

'Reimagining Wordsworth'

Brief for Moss Hut 2020 Project Coordinator

In March 2018, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Wordsworth Trust a delivery grant of £4.1 million which, combined with funding from other individuals and institutions, puts us on course to make profound and exciting changes to our site and activities in time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Wordsworth's birth in 2020. The project will revitalise our site and will include conserving Dove Cottage and reinterpreting its interiors, expanding the Wordsworth Museum and creating a new learning centre, café and retail experience.

'Reimagining Wordsworth' aims to encourage more people, from a more diverse range of backgrounds, to participate in and be inspired by our literary and cultural heritage. Our objectives from the project are to realise the full potential of the Wordsworth Trust's heritage to provide lasting, life-changing experiences, to reach a larger and more diverse range of audiences and to create a more financially and environmentally sustainable organisation.

As part of the project's activity plan, the Wordsworth Trust will be launching a mass outreach and engagement project at an international level - 'Moss Hut 2020' - inspired by the moss hut that William and Dorothy Wordsworth created in the garden above Dove Cottage. The project will encourage organisations, schools and businesses to join in celebrating Wordsworth's 250th birthday on 7th April 2020 by creating their own moss huts as havens for creativity and aids to health and wellbeing. The Wordsworth Trust is looking to appoint a Project Coordinator to manage and develop engagement with the project, make connections across the UK and beyond and ensure that the Moss Hut 2020 project successfully meets its stated outcomes.

1. The Wordsworths' Moss Hut

On a tour of Scotland in 1803 Dorothy and William Wordsworth encountered a traditional 'fog house' on the banks of the River Clyde, a circular, domed hut lined with mosses resembling 'a haystack scooped out'. On returning to Dove Cottage they began to lay plans for building a moss hut of their own at the top of the orchard garden above the cottage and by autumn 1804 they had built a 'little circular hut lined with moss like a wren's nest'. The hut became the Wordsworths' refuge out of doors, away from the busy cottage, a place 'to retire to for quietness on warm days' and a pleasure-house for taking tea with friends and visitors in the summer. The hut faced west to catch the afternoon sun with a seat running around the inside and views out of a wide opening across Grasmere to the fells beyond. Dorothy recorded that 'in truth I think it is the sweetest place on Earth'.

The Moss Hut 2020 project aims to celebrate the importance of this space in the creative lives of the Wordsworths and inspire new generations to create their own spaces for wellbeing, creativity and connection with others.

2. Required Outcomes

The Moss Hut 2020 Project will support the wider aims of 'Reimagining Wordsworth' through two phases:

1. From April 2019 the Project Coordinator will manage the brief for and procurement of an artist or creative practitioner, as well as small cohort of volunteers, who they will work alongside to design and create a portable replica of the Wordsworths' moss hut. The Project Coordinator will make connections with schools, workplaces and communities to generate interest from groups in creating their own moss huts, based on the artist's moss hut. This phase of the project will culminate in the revealing of the artist's hut at Dove Cottage in Grasmere to coincide with the celebrations of Wordsworth's 250th birthday in April 2020.
2. In the second year of the project, the Project Coordinator will launch the mass-engagement element, developing connections across the UK and beyond to encourage engagement, culminating in a mass reveal of moss huts and the creative work they have inspired. They will also take the portable moss hut 'on the road', with support from Wordsworth Trust volunteers, providing a base for engagement activities at community events across Cumbria, developing a high-profile presence and raising awareness of the work of the Wordsworth Trust.

Success will be measured against stated HLF outcomes that:

- People will develop skills, have enjoyable experiences and learn about their heritage.
- More people and a wider range of people will engage with heritage.
- New volunteer roles will be created and volunteers recruited.

3. Tasks to be undertaken

- Undertake briefing session with key Wordsworth Trust staff members.
- Create action plan for delivery of the Moss Hut 2020 Project.
- Commission artist or creative practitioner to create a prototype portable moss hut, ensuring that it is fit for purpose.
- Provide programme to build contacts with 30 community groups and 80 organisations, including schools, and encourage active participation in the project through creation of their own moss huts.
- Take portable moss hut to least 3 festivals and events around the county in 2020, working with Wordsworth Trust volunteers.
- Working with the Wordsworth Trust's Marketing team, promote the Moss Hut 2020 project to ensure widespread coverage around the April 2020 anniversary and through to March 2021.
- Set guidelines for the parameters of the Moss Hut designs, to ensure consistency across participating groups and organisations.



4. Selection process

Written applications will be assessed against the following key criteria:

- Track record and experience of working on similar heritage or arts projects.
- Response to the specific requirements of the brief.
- Proposed methodology.
- Proposed budget.
- Capacity, including the provision of back-up in the event of illness or other circumstances.

5. Timetable

The deadline for applications is Thursday 14th March 2019.

Interviews will be held on Monday 25th March 2019.

The project will commence in April 2019, with deadlines for delivering on the key outcomes by March 2021.

Please send completed written applications to:

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Tel: 015394 63523

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