

# Leave a legacy

*Sharing Inspiration from the past, for the future*



REGISTERED CHARITY 1066184

[www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk)



## Wordsworth and the Lake District

The Wordsworth Trust is one of the Lake District's great heritage attractions. Tens of thousands of people from all over the world visit Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum every year, and thousands more make the journey to the historic hamlet of Town End that surrounds Wordsworth's home.

Dove Cottage is at the centre of this internationally renowned site within the Lake District National Park. Around it are some 22 properties also in the care of the Wordsworth Trust, where many of our staff work and live.

A gift in your will would enable us to continue to conserve and protect the unspoilt appearance of the landscape that Wordsworth loved, and give our visitors a sense of how Town End would have been in his day.

*'Life is divided into three terms – that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present to live better in the future.'*

**William Wordsworth**



## Making your Will

When making a new will or amending a current will, it is always best to consult a solicitor. He or she will be able to advise you and answer any questions. You might also want to make sure that your immediate family are aware of your intentions.

Inheritance Tax liabilities can significantly reduce the value of your estate after death. Bequests made to the Wordsworth Trust are covered by the Charitable Donations Exemption and are not subject to Inheritance Tax.

### Ways you can give

- *A Pecuniary bequest*  
This is a gift of a specific amount.
- *A Residuary bequest*  
This is a gift of a percentage of the remainder of your estate.
- *A gift of an object or work of art.*

## The Next Step

If you are considering leaving a legacy to the Wordsworth Trust in your will, please let us know. Any information will be treated as confidential and is not binding.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

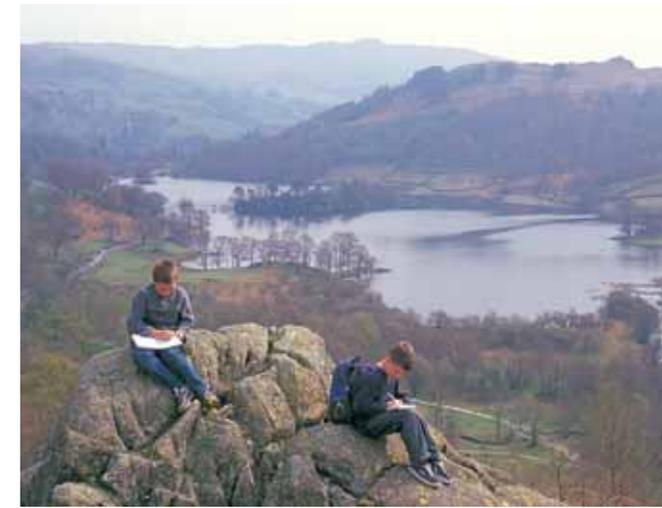
I have already left a gift to the Wordsworth Trust in my will

Please send me more information

Please contact me for an informal discussion

Please detach this form and return it to:  
The Development Office, The Wordsworth Trust,  
Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9SH.

Alternatively, contact Mark Bains, Development  
Manager. Telephone: 015394 63515.  
Email: [m.bains@wordsworth.org.uk](mailto:m.bains@wordsworth.org.uk).



The Wordsworth Trust is a living memorial to the life and poetry of William Wordsworth and his contemporaries. It is a registered charity and was founded in 1891 ‘for the eternal possession of those who love English poetry all over the world’.

Legacies have been crucial to the Wordsworth Trust, and have helped us to create, in the words of the *Spectator*, ‘the finest literary museum in the world.’ People of all ages benefit from our award-winning educational activities, and we have established an international reputation for our work. Through our commitment to contemporary writers and artists, we link the creativity of the past with that of the present. Please consider us in your will, so that we can continue this vital work for the benefit of future generations.

*Michael McGregor*

Michael McGregor,  
The Robert Woof Director

## Inspired by the Past

William Wordsworth (1770–1850) produced some of the greatest literary masterpieces in the English language. A legacy was important in fostering Wordsworth’s development as a poet; it was a gift from his late friend Raisley Calvert that secured his financial future, enabling him wholly to devote himself to poetry.

It is thanks to the bequest of the Wordsworth family archive made in 1935 by Gordon Graham Wordsworth, the poet’s grandson, that our collection is of such importance. In addition to manuscripts of Wordsworth’s greatest poems, the archive includes the correspondence and diaries of Wordsworth’s family and friends, including his sister Dorothy’s famous journals.

More recent legacies have enabled us to achieve things that it would otherwise have been very difficult for us to afford. Mrs Marion Nightingale left one sixth of her net estate to the Wordsworth Trust: a tremendous gift that enabled us, for example, to carry out major improvements to some of our historic properties. Miss Phoebe Johnson left a financial legacy, which went towards the preservation and enhancement of the collection, as well as several important scrapbooks of Grasmere history. Your gift, of any size, could also help us to make new acquisitions, conserve works of great importance for future generations, or support the preservation of the historic hamlet of Town End.

## Inspiring the Future – the Collection

The Wordsworth Trust holds and conserves one of the world’s great literary collections, including more than 90% of Wordsworth’s manuscripts, most of which were written at Dove Cottage. Nowhere else can such a significant quantity of a great writer’s original work be seen in the very place where it was created.

Our collection of over 60,000 books, manuscripts and works of art was amongst the first to be given the government’s ‘Designation’ status for its national and international importance. As well as the Wordsworth archive, we hold important material and works of art relating to many of the great writers and artists of the Romantic period such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, Lord Byron, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable.

The Jerwood Centre houses our collection in secure and environmentally controlled conditions, and has a specially designed reading room for use by everyone with an interest in the period. The Centre is a valuable resource for those studying the collection, and will enable continuing research into Wordsworth and the Romantics in the future.

*‘The Jerwood Centre will further establish Grasmere as the Global Centre for Wordsworth studies and for the study of British Romanticism in general.’*

Seamus Heaney, June 2005

## Learning and Enjoyment

We contribute to people’s learning and understanding at every stage of life and enable as many people as possible from all backgrounds to enjoy the poetry of Wordsworth, his contemporaries and the writers of today.

Our education team works with children and adults to encourage creativity and a love of reading and writing. Educational workshops are run to complement some of our special exhibitions. For example during the exhibition *Telling our own Story*, which explored the lives of women in the Wordsworth circle, we created a session based on letter-writing where children were encouraged to think about life in the past and then produce a letter in the style of, and using the materials that would have been available in, Regency times.

The Wordsworth Trust has an internationally established programme of poetry readings and free talks for anyone with an interest in literature and art. A gift in your will could help us to continue to inspire people of all ages.

*... youthful Poets, who among these Hills  
Will be my second self when I am gone*

William Wordsworth, ‘Michael’, 1800