

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation

- Chair, Professor Nicholas Roe
- Secretary, Dr Richard Gravil

Tirril Hall, Tirril,
Penrith CA10 2JE

1 September 2008

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation, a Registered Charity

Ensuring the Future of the Wordsworth Summer Conference and Winter School

As you may know, the Wordsworth Summer Conferences of 2007 and 2008 were conducted on a new model, designed by Richard Gravil with the support of a widely-based steering committee, John Beer, Paul Betz, Christoph Bode, David Chandler, Frederick Burwick, Angela Esterhammer, Anthony Harding, Michael O'Neill, Nicholas Roe and Duncan Wu. The new structure makes the conference much more affordable than in the past, and therefore attractive to younger academics and graduate students, but we have kept, as far as possible, the unique elements and ethos of these events – especially as regards duration, leisure activities, conversation time, and a good number of full-length lectures. The Winter School has also been continued, with an unchanged format, but a greater variety of speakers.

Steps have now been taken to ensure the continuance and integrity of both events by vesting their management in an educational charity. On 5 April 2008, **The Wordsworth Conference Foundation** was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, and on 3 June 2008 it became a registered charity. The Foundation's Trustees are Dr Gordon Bottomley, Professor Frederick Burwick, Dr David Chandler, Professor Angela Esterhammer, Professor Anthony Harding, Dr Richard Gravil, Miss Molly Lefebure, Professor Michael O'Neill, and Professor Nicholas Roe, its first Chairman.

As a charity, the Foundation has the following objects: (a) to advance the education of the public in relation to the life, work and influence of William Wordsworth (1770–1850) and his circle, and (b) to advance public knowledge and enjoyment of the literature and culture of the Romantic Period (1750–1850). These objects are naturally aligned with those of The Wordsworth Trust, to formalise a spirit of close co-operation.

In pursuance of these objects, the Foundation is empowered (inter alia): (a) to hold conferences and courses either alone or with others; (b) to make grants to enable students to attend such conferences; (c) to accept subscriptions, gifts, and bequests to be applied to these purposes.

Members and Friends

The point of establishing the Foundation was both to ensure the continuance of Richard Wordsworth's unique creations, and to enable their supporters to 'own' these events. You can do so by becoming either a *Member* or a *Friend*, on payment of the same life subscription.

<http://www.wordsworthconferences.org.uk> ■ wordsworth_conferences@hotmail.co.uk

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England and Wales
(Company Number, 6556358 : Registered Address, Clint Mill, Cornmarket, Penrith CA11 7HW).
Registered Charity No. 1124319

Because the Foundation is a Company, becoming a **Member** is a legal step, which involves signing the Memorandum and Articles of the Company, being elected to membership by the Board, and adopting a share of the company's limited liability to the public. Members are entitled to *attend and vote at annual general meetings*, which will take place during each summer conference from 2009. The legal Members will form the electorate when the first Board 'retires' and offers itself for re-election in 2009 (see below) and may, of course, be elected as Trustees.

Friends of the Foundation will not have voting rights (though they may be elected as Trustees and therefore become Members; and they may attend AGMs as observers). Nor will they incur any obligations.

Both **Members** and **Friends** will pay a lifetime subscription of £295 and be entitled to the same 10% discount on conference fees (i.e. the registration fee) for a period of ten years. At current rates the discount is worth approximately **£30** a year for someone attending both events, so that someone attending both the summer conference and the winter school for ten years would recoup their subscription.

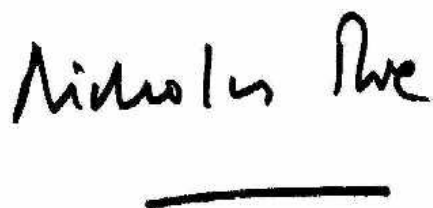
Both **Members** and **Friends** will be entitled to receive notice of forthcoming conferences, at their email or postal address (email being preferred). **Members** will also receive an annual report and financial statement and, of course, the agenda and minutes of the annual general meeting.

The life subscriptions will be held in a **Reserve Fund**, which will be used for two purposes only, namely, (a) to meet any losses incurred in the running of a particular conference; and (b) to contribute income, if in the view of the Trustees the capital reserve is adequate to the first purpose, to the provision of bursaries. In the event of the dissolution of the Foundation the Articles provide for any remaining assets to be donated to an appropriate charity. It will be the responsibility of the Board to maintain the reserve fund at any level which it sees fit.

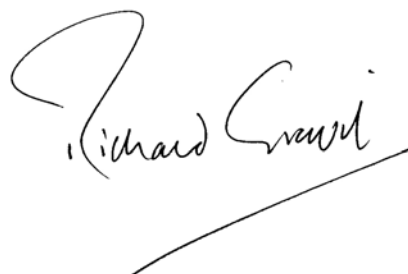
The First Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of the Foundation will take place at the 2009 Summer Conference. At that point the entire Board must retire and (if they so wish) offer themselves for re-election by the then legal Members, who may of course also nominate new Trustees.

On behalf of the Trustees, we warmly invite you to become either a Member or a Friend of the Wordsworth Conference Foundation.



Nicholas Roe
Chairman of the Foundation
1 September 2008



Richard Gravil
Secretary and Conference Director

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation

- Chair, Professor Nicholas Roe
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THE WORDSWORTH CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

Pro Forma reply: Members

I wish to become a **Member** of the Wordsworth Conference Foundation. Please supply me with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles. If elected to membership* I will pay, when requested, a donation of £295 to the Foundation's reserve fund, sign a certificate of liability, and endeavour to attend annual general meetings, as a voting member.

Pro Forma reply: Friends

I wish to become a **Friend** of the Wordsworth Conference Foundation.

I enclose a cheque for £295 payable to the Wordsworth Conference Foundation

I have transferred £295 to The Wordsworth Conference Foundation bank account with HSBC using the IBAN reference GB67MIDL40361061448617 and with my name as an identifying reference

Please invoice me by Google Checkout for my life subscription of £300 (includes Google transaction charges)

I understand that as a Member or a Friend I am entitled to a discount on conference and winter school fees of 10% for ten years from the date of my donation, beginning with WWS 2009.

Signed:

Name and title:

Address:

Date:

Email:

** Please note that under company law admission to membership is at the discretion of the Board of Trustees*

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