

## **Wordsworth and Bashō: Walking Poets**

For the exhibition **Walking Poets** at Dove Cottage In 2014, we were only able to show facsimile copies of the Bashō manuscripts. I felt it was important to show original Wordsworth manuscripts alongside **original** Bashō manuscripts and so I gathered together an influential Board of Patrons, including Sir David Warren, former British Ambassador to Japan and chair of the Japan Society, Sir John Boyd, former British Ambassador to Japan and currently on the aboard of the Sasakawa Foundation, Prof. Saeko Yoshikawa, Associate Professor, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies and Professor Kazuhiko Kasaya of the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies. Kamimori Bunko, which holds one of the major collections of Bashō manuscripts in the world agreed to host the show in Sept. 2016. The Wordsworth Trust agreed to lend four key original Wordsworth manuscripts to the exhibition in Japan – the first time that such manuscripts have been shown in Japan alongside original manuscripts by Bashō. Kakimori Bunko's exhibition space is nearly twice the size of the gallery at Dove Cottage, and so I was able to extend the show, with new Japanese artists and UK artists plus new, key texts from major Bashō scholars in Japan written for a new bilingual catalogue which has been published by Kakimori Bunko with essays by **Dr. Kaori Mizuno; Prof. Saeko Yoshikawa; Prof. Yoshinori Mori; Nobuo Hori; Eihei Okada** (one of Japan's foremost Japanese scholars), **Pamela Woof** (President of the Wordsworth Trust) with a **keynote essay by myself**. The exhibition opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> September in Itami. To accompany the exhibition, the 2016 JAER Conference, held at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, is hosting a special symposium entitled 'Wordsworth, Bashō, Walking Poets - the Value of Nature in the 21st Century'.