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OBITUARY
Enid Hart
1926–2007

Despite the fact that its first lady member was elected in 1877, it was not until 1985 that our Society gained its first woman President. It is a mark of the respect in which she was held for her enthusiastic commitment to our work that this honour should have fallen to Enid Hart.

Enid's interest in history and archaeology did not show itself early. Before her marriage she had been a laboratory technician in Nottingham and London. But on moving to the north-east, and with family growing up, her life changed. She took part in survey work for the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, including one memorable enquiry into Scottish drinking habits. She embarked on a demanding Open University degree. And, crucially for our Society, she was lured into archaeology by Rosemary Cramp, taking an active role in the excavations at Monkwearmouth and Jarrow in the 1960s and 1970s, where her refreshingly trenchant views soon began to make a major contribution to that important project. Having once succumbed to the fascination of historical and archaeological work she pursued it with vigour — even joining that hardy band who met weekly in the freezing cold of the Black Gate to extract data on Newcastle place-names. She became a member of Council in 1971, was elected a Vice President a decade later and then held the Presidency for the years 1985, 1986 and 1987.

To that role she brought both dignity and efficiency. Her period in office was particularly marked by her concern to involve as wide a membership as possible in the Society's activities. To that end she revitalised the Activities Committee and instituted the Society's *News Bulletin*, which has proved so valuable in keeping our members, scattered across the country and the world, in touch with each other and with our meetings. Her Presidency also coincided with preparations for the 1989 Pilgrimage, work which revealed her at her best — with her superb organisation of that complicated journey, her careful monitoring of the smallest planning details and her rapid solutions to myriad practical difficulties.

Later, during the 1990s, she invested much of her time and energy in aiding the revival of the *Durham Victoria County History*. This project encountered numerous problems in finance and organisation in the course of its development, and she was always proud to have made a contribution to its eventual success.

In all this commitment to history and archaeology she had the active encouragement of her mutually supportive family. To Peter and her family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Grace McCombie and Richard N. Bailey

