

YOUNG Romantics in the CITY



KEATS!

John Keats (1795–1821)

'But this is human life: the war, the deeds,
The disappointment, the anxiety,
Imagination's struggles, far and nigh,
All human'



SHELLEY!

Mary Shelley (1797–1851)

'Beware; for I am fearless,
and therefore powerful'

HUNT!

Leigh Hunt (1784–1859)

'The same people who can
deny others everything
are famous for refusing
themselves nothing'



COLERIDGE

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)

'But oh! each visitation
Suspends what nature gave me at my birth,
My shaping spirit of Imagination'



COLERIDGE!

Sara Coleridge (1802–1852)

'Yet Hope still lives and oft, to objects fair
In prospect pointing, bids me still pursue
My humble tasks'



AUSTEN

Jane Austen (1775–1817)

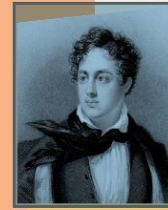
'Men have had every
advantage of us in telling
their own story. Education
has been theirs in so much
higher a degree; the pen
has been in their hands.
I will not allow books to
prove any thing'



'There was a mighty
ferment in the heads of
statesmen and poets, kin
and people. According to
the prevailing notions, a
was to be natural and ne

HAZLITT!

William Hazlitt (1778–1830)



BYRON

George Gordon Byron,
Lord Byron (1788–1824)



WHEATLEY PETERS

Phillis Wheatley Peters
(1753–1784)

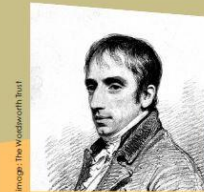
'While an intrinsic ardor prompts to write,
The muses promise to assist my pen'



'It is, however, the true spirit
of philosophy to draw from
the evil which cannot be
remedied all the good of
which in its tendency it is
susceptible'

MORGAN

Sydney Owenson, Lady Morgan
(1781?–1859)



WORDSWORTH

William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very Heaven!'



ANON

Anon (???? – ????)

'my heart seemed
to be thrown back
upon itself, and
I felt that I was
entering into a
world of strange

'The Woman of Colour',
anonymous, 1808

Image: A selection of the diversity of writers included in the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition at Keats House until February 2024, developed in partnership with Cardiff University.

Keats House Charity

Activities Plan 2023/24

The origins of Keats House Charity date back to the 1920s, when a public appeal raised the money to acquire the house and collections for the public. The charity was registered in March 1996 (no. 1053381) and, since 1 January 1997, has been provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.

The object of the Keats House Charity is:

‘to preserve and maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the land with the buildings known as Keats House as a museum and live memorial to John Keats and as a literary meeting place and centre.’

About Keats House today

Keats House is a Grade I listed Regency villa, which was built between 1814 and 1816. It is open to the public as an Accredited Museum (no. 097) and delivers a programme of exhibitions and events, provides formal and informal learning opportunities for all ages and abilities, as well as supporting volunteer, work, creative, and research placements.

The garden is closely linked to the history of the site and today is an important part of the visitor offer.

Also within the grounds of the property at 10 Keats Grove, stands a Grade II listed building known as Ten Keats Grove. This was first built as the Keats House Museum and Heath Library, which opened in 1931. Today, it functions as a volunteer run library operated by Keats Community Library (registered charity number 1146702), which is registered as an Asset of Community Value by the London Borough of Camden. The Nightingale Room within Ten Keats Grove acts as an events and private hire space managed by Keats House, including its use by KCL as a Children’s library and for their own fundraising events.

In 2023/24, Keats House will rebuild and reconfigure its services to ensure it remains accessible, relevant and sustainable following the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period, which will continue to affect the cultural and tourism sectors for some years.

Following the successful delivery of the #Keats200 bicentenary programme from 2018 – 2021, the period 2023 to 2026 will see Keats House: reveal the lives of people connected with Wentworth Place after Keats’s death, including Fanny Brawne and Fanny Keats; support the wider Romanticism 200th anniversaries; reapply for Museum Accreditation; and celebrate the centenary of the opening of the house to the public in May 1925.

Despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an exciting opportunity to re-evaluate the significance of Keats and the Romantic poets generally, the ways in which their legacies were preserved, created and reinterpreted, as well as the ongoing significance of these individuals and their poetry to our lives today.

Our achievements in 2022/23

Between April 2022 and March 2023, we:

- **Delivered the 'Keats Inspired' exhibition, events programme and social media**, exploring the influences on Keats and the enduring legacy of his life and works.
- With London Metropolitan Archives, **devised three new object displays, showcasing rarely seen items in our collections**, including a manuscript letter by Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley's manuscript of 'The Heir of Mondolfo' for #Shelley200.
- **Delivered 36 different events**, including poetry readings, talks, book launches, family and literary workshops, and two major conferences for the Keats Foundation and Shelley200, **attended by 1,192 people**.
- Devised and **delivered Summer School at Keats House, engaging 29 young people aged 16 -19 from seven different schools** in four days of creative writing.
- **Supported the learning of 791 students and 107 teachers / assistants from 35 different primary and secondary schools** through 38 taught sessions at Keats House.
- **Achieved Learning Outside the Classroom's Quality Badge**, recognising the safety and quality of the learning offer at Keats House.
- **Diversified our learning offer through continued collaborations with key partners** including Poetry Versus Colonialism, Culture Mile Learning, London Metropolitan Archives and Roehampton University, including two new sessions: 'Keats and the Classics' and 'Culturally Speaking'.
- **Secured funding from and worked with Cardiff University to develop the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition**, which opened to the public in Feb '23, until 2024.
- **Supported four major events for Hampstead Summer Festival**, raising funds for two local charities: Keats Community Library and Hampstead School of Art.
- **Supported 638 hours of volunteering by 15 individuals**, who delivered tours and poetry readings for our visitors, as well as helping with front of house and events.
- **Opened Keats House** to the public on 172 days **receiving 5,149 visits in person between April '22 and March '23**.
- **Purchased a Collections Management System – ContentIndex+ –** and began work to clean and import our collections catalogue records.
- **Continued to grow and improve our online engagement**, including a refreshed web presence and the publishing online of seven letters from Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats, which were also displayed in the house.
- **Worked with City Surveyor's to maintain the conservatory** and replace boundary and garden fences.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our activities and outcomes during the year. Your creativity, time and commitment has helped Keats House Charity continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver a creative and engaging programme for its visitors from London and around the world.

Our governance and strategic context

Keats House operates as a registered charity (no. 1053381) with the City of London Corporation as its sole Trustee. It is managed within the City Corporation's Environment Department and reports to the Cultural, Heritage & Libraries Management Committee. The Keats House Consultative Committee, which acts as an advisory body, meets twice a year and includes representatives from the City Corporation and local community / sector stakeholder groups.

Our activities are developed within the framework of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and the Environment Department's five-year plan. From 2023, Keats House will be managed within the new Culture & Projects Section of the Natural Environment Division. We also support key City Corporation strategies, including for Education, Skills, Cultural & Creative Learning and the Natural Environment, as well as contribute to a wide range of heritage initiatives, led by organisations such as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The City of London Corporation's aims are stated in the Corporate Plan 2018 – 23:

We aim to...

- Shape outstanding environments
- Contribute to a flourishing society
- Support a thriving economy.

Keats House aims to support the Environment Department to **Shape Sustainable Future Environments** through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives, particularly:

- Provide excellent frontline services
- Deliver key strategies (climate action and volunteering)
- Support sustainable growth, vibrancy, heritage and culture
- Provide thriving, biodiverse, relevant spaces
- Financial, Information and Talent Management, Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration and inclusivity.

The main objectives of Keats House Charity in 2023/24 are to:

- **Implement projects and activities identified in the Keats House Divisional Plan and Activities Plan for delivery in 2023/24.**
- **Deliver maintenance and access improvement projects at Keats House**
- **Develop a five-year Improvement Plan for Keats House, to ensure the future sustainability of the Keats House Charity and its operating model.**

The resources we have to deliver our objectives in 2023/24 include:

Staff based at Keats House reporting to the Head of Heritage & Museums:

Keats House Supervisor – Ken Page (1fte)

Interpretation Officer (Programming) – Amy Burgess (0.5fte)

Interpretation Officer (Learning) – Linda Carey (0.43fte)

Visitor Services Officer – Alison Lister (0.4fte) and vacant (0.6fte) to be recruited to in '23.

From October 2020 through to 2024, Keats House is working with Roehampton University to provide a doctoral training placement for Phoebe Lambdon. Funded by Techne Doctoral Training Partnership, this will lead to new research and interpretations of our collections.

We also provide, and benefit from, volunteer opportunities in five main roles: front of house; tour guides; poetry ambassadors; collections care; and event support. Approximately 15 individuals give their time and experience to support our work throughout the year.

Financial:

In 2023/24, the City Corporation will deficit fund Keats House through its City's Cash Fund as follows:

Category:	Annual budget:	Description:
Staff costs:	£245k	Officer salary and on-costs, inc. training.
Revenue costs:	£52k	To pay for the running costs of the premises and our programmes.
Income target:	-£110k	Generated through admissions, shop sales, private hire, events & learning programmes and licences.
Net budget:	£187k*	* In 2023/24 spend may exceed this amount to fund Keats200 legacy projects and other priorities from the Charity's Reserves / grants received.
Other costs covered:	£113k	Support services / maintenance works.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, we plan to:

Contribute to a flourishing society

- Deliver the #YoungRomantics in the City events programme, including talks, live interpretation, creative workshops and special events.
- Continue to support formal learning in primary, secondary and higher education institutions, by providing taught sessions at Keats House and Summer School 2023.
- Support Cultural & Creative Learning partnerships, specifically the Culturally Speaking and Poetry Versus Colonialism programmes, to actively engage with schools with a high pupil premium.
- Contribute to the Folio400 celebrations at Keats House and Guildhall, in autumn '23.
- Develop and deliver a new exhibition for February 2024, exploring the hidden histories of the house and its inhabitants between the 1820s and 1920s.
- Deliver The Wild Escape project in partnership with Hampstead School of Art and Keats Community Library, with funding from the Art Fund.
- Work with strategic partners, North London Open Spaces and local community stakeholders to deliver cultural events, including the Keats Bicentenary Conference 2023 and events for Hampstead Summer Festival 2022.

Support a thriving economy

- Work with our governing body and all stakeholders to develop a sustainable and deliverable Improvement Plan for the period 2024 – 29.
- Review and develop our policy framework to support applications for Museum Accreditation, a recognised learning quality award and Visit England's Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Scheme.
- Review and develop our retail offer and income streams, including private hires, creative project grants and charitable donations.
- Continue to support, develop and diversify our workforce by providing a range of paid and volunteer opportunities, including for young people aged 16 - 18.

Shape outstanding environments

- Make our collections more accessible by launching our new collections management database, including an online, searchable catalogue.
- Continue to work with our major partners (London Metropolitan Archives, the Keats Foundation, K-SMA, KSAA, The Poetry Society, Roehampton University / Techne, Poetry Versus Colonialism and Keats Community Library) and establish new partnerships, to enrich and diversify our cultural offer.
- Support City Surveyor's to deliver the project to improve access in the garden of 10 Keats Grove, with funding from LB Camden's Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Work with North London Open Spaces & Heath Hands volunteers to further enhance the garden at 10 Keats Grove.

To find out more and follow our progress visit:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/keats



keatshouse



keatshousemuseum