

Norman Nicholson Society
Schools and Community Liaison Officer
Annual Report 2023

This year has brought a welcome return to a number of activities which were restricted during the pandemic especially the return of the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's Church, Millom. This is a popular community event that the society has been involved with since it was first established over 10 years ago. Unfortunately we were not able to enjoy the participation of Dot Richardson this time who sadly passed away in September. This was one of Dot's favourite NNS events of the year and her enthusiasm and inspiration were missed. However the creative interpretation of our Poet Tree - which was a tree made entirely out of books which NN had written - was very well received and gained many positive comments.

I have been involved in creating an addition to the current NN Walking Trail App which will include a circular walk around Haverigg. This is still a work in progress but the content has been aided by help from the local community and NNS committee members and it will also include a section which involves children from Haverigg Primary School. The trail will hopefully be completed within the next few months.

At the end of March we will be welcoming to Millom the MA students from the University of Cumbria who are studying Romanticism and the English Lake District. The aim of this visit is to provide the students with the 'lived experience' that NN would have had during his lifetime in the town. We try to provide this through visits to locations where members of the NN committee read the appropriate poems linked to the places which inspired NN's writing. We also spend time in number 14 St George's Terrace where the students can experience NN reading his own poetry in the place where it was actually written.

I have helped the Duddon Valley Local History Society with providing suitable quotations and readings from NN's writing when they recently organised a walk around Seathwaite. The Newfield Inn at Seathwaite was one of NN's favourite place to go for a meal so it seemed appropriate that others should enjoy his work while being in the Duddon Valley.

During the year I have supported the Heritage Open Day event in September when number 14 was open to the public, the birthday event in January, and I am currently in discussions with the County Library staff in order to organise an official unveiling of NN's sculpture by Joan Palmer which has been found a new home because Millom Public Library has relocated to a new site at the Hub in Millom School.

Sue Dawson
Schools & Community Liaison Officer
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