

THE WORDSWORTH CONFERENCE FOUNDATION



Annual Review
2017~2018



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The Wordsworth Conference Foundation

2017~18



Walkers on Silver Howe, August 2017

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Cover Illustrations

Front Cover: walkers en route to Scafell Pie via Esk Hause

Inside Front: Summer Conference, 2017

Scafell Pike	Self-portrait with sheep
Ullock Pike (after Skiddaw)	A session at the Jerwood Centre
Brougham Castle	The Old Dungeon Ghyll
Esk Hause	One of Rydal's Giant Redwoods

Inside Back: Winter School, 2018

Picnic on the Coffin Path	An excursion disembarks
The Lower Falls at Rydal	Afternoon Tea
	Lowther Castle before its ruination
Sarah Losh's replica of the Bewcastle Cross	Lowther's Meadow Garden

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 at 31 March 2018: Professor Simon Bainbridge; Dr David Chandler; Dr Oliver Clarkson (Treasurer); Professor Stephen Gill (Winter School Director); Dr Richard Grivil (Acting Chairman); Elsa Hammond; Dr Felicity James; Dr Stacey McDowell (Secretary and Membership Secretary); Professor Michael O'Neill (Chairman on leave); Dr Thomas Owens; Professor Daniel Robinson; Professor Nicholas Roe (Conference Director).

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: At the tenth AGM in August 2017 two Trustees retired. These were Gregory Leadbetter (after one term) and Gordon Bottomley (after two terms). Michael O'Neill having reached the end of his second term would have retired also but remained as Chairman having assumed that post in August 2016. There being four vacancies, Simon Bainbridge, Richard Grivil, Elsa Hammond and Thomas Owens were elected. Michael O'Neill intermitting his Chairmanship on health grounds, Richard Grivil returned to that role in the Autumn of 2017. The tenth AGM will be in August 2018.

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 positions of Conference Director, Winter School Directors and Treasurer are held by Trustees. In the event of a Conference or Winter School Director reaching the end of his or her term of Trusteeship the person would, at the discretion of the Board, continue to hold that post (as an Appointee) until re-elected. Since September 2015 there has been a self-employed Administrator for the two annual events.

2.4 Risks: in accordance with Charity Commission Guidelines the Foundation has adopted written policies on Complaints, Conflict of Interest, Risk Management, Investment, Volunteer Management, Vulnerable Beneficiaries and Vetting Procedure. It has 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 (part cash, part investment), an Operating Fund, a Bursary 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 interest and dividends to Bursary Income. The cash portion of the Reserve Fund (accumulated life subscriptions) was deposited with 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 £10,737 on deposit with the United Trust Bank and £7,274 in the Charities Investment Fund, making a total of **£18,011** on 31 March 2018.

3.4 The **Operating Fund** is defined as the total cash in the Foundation's three HSBC accounts – one current account devoted to the Summer Conference and General Administration, another to the Winter School, and a Money Manager (Deposit) Account – less any restricted sums (recent life subscriptions or funds reserved for bursaries). It is intended that the Operating Fund should be in credit by between £7,000 and £10,000 at the end of each financial year. On 31 March 2018 the Operating Fund stood at **£10,453**.

3.5 The Foundation's **Deposit Account** holds the **Bursary Fund** (made up of donations, auction proceeds, and dividends from the Charities Investment Fund) along with any sums from the operating fund deemed surplus to requirements, and recent life subscriptions pending transfer to the Reserve Fund. On 31 March 2018 the Bursary Fund stood at **£2995**.

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 £57,106 on 31 March 2018.

3.7 Total income from the Charities Investment Fund (including part of the Reserve Fund) was £2240.53 in 2017/18.

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 2017-2018

5.1 The Summer Conference in 2017 was held at Rydal Hall for the fourth time, and was attended by 75 full participants and four occasional. There were 12 lectures and an unusually high number of 46 papers, resulting in the first ever use of parallel sessions at a Wordsworth Conference. Ten bursary awards were made, as reported in Section 6. A report appears below in section 8.

5.2 The 2018 Winter School, was held at Rydal Hall between 20-25 February, with eight lectures on the theme, 'Wordsworth's Radicalism Revisited'. It was attended by 48 people (five of them non-resident and occasional). A report appears in section 9.

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.

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 merely 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 2017-2018 the Foundation applied **£3680** (of which £2280 came from conference income) to providing ten bursaries at the 2018 Summer Conference and one at the 2018 Winter School. These are listed below

SUMMER BURSARIES

Isabel Corfe (National University of Ireland, Galway)
 Adam Cuthbert (Dundee University)
 Jonatan Gonzalez (University of La Rioja)
 Elias Greig (University of Sydney)
 M. C. Hyland (New York University)
 Adam Neikirk (Westfield State University)
 Daniel Norman (Durham University)
 Sharon Tai (Durham University)
 Valentina Aparicio (Edinburgh University)
 Adam Walker (Bucknell University)

WINTER BURSARIES

Cody Conard, from Bayville, New Jersey

(d) A book auction at the Summer Conference raised £609.50 for bursaries. Additional donations of £560 were received including £350 from Mr Tony Reavell and £150 from Professor Kenneth Johnston. Together with dividend income and interest received during the year approximately £3,292 is reserved for bursaries in 2018–19.

(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 attend conferences without payment of fees. Administration of the events is outsourced at an agreed rate, 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. The Bursary Fund

Brought forward, 1 April 2017	£1,281 (estimated)
Auction Receipts	£ 609
Donations	£ 560
Investment Income	£2,242
Disbursed	£1,400*
Carried Forward, 31 March 2018	£3,293

* plus £2280 from conference surpluses

8. Members & Friends

8.1 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 consecutive periods of service are limited to two terms of three years. Those who support the objects of the Charity can become either a Member or a Friend, on payment of the same life subscription.

8.2 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 £10 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, and to vote 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) nor do they incur any obligations, but may attend the AGM as observers. Both Members and Friends receive the audited annual report and financial statement and the agenda and minutes of the annual general meeting.

8.3 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 advance notice of forthcoming conferences, at their email or postal address (email being preferred) and advanced registration.

8.4 There are currently 22 Life Members and 18 Life Friends.

9. The 2017 Summer Conference

9.1 Twelve keynote lectures were presented, as follows:

Nicholas Halmi (University College, Oxford): *Two Types of Ambiguity in The Prelude*

Felicity James (Leicester University): *Haunting the Familiar: Lamb's essays and their legacies*

Fiona Stafford (Somerville College, Oxford): *Unfinished Performances*

Alexandra Harris (Liverpool University): *Divinity and Chit-chat: Woolf, Cowper, Coleridge*

Fiona Robertson (Durham University): *Romantic Resistance; or, 'Twas a Hundred Years Since*

Meiko O'Halloran (Newcastle University): *John Keats's Northern Walking Tour*

James Engell (Harvard University): *An Oral Poet, Gibbon's 'history', and Deaths: Reflections on Having Edited the Prelude*

Michael O'Neill (Durham University): *'More like Despair': Romantic Depictions of Hope*

Richard Gravil (Wordsworth Conference Foundation): *Unknown Wordsworthshire*

Matthew Bevis (Keble College, Oxford): *Wordsworth's Oddity*

Heidi Thomson (Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand): *The legacy of Annette Vallon in Wordsworth Studies*

Kasahara Yorimichi (Meisei University): *Sotheby's Coliseum and the Menades: What Drunken Madness!?*

A record forty-six short papers were presented by speakers from Britain and Ireland, Australia, China, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States. A particularly memorable event was an Iberian panel with speakers from Portugal and Spain and two papers focused with unprecedented particularity on Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey's responses to the Peninsular War: Alicia Laspra-Rodríguez (Universidad de Oviedo) on 'Spain as a Source of Inspiration and Concern for William Wordsworth (1808-1811)' and Manuela Mourão (Old Dominion University, Portugal): 'The most glorious war recorded in the British annals': the Lake Poets on the 'Spanish Cause'.

9.2 Other events

The major fell walks in 2017 included Carl Side and Ullock Pike, above Bassenthwaite; Scafell Pike; and Pike o'Blisco from Great Langdale, and there were rambles to Orrest Head in search of the prospected route of the Windermere to Ambleside railway, and Elterwater in search of the Britannia Inn. The all-day excursion included two conference 'firsts': a visit to the ancestral home of Wordsworth's 'Uncle Kit' at Newbiggin Hall near Temple Sowerby. Dating in parts from the 14th century it has been in the possession of Crackenthorpes and Cooksons at least since John Crackenthorpe (d. 1436) served as attorney to the 7th Baron Clifford. Shields in a window of the village church tell some of this story.



On the left, the arms of the 7th Baron Clifford (1389–1422), who fought at Agincourt with Henry V. John Crackenthorpe served as attorney both to the 7th Baron and to his widow, Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of Westmorland, and daughter of Shakespeare's Hotspur. The 8th baron married Joan Dacre, granddaughter of Ralph

Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and builder of Penrith Castle. The shield on the right shows union of another John Crackenthorpe, b. 1442 (the great grandson) and Isobel Musgrave of Eden Hall. So Wordsworth's admiration for Lady Ann Clifford of Brougham Castle may have been an inherited family trait. From Newbiggin we went (naturally enough) to Brougham Castle, restored by Lady Ann. And from there into Martindale with its tiny Elizabethan church dwarfed by one of the greatest of British yew-trees - the scene of the major part of Dorothy Wordsworth's 'Ullswater Excursion' (9 November, 1805).

9.3 A Selection of Conference Feedback

- *This was my first time at the conference, and I had a wonderful experience – I only wish I'd started attending earlier! I was impressed by the intellectual community – the spirit of generous engagement with everyone's scholarship, the amount of discussion time we had after lectures and papers, and the conversations that continued into meals and walks and even into the Badger. I loved the balance of mental and physical exercise as well. There's nothing like actually experiencing the landscape that inspired so many writers. I was also delighted with everything at Rydal Hall. I enjoyed the chance to stay in the Hall and was impressed with the meals.*

- I enjoyed the range of talks and keynote lectures. I thought the overall experience was great, and I will reflect on the conference as a positive learning opportunity – to have increased my knowledge of Wordsworth and other Romantics, to have met new people, to have explored new landscapes, and to have discovered things about myself in the process.
- *I liked everything, and especially the early morning walks. I liked the organisation of the presentations in terms of the timing, ensuring discussion and audience privileged contribution.*
- The conference is wonderful. The organising team is superb, and the atmosphere is convivial and so encouraging for postgraduates and early career scholars. I am delighted by the high standard of academic papers and the warmth and generosity of the chosen keynote speakers and team. I recommend this conference to every scholar and student that I know as the gold standard.
- *We were very impressed by the warm and convivial atmosphere of the conference community and the amount of time and attention devoted to each speaker's work; the schedule always allowed for interesting and productive discussion.*
- The papers and conversations are really inspiring. They made me much more motivated in working on Romantic writers. What I enjoyed most was walking and talking, which gave me a lot of information about various things and the feel of what the writers experienced in the Lake District nature. The accommodation and food were also very good. Thank you very much for all this.
- *Thank you for creating the best possible atmosphere for intellectual inquiry—caring, rigorous, inspired, and informed by deep and broad knowledge of the critical work on Wordsworth and the Romantics more generally. This base of knowledge is evident throughout the program's design and in the responses and introductions to panels and keynotes. The conference is fortunate to have such strong leadership.*
- I liked the congeniality – the blend of academic talks and social outings that allow for dynamic conversations and new friendships; the quality of talks and the Q+A sessions.

10. The 35th Wordsworth Winter School

10.1 The theme being 'Wordsworth's Radicalism Revisited' the eight lectures in a programme organized by Gordon Bottomley and Stephen Gill were as follows (those asterisked were making their Winter School debut):

Stephen Gill (Oxford) *Wordsworth's Radicalism Revisited*

Judith Thompson (Dalhousie) *(Re)Visiting the Recluse: John Thelwall in/and Wordsworth's 'Excursion'**

Tim Fulford (De Montfort) *Wordsworth & Ebenezer Elliott: Radicalism Renewed**

Heather Glen (Cambridge) *Radical Poetry: The earliest surviving drafts of 'The Ruined Cottage'**

David Chandler (Doshisha) *The Wordsworth wars of the 1980s*

Joanna Taylor (Lancaster) *Radical Geographies: The Wordsworths' Walks*

Jessica Fay (Bristol) *Movement & Stillness in 'The Excursion' and 'The White Doe of Rylstone'**

John Williams Greenwich) *"I have a great deal of the Chartist in me": Telling Tales about the radical Wordsworth*

On the last morning the Jonathan Wordsworth Lecture at the Jerwood Centre (not part of the Winter School) was a masterly talk by Nicholas Roe, revisiting his book *Wordsworth and Coleridge: The Radical Years*.

10.2 Readings, Excursions and Entertainment

As has been customary at the Winter School since 1983 the four morning lectures were followed by a seminar and the four evening lectures by readings of the next day's poetry - including, this year, accounts of the French Revolution in *The Prelude* and in *The Excursion*, and poems by John Thelwall, Ebenezer Elliot the Corn-Law Rhymer, and Thomas Cooper the Chartist, and by Dorothy Wordsworth.

Afternoon excursions included the elegant 1816 Friends Meeting House in Kendal and its famous Quaker Tapestry, equally absorbing for the subtlety of its colours and the thorough history of Quaker influence in cultural and industrial and scientific history.



1 The Friends' Meeting House, Kendal

We went also to Lowther Castle to explore its long-lost but now recovering gardens and its newly opened exhibition of artefacts in the family collections.

These include a mysterious legal scroll in which the Earl of Lonsdale features as 'plaintiff' in a case against the Wordsworths (not the story most familiar in the biographies).

A remarkable exhibit is the impressive seal (in pristine condition) by which in 1283 Edward I (also known as Edward Longshanks, and Hammer of the Scots) granted rights of 'emparkment' to Sir Hugh de Lowther.



2 The Seal of Edward I

Finally, to conclude a rich series of excursions, we revisited St Mary's Church, Wreay, an extraordinary basilica seemingly designed to celebrate both the Creator and the creation as envisaged by Erasmus Darwin, with its fossil imagery, and its mausoleum featuring this beautiful memorial to Sara's sister Katharine contemplating a pinecone.



The customary last-night entertainment included an especially memorable contribution in the form of Professor Ken Johnston of Indiana (author of many books including *The Hidden Wordsworth* and *Unusual Suspects*) leading the audience in a rousing medley of patriotic American anthems.

There really is nothing quite like the Wordsworth Winter School.

11. Unaudited Balance Sheet

FOUNDATION INCOME

Life Subscriptions	589.63
Humanities Ebooks Dividend	26.44

BURSARY DONATIONS

Donations	560.00
Summer Auction	609.50

CONFERENCE INCOME in FY 17/18

WSC2017	42092.12
WWS2018	20874.90

ADVANCED INCOME

WSC 2018	335
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INTEREST and DIVIDENDS

HSBC Deposit Account	2.13
United Trust Bank	129.00
Charities Investment Fund	2240.53

Totals

67459.25

FOUNDATION RUNNING COSTS

Combined Insurance	1096.36
Accountancy	2010.00
Maps	35.00
Website	295.32
Mountain Leadership Course	449.00
Board meeting costs	87.24

BURSARIES AWARDED

WSC2017	1400.00
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CONFERENCE EXPENDITURE in 17/18

WSC2017	37896.19
WWS2018	18786.50

ADVANCED EXPENDITURE

Deposit WSC2018	2500.00
Deposit WWS2019	1250.00

MISCELLANEOUS

65805.61

Reconciliation

Balances at 1 April 2017

WSC Current Account	5397.00
WWS Current Account	4953.00
HSBC Deposit Account	3272.00
United Trust Bank	10608.00

Surplus for Year

1653.64

BALANCE

Total

25883.64

Balances at 31 March 2018

WSC Current Account	5575.72
WWS Current Account	5172.12
HSBC Deposit Account	4470.01
United Trust Bank	10737.00

25954.85

NAMED FUNDS AS AT 31/03/18:

Restricted Funds *	4765
Operating Fund	10453
Reserve Fund (total of UTB account and secondary investment in COIF)	18011
Endowment Fund	57107

* restricted funds = bursary money and uninvested life subscriptions





Rydal Water, August 2017



St Mary's, Wreay, February 2018