

The Wordsworth Conference Foundation announces  
**The Wordsworth Summer Conference, 2024**

**Monday 5 August to Thursday 15 August**

**Rydal Hall, Cumbria**

**Call for Papers and Bursary Applications**



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

**Confirmed speakers**

Thora Brylowe	Jessica Fay	Katie Garner
Stephen Gill	Bruce Graver	
Samantha Harvey	Sarah Houghton-Walker	
Maureen McLane	Charles Mahoney	
Nick Mason	Rob Morrison	
Judy Page	Jake Risinger	
Phil Shaw	Amelia Worsley	

**Wordsworth Conference Foundation Website**

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

The 2024 Wordsworth Summer Conference at elegant Rydal Hall will be the 52nd 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, music, painting, and poetry 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. As in previous years 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 10 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 £265 for five days and £380 for ten days (£239 and £342 for Foundation Members/Friends). All resident participants will take all meals at Rydal Hall. These figures replace any previously issued.

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 £540 for five nights to £1220 for ten nights. At the adjacent Rydal Hall Youth Centre we have accommodation from £335 for five nights to £630 for ten nights. These figures replace any previously issued.

### Youth Centre Bursaries for the 2024 Wordsworth Summer Conference:

Twelve Youth Centre Bursaries at £450 each are available for the full ten-day 2024 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, 1824–2024, 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 12 noon (UK time) on Monday 29 April 2024 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 200 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 message 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 12 noon (UK time) Monday 29 April 2024 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**  
**Jake Phipps Assistant Director**  
**Paul Whickman Fell Climbs**  
**Inês Rosa Postgraduate Representative**  
**Kate Marriott Conference Administrator**  
**Patty O'Boyle Treasurer**

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

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