit their farmers, making sure everything was in order. Their focus would be money-oriented: were the farms making enough profit to create a sustainable source of income for the manor?

Many Lords of the Manor would have invited famous and influential figures to their estates, talking to their male guests to make financial decisions or forming friendships that would financially benefit the estate. Lords would often have sat in the House of Lords[[3]](#footnote-3), where they would make decisions on the running of the country. They had the power to pass laws and policies, many of which would have been financially beneficial for them.

1. Ledger: a large book that lists expenses. A paper version of an Excel spreadsheet [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Acre: a unit of area used to measure how big an estate was [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A House within Parliament occupied by aristocrats: opposite of the House of Commons, occupied by ‘commoners’ – those without titles [↑](#footnote-ref-3)