

NNS Secretary's Annual Report, 2021-22

A summary of some of the Society's key events are listed below not otherwise covered in other committee Officers' reports.

Events cancelled 2021-22 due to on-going Covid restrictions

- Norman Nicholson Poetry classes at South Lakes Music Festival.
- Annual Christmas Tree Festival, St George's Church.

The following events were held:

The Christmas lunch went ahead at the Netherwood in December - thank you to Brian Whalley for hosting.

Laura gave an online talk for Cumbria Uni in September on NN's Sea to the West collection.

Norman Nicholson showcase: Wordsworth Trust's exhibition, Still Glides the Stream

This prestigious exhibition was initially due to coincide with Wordsworth's 250th Anniversary and the 200th Anniversary of the Duddon Sonnets postponed event in April 2020. However, the event opened in 2021 and Jeff Cowton, Principal Curator & Head of Learning, WWT was delighted with NNS display in WWT's first temporary exhibition, Still Glides the Stream, which has been their most successful exhibition to date. He said that it was, 'A perfect collaboration and a pleasure.'

Commemorative Event for Norman's Birthday: Saturday, January 8th 2021 (Online)

The event followed a similar format to the previous year. A number of committee members read their chosen Nicholson reading in reference to his lifelong home.

Summer event - The Norman Nicholson Society Festival 2021 (Online)

Another successful online Festival event was held featuring fascinating talks by Ken Cockburn (Scottish Poet), Jeff Cowton (Wordsworth Trust). Laura Day on her recent work on Nicholson's poem, 'Hard of Hearing' and Jack Threlfall Hartley's talk on the Norse background of Cumbria and Nicholson's Scandinavian connections. Charlie launched the NNS's online audio archive. Kathleen Jones gave an expert upsum at the end. We also had an evening of poetry by the poets from The Unpredicted Spring.

Autumn Event - Norman Nicholson's poem 'To the River Duddon' (Online)

Thanks to Antoinette Fawcett for planning and delivering the event following on from WWT's exhibition, 'Still Glides the Stream'. Antoinette shared some of her background materials referring to Nicholson's poem and Wordsworth and the Duddon Sonnets.

University of Cumbria MA students visit to No. 14., Friday, April 8th 2022

Students on the MA course at the University of Cumbria, led by Dr Penny Bradshaw, visited No 14 St George's Terrace, as part of their study of Norman Nicholson's work. Thanks to Sue and Graham Dawson for accommodating them in No. 14 and to Sue for helping to organise the day with Penny. (A Local Habitation)

All of the events listed above have required extensive planning and time commitment so thanks to all involved. The Committee has met four times in the past year and kept in contact mainly via Zoom, email and social media.

Janice Brockbank
April 2022