

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation announces  
**The Wordsworth Summer Conference, 2023**

**Monday 7 August to Thursday 17 August**

**Rydal Hall, Cumbria**

**Call for Papers and Bursary Applications**



*View from Fairfield showing (l to r) Windermere, Esthwaite Water, Loughrigg Tarn, Conistone Water, Grasmere. Photo: Sharon Tai*

**AMANDA BLAKE DAVIS   ELIZA HAUGHTON-SHAW**  
**ERICA McALPINE   FRANCESCA MACKENNEY**  
**FREYA JOHNSTON   JEFF COWTON**  
**JILL HEYDT-STEVENSON   KELVIN EVEREST**  
**MICHAEL GAMER   PAUL WESTOVER**  
**SEAMUS PERRY   TOM DUGGETT**

**Wordsworth Conference Foundation Website**

<https://www.wordsworthconferences.org.uk/>

The 2023 Wordsworth Summer Conference at elegant Rydal Hall will be the 51<sup>st</sup> since Richard Wordsworth's inaugural conference gathering in 1970. This year we continue the format pioneered by Richard, mingling lectures, papers and lively academic debate with fell walking, picturesque rambles, and excursions to places of Wordsworthian and Romantic interest. Upper and Lower Rydal Falls are within the grounds of the Hall, and Rydal Mount—Wordsworth's home from 1813 until 1850—is a two-minute walk away.

By courtesy of the Wordsworth Trust, our opening night will include a candlelight visit to Dove Cottage. There will be a separate opportunity to explore the treasures of the Wordsworth Trust's collections with the curator Jeff Cowton, and Part 2 will open with a visit to Wordsworth's Rydal Mount and garden. As in 2023, we will aim to continue our local focus for walks, climbs and excursions.

Visit the Summer Conference Blog: [wordsworthsummerconference.wordpress.com](https://wordsworthsummerconference.wordpress.com)

### **FORMAT AND COSTS**

The Conference is in two parts of 5 days each, with a changeover day on Saturday 12 August when those

participating in both parts of the conference enjoy an all-day fell walk or excursion. The **registration fee** for residents, which includes excursions, offers exceptional value at £341 for ten days and £253 for five days (£278 and £307 for Foundation Members/Friends). There is a 5% early bird discount on registrations made before noon on 1 June (UK time). All resident participants will take all meals at Rydal Hall.

For full details of resident and non-resident rates, our terms and conditions, galleries of past conferences, and a registration page please visit the Foundation website: <https://www.wordsworthconferences.org.uk>

## ACCOMMODATION

Enquiries about accommodation should be e-mailed to the Conference Administrator, Kate Marriott, at

[wordsworthsummerconference@gmail.com](mailto:wordsworthsummerconference@gmail.com)

### Regular Participants:

Full Board is available at Rydal Hall Diocesan Conference Centre at prices from £1221 for ten nights and from £594 for five nights. At the adjacent Rydal Hall Youth Centre we have accommodation from £616 for ten nights and £319 for five nights.

### Youth Centre Bursaries for the 2023 Wordsworth Summer Conference:

Twelve Youth Centre Bursaries of £400 are available for the 2023 conference.

5 Richard Wordsworth Bursaries for Postgraduate or Postdoctoral applicants working in English or Anglo-American Romanticism

5 Ena Wordsworth Bursaries for students working on William or Dorothy Wordsworth or in the Field of English Romanticism

1 Jonathan Wordsworth Bursary and 1 William Knight Bursary for Postgraduate students working on William Wordsworth or in the Field of English Romanticism

These bursaries are intended to enable young scholars, principally at postgraduate and early post-doctoral level, to enjoy ten active and stimulating days in the unique environment of Rydal and Grasmere, for about half the cost of the event. Please bring this announcement to the attention of qualifying applicants.

Holders of bursaries will be so designated on the list of participants or the conference programme. The bursary will be applied in the first instance to conference fees, and the balance to accommodation in the new Rydal Hall Youth Centre.

Youth Centre Bursars are expected to be resident during the conference in the Rydal Hall Youth Centre and to attend all lectures, papers, and conference events: acceptance of a Bursary implies your undertaking to do so. Please note that by applying for a Youth Centre Bursary, you have indicated your agreement to be accommodated in the Youth Centre for the full period of the Summer Conference. **It is not possible for Bursars to be accommodated in Rydal Hall.**





*Rydal Hall from the garden. Photo: Sharon Tai*

## Call for Papers

We invite proposals for twenty-minute papers on all aspects of William Wordsworth, his contemporaries and the Romantic period. Papers that identify a bicentenary theme, 1823–2023, will be welcomed but this is not intended as an exclusive requirement. Please note that participants presenting papers must attend as full participants for either Part 1 or Part 2, or the whole ten-day conference.

Papers should not be longer than 2750 words.

All proposals for papers, bursary applications (and references, if applicable) should be emailed by 25 April 2023 to

[proposal.wsc@gmail.com](mailto:proposal.wsc@gmail.com)

### Regular participants:

200-word proposals for papers of no more than 2750 words, together with a brief autobiographical paragraph, unformatted, should occupy no more than 1 side of A4 in MS Word format. Please remember to include your name, institution and e-mail address on the abstract. Please do not send proposals as a PDF file as they will be copied into a composite MS Word document.

### Bursary applicants:

Your application should be in the form of a Word attachment (not PDF) containing a paper proposal of 300 words, together with a short unformatted cv in the same file, the entire application being not more than two sides of A4 (the file will be copied and pasted into a composite file, so please avoid elaborate formatting). **Applicants should also arrange for a short letter of academic recommendation to be sent independently to the same email address (see above) verifying the applicant's academic status and country of residence.** Candidates need not specify which bursary they are applying for. They will automatically be considered for any bursary for which they are eligible. **\*\*Please be sure to identify your**



e-mail as 'BURSARY APPLICATION'\*\*.

Please note that we may award a bursary without having space to include the proposed paper on the conference programme: such papers may, however, be 'taken as read', that is, made available in print form at the conference, if the proposer so chooses.

**Remember: paper proposals, bursary applications and references should be submitted by 25 April 2023 to [proposal.wsc@gmail.com](mailto:proposal.wsc@gmail.com).**



*Giant Redwood Tree in Rydal Hall grounds with Nab Scar in the background. Photo: Richard Grivil*





*The descent from Grizedale Tarn to Grasmere. Photo: Sharon Tai.*

**Nicholas Roe, Conference Director**  
**Inês Rosa, Postgraduate Representative**  
**Kate Marriott, Conference Administrator**

**On behalf of the Trustee Board of the Wordsworth Conference Foundation.**

**The Wordsworth Conference Foundation is a UK registered charity, number 1124319**