

DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

I am delighted to present *Journal 87*, in time for you to read over the Christmas holidays.

This *Journal* contains a number of shorter articles than usual, covering a broad range of topics. We start with some of the fruits of Emma Yeo's doctoral research on how the plague affected communities in the County. Her empathetic study brings the subject to life and I am pleased to say that Emma will be writing for us again in future years.

David Butler has contributed a fascinating account of financial shenanigans on the turnpike network, which perhaps shows why that model for funding the road network did not survive. We have a number of essays on, or concerning, women in the County. Judith Atkinson Clumpas introduces us to some reflections on Victorian Durham written in 1911 by Violet Hunt, whose story deserves more attention. We draw attention to the recently unveiled blue plaque dedicated to the Durham photographer, Daisy Edis: I am hoping to publish more in due course on the (few) female subjects of blue plaques in the county. There is also a tribute to Beryl McDougall, a pioneer of early years education in the south of the County in the late twentieth century.

The articles on Edis and McDougall are not dissimilar to pieces published in the *Durham Biographies* series and I would encourage more articles in this form which pay tribute to people in County Durham who have made a significant contribution to public life.

Win Stokes has sent us a short piece on how her thinking about the County's industrial past has been influenced by the recent debates on climate change. I am delighted she will be writing more for us on Durham's coke-making industry. Two recent publications are also reviewed.

As ever, I appeal for more content! As editor, I am also happy to assist potential contributors pull articles into shape. Whether you are an experienced writer, or are just for the first time considering writing up some research, please get in touch.

MARK EGAN
York