

## Legacies of Devon Slave-ownership Group (LDSG)

### Why we want to do this research.

As the Legacies of Devon Slave-ownership Group, we do research into Devon slave-owners. We're talking about people from Devon who owned enslaved Africans, mainly in the Caribbean, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. These people may have lived on their island plantations or been absentees living comfortably in Devon while leaving the dirty work to managers and overseers.

**Why do we think this is important?** Because we understand that **present-day racial injustices** and inequalities can be traced back to the slave plantation system and the trade in captured Africans that enabled it. Caribbean countries have been left impoverished and immigrants to the UK from that area – notably the Windrush generation – have encountered discrimination and disadvantage in this country.

And also because we want to **open up our history to tell a fuller story** than we have usually been fed at school or in the media. Our education may have emphasised the abolition of slavery – how magnanimous we were! It may have implied that slavery was something of little importance that happened far away, nothing to do with us here in Devon. It may have left us with the impression that enslaved Africans did not have such a bad time compared to British workers in the mines and factories of the industrial revolution.

We believe that it is by coming to a more balanced understanding of our history that our society can better address the inbuilt racial prejudices that we have grown up with in our culture.