

# What's On



## Dove Cottage

October 2019 - March 2020

‘What pensive beauty autumn shows,  
Before she hears the sound  
Of winter rushing in, to close  
The emblematic round!’

From ‘Thoughts on the Seasons’ by William Wordsworth

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# WELCOME

## ‘This programme takes us into the year of Wordsworth’s 250th birthday’

Welcome to the programme for 2019-20. For the first time, we shall enjoy events in our new Café and Learning Space which are part of the Reimagining Wordsworth redevelopment project here in Grasmere.

Join us for seasonal refreshments in the Café and informal talks led by our staff and trainees, each on a different topic connected to the Wordsworths: food, ferries, the French Revolution, bookbinding and more. The Learning Space will host two workshops on hedgerow herbs and yuletide traditions (Lesley Hoyle), as well as printmaking (Kim Tillyer) and family yoga (Lakes Yoga). Poet Kim Moore will lead our National Poetry Day celebration, and Polly Atkin will again lead her very popular ‘Discover Poetry’ series. The regular writing group, Dove Cottage Poets, will also now meet in the Learning Space. During the half-term holidays families can take part in fun activities exploring poetry and the outdoors, both here at Dove Cottage and at Brockhole on Windermere.

We shall still enjoy the book-lined walls of the Jerwood Centre Reading Room for our main talk series.

Topics include health issues that affected the Wordsworth family, the women of the local linen industry, a radical look at Mary Shelley’s novel *Frankenstein*, and an afternoon enjoying books, manuscripts and pictures relating to the discovery of the Lake District 200 years ago. Pamela Woof will deliver her fourth and final season of workshops studying Wordsworth’s greatest poem, *The Prelude*. Grasmere History Group will continue to meet monthly here too.

We will soon be announcing the three poets who will be joining us for month-long residencies – and there will be opportunities to hear them read their poetry aloud, as well as to follow their journeys and discoveries on our social media accounts. We will also be hosting the Poetry Business for their International Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners’ Reading, as well as a poetry-writing workshop.

This programme takes us into the year of Wordsworth’s 250th birthday – the year in which the conserved and reinterpreted Dove Cottage and the new Museum open. 2019-20 is a great time to visit us and enjoy this unique period of change.

Jeff Cowton, Curator & Head of Learning

# TALKS

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## FROM THE CHARNEL-HOUSE TO THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT – IT'S FRANKEN TIME!

Thursday 31 October  
7.30-8.30pm  
Jerwood Centre | £5

Few books have captivated humanity's imagination to the degree of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

This talk by Richard Stanton begins with the 1818 text before getting elbow-deep in the viscera of the most imaginative and funny re-interpretations of this visionary work. We'll join Robocop in a future Detroit, see the creature's rebirth in post-war Iraq, and ask what the modern Prometheus means in the modern age. Come along for a bloody good time.

\*Due to the nature of the material, this talk is not suitable for children.

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## 'A CREATURE DOOMED TO DESPAIR': ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND FEELING WITH SARA COLERIDGE

Saturday 2 November  
2.30-3.30pm  
Jerwood Centre | £5

Sara Coleridge, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's only daughter, spent her adult life negotiating the complexities brought about by what she called her 'nervousness'. Today, we'd call it depression.

She advised herself that it was 'better not to look this way', but she also found immense creative richness in the complex nature of her own mental health.

In this talk, Dr Jo Taylor (University of Manchester) will introduce some of Sara's most moving works, and use them to explore how anxiety and depression can be – sometimes simultaneously – a personal curse and a creative blessing.

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## ANNUAL LONDON LECTURE: 'VITAL STREAM': LOVE AND CREATIVITY IN THE WORDSWORTH CIRCLE, 1802

Wednesday 20 November  
6.00-7.00pm, followed by a drinks reception  
Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU | Free

1802 was an extraordinary year in the Wordsworth circle. William and Dorothy were writing some of their most beautiful poetry and prose, while Coleridge's marriage was in a state of near collapse.

Drawing on detailed knowledge of letters, poems, notebooks and journals, Professor Lucy Newlyn's (University of Oxford) new book *Vital Stream* explores their thoughts and feelings about love, family bonds, friendship and creativity at this time. In this lecture, she will read from her collection and describe how she has re-told a famous love story for a modern audience, in sonnet-form.

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## POETRY AND BLINDNESS

Saturday 23 November  
2.30-3.30pm  
Jerwood Centre | £5

Often blindness in poetry is used for its symbolic value, where a blind character can suggest spiritual insight or inner creativity.

In this talk Professor Michael Bradshaw (University of Worcester) takes a different approach, drawing upon the real experience of visual impairment, and looks afresh at the lives and writings of Ann Batten Cristall, William Wordsworth and other Romantic-era writers.

He also explores the themes of blindness and sight, and the experience of non- and partially sighted characters.

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## A HANDMADE TALE: THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT AND THE WOMEN OF THE LANGDALE LINEN INDUSTRY

Saturday 14 December  
2.30-3.30pm  
Jerwood Centre | £5

John Ruskin, an artist, critic and social reformer, created the Langdale linen industry and saw it as one of his finest achievements.

Women who had no previous experience of hand-spinning or weaving were taught to do both, proving that handmade linen could compete with mass-produced and that women could find fulfilling and creative roles in the world of work.

Penelope Hemingway, author of *Their Darkest Materials* (2019), goes in search of the women who created and drove the Langdale linen industry's success and will demonstrate handspinning flax (linen).

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## AN AFTERNOON WITH GRASMERE HISTORY GROUP

Saturday 4 January  
2.30-3.30pm  
Jerwood Centre | Free

It has become an annual tradition to spend the first Saturday afternoon of the year with Grasmere History Group, reviewing and celebrating the research and discoveries made by the group in the previous year.

The group will share stories and findings from 'Grasmere's History in 50 Buildings', their extensive year-long project, which the group intends to publish as a book.

# WORKSHOPS

Immerse yourself in a traditional craft at one of our workshops, and let nature be your teacher.

Explore the woods and gardens around Dove Cottage and learn to identify and work with plants; be inspired by the natural world; and most importantly – have fun!

All of our workshops include the materials that you will need for the day.



‘Wm pulled ivy with  
beautiful berries –  
I put it over the  
chimney piece’

Dorothy Wordsworth, Grasmere journal,  
12 May 1802

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## HEDGEROW HERBALIST

Saturday 9 November  
2.00-5.00pm  
Learning Space | £30

Find the beauty in winter and explore the myriad ways seasonal berries, lichen and roots can be used to maintain wellbeing and treat specific conditions, as well as simply for the pleasure of using them. You will learn how to identify these plants in their natural habitats, as well as create your own items to take home. This workshop is led by local herbalist Lesley Hoyle, owner of Windermere-based business Sophiology, and includes seasonal light refreshments.

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## YULETIDE TRADITIONS

Wednesday 11 December  
6.30-9.30pm  
Learning Space | £30

Explore the yuletide traditions and rituals connected to the abundance of seasonal plants that can be found in Dove Cottage garden and the surrounding woodland, and create aromatic and decorative items to take home with you! You will also receive a booklet of instructions, templates and herbal traditions that you can try for yourself at home. This workshop is led by Lesley Hoyle, and includes a vegetarian buffet supper.

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## PRINTING WITH LIGHT

Saturday 14 March  
10.00am-4.00pm  
Learning Space | £60

Discover the printmaking technique of cyanotype, popular as an early method of making botanical studies, which uses sunlight to create ethereal images in shades of blue and white. You will learn about the process and how it can be applied to paper or fabrics, creating your own 'photograms' of plants and objects collected on a guided walk around the gardens and woodland surrounding Dove Cottage. This workshop is led by local artist Kim Tillyer, who often uses cyanotype, as well as hand embroidery, in her own work. Lunch and light refreshments are included.

**'The Lychens are now coming out  
afresh, I carried home a collection  
in the afternoon.'**

Dorothy Wordsworth, Grasmere journal,  
2 October 1800

DISCOVERING THE  
**LAKE DISTRICT  
200 YEARS AGO**

THE JONATHAN WORDSWORTH  
MEMORIAL LECTURE IN THREE PARTS

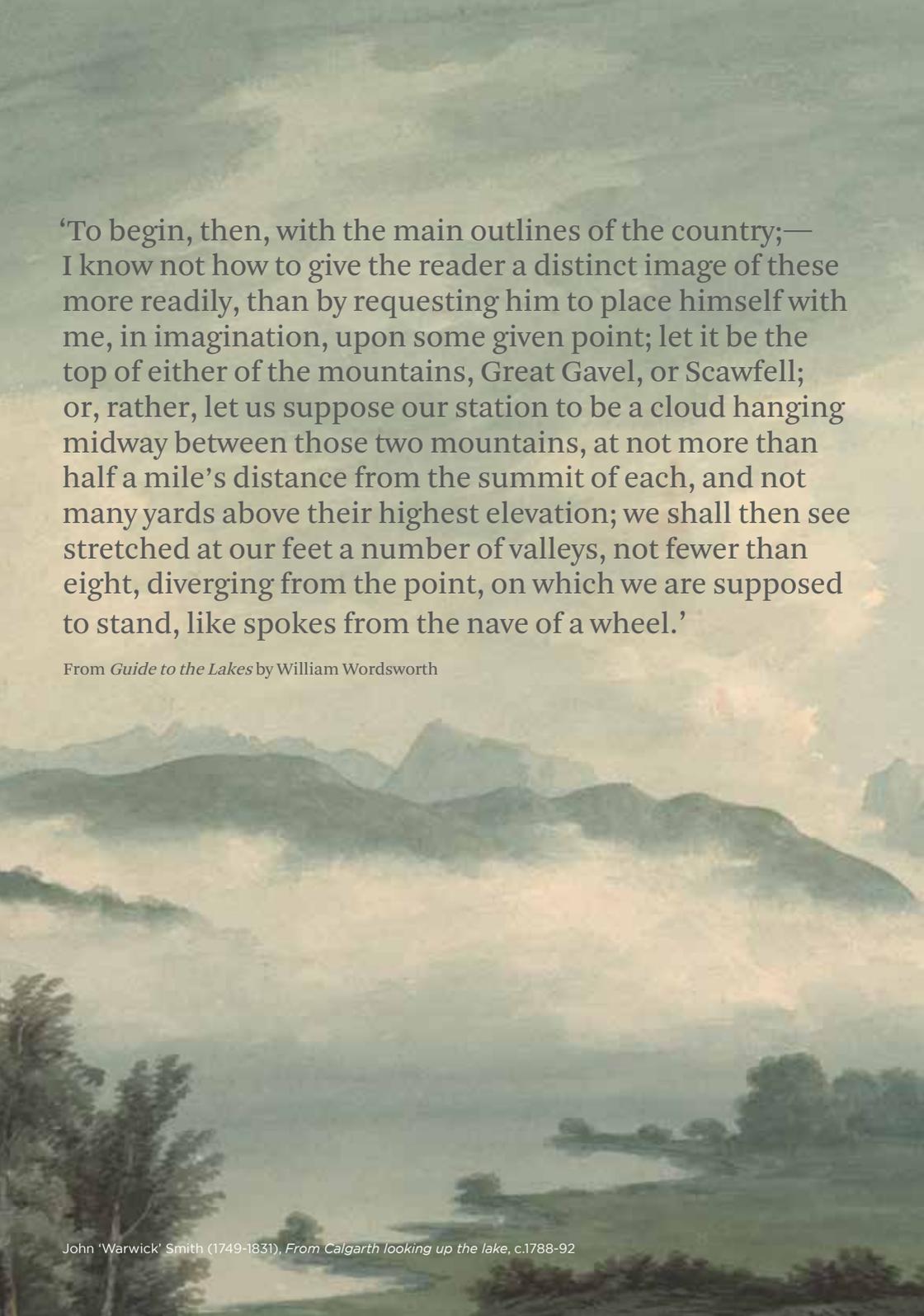
Saturday 15 February

2.15-4.45pm, including a break for tea and coffee  
£5 (free to Wordsworth Winter School participants)

Were visitors to the Lakes just ‘gentlemen in search of the picturesque’? Tony Mehew discusses Peter Bicknell’s *The Picturesque Scenery of the Lake District, 1752-1855* (1990), the standard bibliography for books and prints, and revisits the material, geographical area and writers that Bicknell explored in his classic work.

This autumn the Wordsworth Trust will publish an illustrated edition of the essay that became Wordsworth’s celebrated *Guide to the Lakes*. Dr Cecilia Powell talks about the challenges and joys of finding images from the Trust’s own outstanding fine art collection to match the grandeur of his prose.

The Reverend John Pering, a Yorkshire clergyman, recorded his 1808 tour of the Lakes in a journal now held by the Wordsworth Trust. David Turner outlines Pering’s fascinating tour and explores key moments and stops in his journey, including a visit to the Wordsworths only weeks after they had moved to Allan Bank.

The background is a Romantic-style landscape painting. It depicts a vast mountain range with a prominent, sharp peak in the center. The foreground shows a valley with a lake, surrounded by trees and rolling hills. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly hazy day. The overall color palette is dominated by greens, blues, and whites, with a soft, atmospheric quality.

‘To begin, then, with the main outlines of the country;— I know not how to give the reader a distinct image of these more readily, than by requesting him to place himself with me, in imagination, upon some given point; let it be the top of either of the mountains, Great Gavel, or Scawfell; or, rather, let us suppose our station to be a cloud hanging midway between those two mountains, at not more than half a mile’s distance from the summit of each, and not many yards above their highest elevation; we shall then see stretched at our feet a number of valleys, not fewer than eight, diverging from the point, on which we are supposed to stand, like spokes from the nave of a wheel.’

From *Guide to the Lakes* by William Wordsworth

# WINTERTIDE REFLECTIONS

Tuesdays 5 November-17 December

3.30-4.30pm | Café | £7

As the nights draw in and the days grow colder, it is the time of year to use the winter as the Romantics did - to read, to learn, and to share stories in good company.

Pull up a chair in our new Café and enjoy a short informal talk on a topic connected to the Wordsworths - all with a hot drink and a seasonal bake close to hand, and led by our knowledgeable staff and trainees!



# DISCOVER MORE ABOUT...

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## WORDSWORTH AND THE GRASMERE VOLUNTEERS

3 December

Why did Wordsworth enlist in the Grasmere Volunteers during the Napoleonic Wars – and what was being a volunteer like?

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## THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SARA COLERIDGE

5 November

What did Dorothy Wordsworth write about Sara Coleridge (wife of Samuel Taylor Coleridge) in her letters, and why was she so critical of her?

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## THE ROMANTICS AND ANCIENT ART

19 November

How did the eighteenth-century vogue for collecting antiquities inspire Romantic poets and artists?

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## WORDSWORTH AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

10 December

In France at the heart of the Revolution, how did Wordsworth's experiences affect his life, politics and poetry?

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## THE WORDSWORTHS AND FOOD

12 November

What does our manuscript collection, and the work of food historian Peter Brears, tell us about the recipes that the Wordsworths used and the food that they bought?

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## THE WORDSWORTHS AND WINDERMERE FERRY

26 November

Wordsworth frequently used the ferry as a schoolboy and a young man – what stories does it have to tell, and how has it changed over the centuries?

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## THE WOMEN WHO CREATED THE COTTONIAN LIBRARIES

17 December

Wordsworth and Robert Southey owned books bound in beautiful cottons, their 'Cottonian' libraries. Who were the members of their families that fashioned them, and was Mary Wordsworth one of them?

## LITERATURE CLASSES

# FINISHING THE PRELUDE

Wednesdays 2 October, 30 October, 27 November, 18 December,  
15 January, 5 February, 4 March, 1 April

2.15-4.00pm | Jerwood Centre | £10 each or £70 for a season ticket (8 classes)

We are delighted that Pamela Woof, former President of the Wordsworth Trust, is to continue her wonderful literature classes on Wordsworth's great autobiographical masterpiece *The Prelude* for a fourth year. In her own words:

'How was Wordsworth to finish his epic, the journey through his own experience? Written in 1804, Book X was already too long. Yet the poem had to reach an ending, and that ending must be positive. Homer, Virgil, Dante and Milton had resolved the crises of their poems: the Greeks had conquered Troy; Odysseus had got back to Ithaca; Aeneas did establish Rome; Dante, after pains of the *Inferno* and trials of *Purgatory*, entered *Paradise*; Adam and Eve, repenting disobedience, learnt of redemption.

But Wordsworth's crisis had no similar resolution. His poem's events were real, unfinished business witnessed by himself; thoughts and feelings about England and France during the most violent political revolution Europe had known. The war succeeding this would go on till 1815.

It meant that there is more than one narrative line in Book X: the terrible events themselves, the killings and the blood; the elation and euphoria of the young Wordsworth aged 20 who had been in France in 1790; the innocent, thoughtful discussions that he had in Blois in 1792; his helpless despair at the Terror; the magnitude of this failure to change society; England's part in the drama; and the considered views of the mature man of 34 looking back.

Complicated facts overlap in the poem with ever-changing feelings. The perspective of time and associations brings up images from boyhood and from Wordsworth's reading; the past is not safely past – it mingles with the present and affects the future.

Altogether, Book X presents a rich insight into a mobile and sensitive mind, the mind of a poet – the essential subject, after all, of *The Prelude*.

We begin with some further consideration of Book X and move on to Wordsworth's brilliant and unique resolution of the poem's crisis in his last three books, ending with Coleridge's reaction to the entire unpublished poem.'

Newcomers are welcome, and copies of *The Prelude* 1805 will be provided.

With roar of cannon, and a numerous host  
Scorpid (a blank and empty area then).  
The Square of the Carriest few weeks had  
Heap'd up with dead and dying upon these  
And still rights looking as death a man  
Upon a volume whose contents he knew  
The memorable, but from him lock'd up  
Being written in a tongue he could not read  
So that he questions the mute <sup>and</sup> over with pain  
And half upbraids their silence. But that night  
When on my bed I lay, I was most mov'd  
And felt most deeply in what world I was;  
My room was high and lonely, near the roof  
Of a large Garrison or Hotel, a spot  
That would have pleas'd me in more quiet times  
Nor was it wholly without pleasure then.  
With unextinguish'd tapers I kept watch  
Reading at intervals, the fear gone by  
Prep'd on me almost like a fear to come,  
I thought of those September Massacres,  
Divided from me by a little month  
And felt and touch'd them a substantial creature

# POETRY PARTY FOR NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Thursday 3 October

7.30-9.30pm | Learning Space | £5

Come and join our Poetry Party and celebrate National Poetry Day at the Wordsworth Trust. The theme for this year is 'Truth' and our guest poet will be Ruby Robinson.

Ruby's debut collection *Every Little Sound* was published in 2016 by Pavilion Poetry. Colette Bryce wrote that 'The most vital poetry is fuelled by truth, even when it may expose us to the source of pain.'

Ruby Robinson's poems enact this risk with great skill, reaffirming the power of the art'.

There will also be an open mic session during the evening – sign up on the door to read your own poems or a favourite poem by someone else that explores the theme of truth.

**'Poetry is the spontaneous overflow  
of powerful feelings: it takes its origin  
from emotion recollected in tranquillity'**

From 'Preface', *Lyrical Ballads, with other Poems*, 1800, by William Wordsworth

# THE POETRY BUSINESS

Saturday 1 February

Jerwood Centre | Writing Workshop, 12.00-1.30pm, £15 | Poetry Reading, 2.00-3.30pm, Free

The annual Poetry Business International Book & Pamphlet Competition has launched the careers of many successful poets. The four 2019 winners, chosen by Neil Astley of Bloodaxe Books, Michael Schmidt of Carcanet and Amy Wack from Seren, will read a selection of their work in the beautiful setting of the Jerwood Centre

Reading Room. Beforehand, there is also an opportunity to take part in a writing workshop with Ann and Peter Sansom, 'the best poetry teachers in the world' (*The Guardian*). Just bring a notebook and a pen: all model poems and inspiration will be provided in this focussed but hugely enjoyable writing time.

# POETS IN RESIDENCE

Between November 2019 and March 2020 the Wordsworth Trust is hosting a series of month-long poetry residencies.

Each poet will have the opportunity to draw inspiration from our collection and the writers of the past, and at the end of their residencies they will each give a public reading.

Watch out for further announcements about the poets and dates of their residencies.

**'Rarely do we ever really get to talk to ourselves,  
but poetry allows you to do that.'**

Nick Makoha, former Poet in Residence, 2019

# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

## October Half-Term Holiday

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### OUTDOOR ECO-ART

Tuesday 22 October | 2.00-4.00pm  
Free | Dove Cottage garden

Come and join us in Dove Cottage garden and in the surrounding countryside with your family.

We'll take a journey in the outdoors and look for natural materials that we can turn into art. This is the time to be creative together, to make some art and write some poetry.

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### RUCKSACK OF RHYMES: AUTUMN

Wednesday 23 October | 10.30-11.30am  
Free | Brockhole on Windermere

William and Dorothy loved nature and the changing seasons. Explore some of their poems and words through songs, actions and crafts this autumn time.

Suitable for children aged 0-5 years.

## February Half-Term Holiday

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### FAMILY YOGA

Tuesday 18 February | 2.00-4.00pm  
Free | Learning Space

Revitalise your senses, stretch your muscles and bond with family members in our new Learning Space.

This guided yoga session is led by Carly Harding from Lakes Yoga and includes games, stories, partner poses and relaxation for adults and children aged 5-11 years.

There will be alternative play and craft activities for children under 5 years old with another member of staff in a room off the main space.

Suitable for families with children 0-11 years (maximum of 16 places available), pre-booking is advised.

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### RUCKSACK OF RHYMES: CELEBRATION

Wednesday 19 February | 10.30-11.30am  
Free | Brockhole on Windermere

It's nearly time for William Wordsworth's big birthday celebration! Join us in celebrating his birthday with songs, toys, actions and crafts.

Suitable for children aged 0-5 years.

# REGULAR GATHERINGS

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## GRASMERE HISTORY GROUP

Tuesdays 1 October, 5 November,  
3 December, 4 February, 3 March  
7.30-9.00pm | Jerwood Centre | Free

Grasmere History Group meets monthly to discuss matters of local history in a friendly, informal gathering. New members from near or far are very welcome and we are always looking to meet more people with fascinating stories to tell about Grasmere and the Lake District. Visit the Wordsworth Trust website closer to each meeting date to find out the special topic that we have in store for that month.

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## DOVE COTTAGE POETS

Thursdays 3 October, 7 November,  
5 December, 6 February, 5 March  
2.30-4.30pm | Learning Space | Free

Dove Cottage Poets is an informal poetry-writing group that meets on a monthly basis. Each month we either have a member-led session on a particular theme or technique, or bring new poems that we have discovered and enjoyed to share with each other. We also read and discuss new poems written by members of the group, so do bring extra copies of something you are working on if you would like to!

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## DISCOVER POETRY

Thursdays 17 October, 21 November,  
19 December, 20 February, 19 March  
7.30-9.00pm | Learning Space | Free

Do you like reading poetry, but never find the time? Would you like to read more, but don't know where to start? Would you like to talk about poetry with a friendly, open group? Join Grasmere poet Polly Atkin by the fire with a cup of tea and enjoy a selection of classic and contemporary poems chosen to reflect the changing seasons.





# ESSENTIALS

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## ACCESS

Site changes during 2019 and early 2020 mean that we have arranged 'temporary' access measures to the Jerwood Centre, and there will be level access to the ground floor of Dove Cottage only. Full details can be found on our website and these may change throughout the redevelopment of the site. Please contact us with any questions ahead of your visit.

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## EVENTS

Please note that a minimum number of participants is required for some events. Some events may be subject to change or cancellation. The Wordsworth Trust reserves the right to cancel events at short notice and to change admission charges advertised in this programme. Accompanying carers/personal assistants are admitted free of charge; please notify us when making a booking.

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## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE WORDSWORTH TRUST

Be the first to know what's on. To find out more about priority booking and other benefits of being a Friend visit our website or call us on 015394 35544.

For more information or to book please visit our website  
[www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk) or call 015394 35544.  
We advise that you pre-book all events, even the free ones.

# DIARY

1 October	Grasmere History Group	3 December	Grasmere History Group
2 October	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>	5 December	Dove Cottage Poets
3 October	Dove Cottage Poets	10 December	Wordsworth and the French Revolution
3 October	Poetry Party for National Poetry Day	11 December	Yuletide Traditions
17 October	Discover Poetry	14 December	A Handmade Tale
22 October	Outdoor Eco-art	17 December	The Women Who Created the Cottonian Libraries
23 October	Rucksack of Rhymes: Autumn	18 December	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>
30 October	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>	19 December	Discover Poetry
31 October	From the Charnel-House to the Future of Law Enforcement - It's Franken Time!	4 January	An Afternoon with Grasmere History Group
2 November	Anxiety, Depression and Feeling with Sara Coleridge	15 January	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>
5 November	The Hidden Life of Sara Coleridge	1 February	The Poetry Business
5 November	Grasmere History Group	4 February	Grasmere History Group
7 November	Dove Cottage Poets	5 February	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>
9 November	Hedgerow Herbalist	6 February	Dove Cottage Poets
12 November	The Wordsworths and Food	15 February	Discovering the Lake District 200 Years Ago
19 November	The Romantics and Ancient Art	18 February	Family Yoga
20 November	Annual London Lecture	19 February	Rucksack of Rhymes: Celebration
21 November	Discover Poetry	20 February	Discover Poetry
23 November	Poetry and Blindness	3 March	Grasmere History Group
26 November	The Wordsworths and Windermere Ferry	4 March	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>
27 November	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>	5 March	Dove Cottage Poets
3 December	Wordsworth and the Grasmere Volunteers	14 March	Printing with Light
		19 March	Discover Poetry
		1 April	Finishing <i>The Prelude</i>

# INFO

As a result of our redevelopment project, Reimagining Wordsworth, there are some changes to what we are offering and what will be available when you visit in 2019 and early 2020. Please check our website before you visit to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information.

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## WHERE WE ARE

South of Grasmere village, on the A591 Kendal to Keswick road. Buses operate from Windermere and Keswick to Grasmere regularly throughout the year. If you are travelling by car, pay & display car parking is available.

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## BOOKINGS

For more information or to book please visit our website [www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk) or call 015394 35544.

We advise that you pre-book all events, even the free ones.

The Wordsworth Trust, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9SH  
015394 35544 | [enquiries@wordsworth.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wordsworth.org.uk) | [www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk)  
We are @WordsworthTrust on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you to our funders:



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