

# THE WORDSWORTH CONFERENCE FOUNDATION



Annual Review, 2014~2015







Annual Review

# The Wordsworth Conference Foundation

2014~15



**Conferees in 2014 below the 13th Century Pele Tower at Yanwath Hall**

Yanwath Hall was the winter residence of Sir Lancelot Threlkeld who sheltered the Shepherd Lord during the Wars of the Roses.

See Wordsworth's Poem 'Song at the Feast of the Restoration of Brougham Castle'

## Contents

1. Reference and Administrative Details .....	3
2. Structure, Governance and Management .....	3
3. Financial Review .....	4
4. Objectives and Activities: .....	4
5. Achievements and Performance in 2014–2015 .....	5
6. Public Benefit.....	6
7. Members and Friends.....	7
8. Reviews of the Year's Events .....	7
9. Membership Categories .....	10
10. Summary Statement of Account, April 2014 to March 2015 .....	11

Cover Photo:

*Early morning walkers at the Summer Conference*

Inside front Cover:

<i>Starting Young</i>	<i>At the Brothers' Parting Stone</i>
<i>The Solway Firth from Senhouse</i>	<i>Early Morning Walkers, Winter School</i>
<i>The Horse and Farrier, Threlkeld</i>	<i>At the Wordsworth Graves</i>
<i>Rydal Falls</i>	<i>A first visit to Isel Hall</i>

THE WORDSWORTH CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

Company Number: 6556368

Date of Incorporation: 5 April 2008

Registered Charity Number: 1124319

Date of Registration: 3 June 2008

## ***1. Reference and Administrative Details***

ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE: Tirril Hall, Penrith Cumbria CA10 2JE

REGISTERED OFFICE: Clint Mill, Cornmarket, Penrith CA11 7HW.

TRUSTEES / OFFICERS: Dr Gordon Bottomley; Professor Frederick Burwick; Dr David Chandler; Dr Richard Gravi (Chairman and Winter School Director); Professor Anthony Harding; Dr Felicity James; Professor Claire Lamont; Dr Stacey McDowell (Secretary and Conference Administrator); Professor Michael O'Neill; Professor Nicholas Roe (Conference Director); Dr Christopher Simons; Dr Gregory Leadbetter (Treasurer).

## ***2. Structure, Governance and Management***

2.1 Structure: The Foundation is a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Memorandum and Articles adopted on 22 February 2008. The Articles provide for a Board of not less than five and not more than twelve Trustees, including up to two individuals co-opted by the Board by reason of their relevant expertise.

2.2 Governance: In 2013–14 the Board has consisted of twelve Trustee Directors. In accordance with the articles, Gordon Bottomley, Angela Esterhammer, and Michael O'Neill retired in August 2014. Gordon Bottomley and Michael O'Neill were re-appointed, Claire Lamont was elected, and Greg Leadbetter (co-opted in February 2014) was elected as Trustee and Treasurer, by individual resolution, all for a term of three years. The Annual General Meeting normally takes place in August. The seventh such AGM will be in August 2015.

2.3 Management: The Board meets at least twice a year, and the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Board is two. There are no paid employees. The Board has appointed a volunteer Conference Director, Conference Administrator, Winter School Director and Administrator. For February 2016 the Board has appointed Professor Claire Lamont as Academic Director of the Winter School and Dr Gordon Bottomley as Executive Director.

2.4 Risks: The Trustees having reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, have instituted guidelines to manage these risks, together with appropriate insurance cover, and a reserve fund.

### ***3. Financial Review***

3.1 The Foundation's bankers are the HSBC, Market Square, Penrith.

3.2 The Financial Policy of the Foundation is to maintain a Reserve Fund, an Operating Fund and an Endowment Fund.

3.3 The purpose of the **Reserve Fund** is (a) to ensure that the Foundation would have the ability to continue its operations in the event that a cancelled or unprofitable conference were to exhaust the Operating Fund and (b) to contribute to Bursary Income. The cash portion of the Reserve Fund was transferred from the Charities Aid Foundation to the United Trust Bank in June 2014. A further tranche of the Reserve Fund is now invested in the Charities Investment Fund operated by CCLA Investment Management Limited. The Reserve Fund stood at £10349 on deposit with the United Trust Bank and £6548 in the Charities Investment Fund, making a total of **£16806** on 31 March 2015.

3.4 The **Operating Fund** is defined as the total cash in the Foundation's HSBC accounts less 'reserved funds' – i.e. unallocated bursary income. It is intended that the Operating Fund should be maintained at between £7,000 and £10,000. On 31 March 2015 the Operating Fund stood at **£9877**.

3.5 In July 2015 a new current account will be opened so as to separate Summer Conference and Winter School finances, and the deposit account will then be used solely for Bursary Funds, which should simplify record-keeping.

3.6 The **Endowment** Fund supports the award of Bursaries and presently consists of a legacy of £43,000 from the estate of the late Ena Wordsworth. The legacy is invested in the Charities Investment Fund operated by CCLA Investment Management Limited and was valued at £50,690 on 31 March 2015.

3.7 Total income from the Charities Investment Fund (including part of the Reserve Fund) was £2112 in 2014/15, sufficient to fund six bursaries of £350.

### ***4. Objectives and Activities:***

4.1 The principal objectives of the Company are:

(a) to advance the education of the public in relation to the life work and influence of William Wordsworth (1770–1850) and his circle;

(b) to advance public knowledge, benefit, and enjoyment of the literature and culture of the Romantic Period (1750–1850).

4.2 Its main activities are:

(a) to hold conferences, winter schools and courses either alone or with others;

(b) to make grants to enable students to attend and so benefit from such conferences.

4.3 It is also empowered (c) to accept a transfer of any property, assets, undertaking, functions, responsibilities and liabilities conducive to the realization of the Objects; (d) to accept any subscriptions, gifts, devises and bequests of, any real or personal estate whether subject to special trusts or not; (e) to establish subscription arrangements and take other steps to procuring funds for the Company; (f) to invest in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, and (g) to set aside funds for special purposes or against future expenditure or liabilities .

## **5. Achievements and Performance in 2014–2015**

5.1 The Summer Conference in 2014 was held at Rydal Hall for the second time, and was attended by 78 people. Keynote Lecturers were

- David Fairer (Leeds University) – Wordsworth, Constable, and the Georgic
- Stephen Gill (Lincoln College, Oxford) – Wordsworth in Italy, 1837
- Felicity James (Leicester) – Coquetry, Dissent, Fiction: the Romantic Lives of Amelia Opie
- Claire Lamont (Newcastle University) – William Wordsworth and Walter Scott: an Unexpected Friendship
- Michael O'Neill (Durham) – The Mind's Foundations: Romantic Poetry and Education
- David Simpson (University of California at Davis) – Wordsworth, Romanticism, Terror
- Richard Gravil (The Foundation) – 'The Reign of Nature': Mr Bryant's Wordsworth
- Frederick Burwick (UCLA) – Wordsworth's 'real solid world of images'
- Mark Bruhn (Regis University) – The Prelude, 1794
- Will Christie (Sydney) – 'This will never do!' - Jeffrey on *The Excursion* after 200 Years
- Saeko Yoshikawa (Kobe City University for Foreign Studies) – The Lake District through *The Excursion*
- Daniel Robinson (Widener) – 'One Work': The *Lyrical Ballads* That Was
- Katie Waldegrave – Poets' Daughters

There were 34 conference papers. Other events included twenty walks (including eight early morning walks) and six excursions. Highlights of these leisure activities included ascents of Crinke Crag, and Helvellyn by Striding Edge, and excursions to Isel Hall, Senhouse Roman Museum, and Sizergh Castle. The all-day Excursion explored Penrith Beacon, Wordsworth's and Richard III's Penrith, the Bronze Age archaeology of Moor Divock and the Pele Tower at Yanwath Hall. For the first time in the history of the conference the all-day walk of the Conistone Horseshoe had to be curtailed for safety reasons, one participant having failed to take warm or waterproof clothing.

5.2 The 2015 Winter School, with 50 participants, was on the theme *Wordsworth v Napoleon: the Romantics at Waterloo*. Among other innovations there was a dual presentation on *Benjamin: the Waggoner* and one lecture on music (Beethoven) and another on art (Turner). For a review of this event by two participants see below.

5.3 The Foundation continued its reciprocal arrangements with the Wordsworth Trust. The facilities of the Trust at Dove Cottage and the Museum are open for the benefit of conference participants, many of whom are also Friends or Patrons of the Wordsworth Trust, and some of whom use the research facilities of the Jerwood Centre during the Summer Conference, while Wordsworth Trust staff and volunteers have free access to conference lectures and papers. Events are held at Dove Cottage, with the assistance especially of Michael MacGregor (Director) and Jeff Cowton, Curator of the Trust Collections, whose presentations at the conference are always greatly appreciated.

5.4 In 2014/15 the Foundation was delighted to hold two events at Rydal Mount, a book launch and reception at the Summer Conference, and a short poetry reading by Richard Gravil and John Rowe at the Winter School.

## ***6. Public Benefit***

Public benefit is integral to the charity's objectives in the following respects:

- (a) The conferences operated by the Foundation are designed to appeal to a wider public than other academic conferences, and local attendance on an occasional, non-residential basis, without payment of the registration fee, is encouraged;
- (b) As in previous years the residential cost of both conferences in has been minimized, so as to make them accessible to students and to pensioners, providing some residential places at less than cost. In the interest of economy, part of each conference's transport requirements are provided by economical hire of a minibus from North Cumbria Community Transport (with Trustees as registered drivers).
- (c) In 2014–2015 the Foundation applied **£3450** to providing nine bursaries of £350 at the 2014 Summer Conference and two bursaries of £150 at the 2015 Winter School.
- (d) A book auction at the Summer Conference raised £750 for bursaries and further donations totalling £510 were received from Paul Betz, Piet de Jong, Fiona Gravil and John and Ann Williams. Together with dividend income and interest received during the year, approximately **£4020** is reserved for bursaries in 2015–16.
- (e) The purpose of the bursary scheme is to enable people with limited resources, not necessarily in full-time formal education, and without regard to background or origin, to attend the conference at less than half the real cost.
- (f) All donations are applied, without deduction, to the benefit of members of the public. No Trustee is remunerated, only the unpaid Conference Directors and Administrators attend conferences without payment of fees, and there is no paid staff.

As is shown by the above, the charity extends the benefits of attending conferences irrespective of participants' race, geographical location, sexual orientation, age, or economic circumstance. Both the bursary scheme, and arrangements for local admission are designed to enable people to benefit from the work of the Charity without regard to economic circumstances.



## **7. Members and Friends**

### Members

Gordon Bottomley, Frederick Burwick, David Chandler, Peter Dale, Piet De Jong, Angela Esterhammer, Bruce Graver, Richard Grivil, Anthony Harding, Michael O'Neill, Adam Potkay, Cecilia Powell, Nicholas Powell, Daniel Robinson, Nicholas Roe, Christopher Simons, Clifford Siskin, John Strachan.

### Friends

Paul Betz, Deirdre Coleman, Masako Fujie, Stephen Gill, Teiko Hatsui, Margaret Ives, Yorimichi Kasahara, Claire Lamont, Peter Larkin, Seamus Perry, Deborah Pfuntner, Anthony Reavell, John Rowe, Heidi Thomson, Anne Williams, John Williams, Irene Wiltshire, Saeko Yoshikawa.

*For a Membership application form see page 10.*

## **8. Review of the 2015 Winter School**

### **'Wordsworth vs. Bonaparte: The Romantics at Waterloo' Reviewed by Richard Cappuccio & Ann Marshall**

This Winter School, our second, we traveled from Charlottesville, Virginia to Rydal. The best leg of the journey was the day we moved from Windermere to Rydal Hall, walking the mile to the pier at Bowness, taking a boat across the lake to Ambleside, and then walking the final distance to Rydal. Mr. Wordsworth walked, and it seemed like the only fitting form of transportation. When we arrived, Richard Grivil seemed taken aback not only at our decision, but that we travelled so lightly in order to do it. He related the story of Louise Floyd, who attended the conference with one dress and some wool. She would crochet her next dress during the lectures. Proud still about our particular journey on foot, at the tea that afternoon, we heard Chris Simons speak enthusiastically of his trek across the Simplon Pass, following young Mr. Wordsworth's journey on foot across the Alps. Alas! If we no longer felt like the lightest packers or most energetic members of the group, there was a great sense of relief that we had arrived in the right company.

Waking early for a morning walk, we stood below the Rydal Hall driveway, a few feet from Wordsworth's Rydal Mount, as Fiona Grivil offered a walk around the lake or up the Coffin Trail. We half-dozen enthusiasts chose the upward climb. We knew either route would work with Fiona's remarkable timing. We made it back in good time for breakfast and Stephen Gill's lecture, "'Two Consciousnesses': Wordsworth and the 1790's". He explained how W acknowledged his alienation and took possession of his life by the end of that crucial decade, evidencing 'real courage without self-exculpation' for his earlier French allegiance. Stephen included contrast with Orwell, who also overcame alienation as his homeland faced a threat of invasion. Stephen's double achievement of learning and accessibility set the tone for a series of eight erudite yet accessible talks across four days, supplemented by daily discussion in small groups.

As participants who tire of academic jargon, we find this conference refreshing in its commitment to close reading. Oliver Clarkson carried out an elegant explication of 'Wordsworth's Political Sonnets'. The debate of John Williams and Paul Betz over their readings of 'Benjamin the Wagoner' was good-humoured and focused on details. John went first, pushing for an allegorical take on Benjamin's fall and the satanic sailor's role in undermining him. Paul countered with emphasis on the naturalism of the story, set in a specific time and place. Both explained the destitute sailor using his large ship's model for a kind of busking. (The Napoleonic wars left many a penniless veteran.)

David Chandler on Southey's 'Pilgrimage to Waterloo' drew attention to the poet's dedication to the details he witnessed as well as his ambition to make something substantial of the Poet Laureate's title. Both Wordsworth and Tennyson eventually benefitted from the stature Southey earned for the position. David did not insist Southey's 'Waterloo' was a great poem but important as a window onto the poetic subject. His topic led logically to Christopher Simons' 'Militant Wordsworth', which related the pamphlet *Concerning the Convention of Cintra* to *The Prelude* and the sonnets. This well-received talk offered a revelatory view of Wordsworth, a poet seldom associated with militancy.

Many talks featured the complexity of Romantic attitudes toward Bonaparte. Joanna Taylor gave a lively account of the ambivalence of Coleridge the journalist toward the 'upstart Corsican', a dangerous figure he found fascinating and yearned to encounter. Without making claims for the art of Wordsworth's 'Thanksgiving Ode', Richard Grivil did so indirectly by revealing meanings heretofore overlooked. He presented the Old Testament underpinnings the ode shared with the numerous sermons preached on 'Thanksgiving Day' and showed how unlike many of his peers, Wordsworth refused to take a triumphal view of Waterloo. Richard suggested that the poet of the ode hears the church bells on the day of remembrance but hesitates to leave his meditation at the Mound, acknowledging the guilt and shame that accompanied the victory.

Music and art history were features of this year's conference. Peter Dale's talk on Wordsworth and Beethoven reflected his knowledge and deep appreciation of both figures. Born the same year, they shared shifting attitudes about Napoleon. Rather than cast off imitative form as a naïve concept, Peter analyzed the last movement of the fourth piano concerto, explaining how the solo piano works with and against the orchestra in a motion toward liberty. It was also established that while there was music in Wordsworth's house, what exactly it was and what W's relationship with it was remain topics for future study.

In her illustrated lecture, Turner's '*The Field of Waterloo* (1818): Turner's *Guernica*', Cecelia Powell broke new ground. After an overview of British war memorials, she considered the distinctiveness of Turner's version of Waterloo. She closely compared the two artists' paintings considering when Picasso may have seen Turner's 'Waterloo'. She argued persuasively that Picasso jumped off from the actual shapes and composition of Turner's painting as well as from the compassionate spirit of Turner's rendering of the war's victims.

Inspired evening readings by John Rowe and Richard Grivil, especially one in Rydal Mount's sitting room, lent immediacy to the poems considered each day following and



included poems by Byron, Scott and Felicia Hemans not covered in the lectures. That was just one way the conference exceeded expectations by taking care to include an audience from all walks of life. The wide experience of conferees (actor, lawyer, historian, housewife, psychologist, businessman, doctor, teacher and student) gave depth to discussions of our timely theme. Diversity also made exciting the conversations at Rydal Hall's well-catered meals.

The excursions were interesting and delightful in different ways. Many of us who had never been to Allan Bank were happy to see the conservation efforts underway and take the hillside walk through the viewing tunnel. The Heaton Cooper Gallery with three generations of landscape painters appealed strongly to hill-walkers. There was a solemn moment at St. Oswald's Church and the Wordsworth graves. The Castlerigg stones (redundant?) still stand, and Richard Gravil disabused us of their Druidism on a blustery stopover blessedly free of rain. Some followed up with a Keswick Railway trek. The rest visited the Keswick Museum with a chance to play the musical stones and learn about local figures.

The final excursion to the still-active Kimberly Slate Mine at Honister Pass allowed those who went down to avoid a brief hail storm and enjoy the tour guide's astounded expression as American Frederick Burwick answered his questions about British child labour quite correctly. (No surprise to us.) The lucky ones with accommodating departure schedules were able to attend Fred's Saturday lecture at the Jerwood Centre, in memory of Jonathan Wordsworth, *'Wordsworthian Romance: 'into a dazzling cavern'*.

Finally, special thanks to Richard and Fiona Gravil for making their tenth instalment of the Winter School such a blockbuster. Congratulations to Claire Lamont and Gordon Bottomley as they take up the mantle for next year.

## 9. Membership Categories

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation has a democratic structure. Its Trustees may be nominated by Members as well as by the Board, and are elected by its Members. Their periods of service are limited to two terms of three years. You can join the Foundation as either a Member or a Friend, on payment of the same life subscription. Becoming a **Member of the Foundation** 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 take place during each summer conference. Members receive an annual report and financial statement and the agenda and minutes of the annual general meeting, and participate in the election of Trustees. **Friends of the Foundation** do not have voting rights (though they may be elected as Trustees and thereby become Members; and they may attend AGMs as observers). Nor do they incur any obligations. **Both Members and Friends pay a lifetime subscription of £295 and are entitled to the same 10% discount on conference fees (i.e. the registration fee) at the Summer Conference and Winter School for fifteen years** (anyone attending both events each year would recoup their subscription in seven years at current rates). Members and Friends are entitled to receive notice of forthcoming conferences, at their email or postal address (email being preferred).

---

*To join the Foundation please complete and return this form to  
Wordsworth Conference Foundation, Tirril Hall, Tirril, Penrith, CA10 2JE*

*Please tick applicable boxes*

### 1. TO BECOME A MEMBER

☐ 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 by the Trustees I will pay, when requested, a life subscription of £295, sign a certificate of liability, and endeavour to attend annual general meetings, as a voting member.

### 2. TO BECOME A FRIEND

- ☐ I wish to become a FRIEND of The Wordsworth Conference Foundation, and.
- ☐ I enclose a cheque for my life subscription of £295 payable to The Wordsworth Conference Foundation
- ☐ OR I have transferred £295 to The Wordsworth Conference Foundation HSBC bank account  
IBAN reference: GB67MIDL40361061448617
- ☐ OR I have paid my life subscription of £295 by Google Checkout.

Signed:

Date:

Name and title:

Address:

Email:



## 10. Summary Statement of Account, April 2014 to March 2015

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<u>FOUNDATION INCOME</u>		<u>FOUNDATION RUNNING COSTS</u>	
Life Subscriptions	0	Combined Insurance	1074
Humanities Ebooks Dividend	95	Accountancy	1279
		Printing	240
		Website	215
	<b>95</b>		<b>2808</b>
 <u>BURSARY DONATIONS</u>		 <u>ASSETS</u>	
Individual Donations	510	Conference laptop	473
Summer Auction	768	First Aid Kits	89
	<b>1278</b>		<b>562</b>
 <u>CONFERENCE INCOME in FY</u>		 <u>CONFERENCE EXPENDITURE in FY*</u>	
WSC2014	35882	WSC2014	29224
WWS2015	17477	WWS2015	15622
	<b>53359</b>		<b>44846</b>
 <u>ADVANCED INCOME</u>		 <u>ADVANCED EXPENDITURE</u>	
WSC2015		Deposit WWS 2016	1350
		Deposit WSC 2016	2750
	<b>0</b>		<b>4100</b>
 <u>INTEREST</u>		 <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	
Business Money Manager	6		
CAF Scottish Widows	12		
UTB	54		
COIF Charities Investment Fund	2111		
	<b>2183</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>overall totals</b>	<b>56915</b>		<b>52316</b>
 <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>			<b>4599</b>

### Bank Accounts

<u>Balances at 1 April 2014</u>		<u>Balances at 31 March 2015</u>	
HSBC Community Account	765	HSBC Community Account	3068
HSBC Money Manager Account	8092	HSBC Money Manager Account	10210
CAF Scottish Widows Account	10284	UTB Account	10349
		Bank errors	113
Surplus / Deficit for Year	4599		

<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23739</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23739</b>
 <b>Reserve Fund (held in the UTB Account and Charities Investment Fund)</b>				<b>16806</b>
<b>Operating Fund (cash balances in HSBC accounts less Bursary Funds)</b>				<b>9877</b>
<b>Bursary Fund (reserved funds in HSBC accounts)</b>				<b>3401</b>
<b>Endowment Fund (Charities Investment Fund)</b>				<b>50691</b>

\* Plus deposits of £1350 and £2700 paid in 2013/14 making £48896



**1 WSC participants at Blea Tarn visiting the Solitary's 'Druid Cromlech'**



**2 WWS participants enjoying a William Heaton Cooper Exhibition**

### Opposite

Morning Walkers August 2014	Birdwatchers at Allan Bank
Helvellyn, Striding Edge	Yoko at Sizergh Castle
Summer Conference Reception	Widener Students on guard duty at Yanwath









Honister Mine, February 2015



At Rydal Mount, February 2015