

Durham County Record Office



Create Archives for the Future

Here at Durham County Record Office, we're not just concerned with preserving archives from the past. We also consider the needs of future researchers who will one day investigate the events of today and what archives best document the life and times of people living in County Durham in 2020.

We know diaries are a valuable resource. We have many in our collections, ranging from wealthy Victorian children to soldiers in the First World War. Could your class help us to document life during the current Coronavirus Crisis? Their diaries could be as useful to future researchers as Anne Frank's diary is to historians studying the Holocaust.

We don't have strict rules for the format of the diaries, they can be in video or audio format if you prefer. The important thing is to record what life is like right now. What are children missing? What do they do each day? How are they staying in touch with friends and relatives? How do they feel about it all?

We welcome diaries from adults as well, so please feel free to keep your own. The aim is to document what life is like for ordinary people in extraordinary times and a teacher's perspective will only enhance that.

We ask that you place them in our care when the crisis has passed and you have no further need of them for displays or assessment. If the diaries include photographs or video, we will ask you confirm if we have permission to provide them for public access or use them for exhibition purposes. If not, we will treat them as we do other confidential material.

If you have any questions, please contact our education archivist, Dawn Layland, at dawn.layland@durham.gov.uk.