

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith

events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



Harps North West

Charity number 1093441

Website:

<https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

Hello all members,

We hope you're all keeping safe and well during the Coronavirus pandemic. I'm having 12 weeks isolation, which is fine while the nice weather lasts, but may get a bit wearing!

As you all know, we've had to postpone all our planned get-togethers for the foreseeable future, which is a great shame. Our Harps for Harmony 'live project' is temporarily on hold until later in the year, but we can look forward to St Bees Priory when it's all over. **Mary and Jon have already put a lot of work into this project, so please support them by submitting your videos.** We were due to have Lauren Scott and Rachel Gladwin come to do workshops too this spring. Their income has dropped to zero like so many musicians, and we will rearrange those workshops when it is safe to do so. I hope as many of you as possible will support them too.

Some of you may find ways of virtual playing together with apps like Zoom; I believe up to twenty people can participate at any one time. Also online lessons are available, and/or Face-Time lessons.

Hopefully, when this is all over, we'll all enjoy playing together again. In the meantime, please support our own members in any way possible, keep playing, and keep well!

Best wishes

Carol



Dates for the Diary 2020 – further details of events given below

The events in **GREY** are postponed.

??? Whether these events will go ahead is dependent on government advice. We'll update you in each newsletter.

Sun 19th April Adults £35 Youth £20 Non-members £40	Full Day Workshop with Rachel Gladwin. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 until 16:00. More details below.	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sat 16th May Adults £20 Youth £10 Non-members £25	Ensemble Workshop with Lauren Scott Tuning from 10:00. Workshop from 10:30 to 12:30. Details given below. Committee Meeting 13:00	Threlkeld Village Hall	CA12 4RX
Sun 14th June No need to book	??? Workshop. Kulning. Tutor: Mary Dunsford Tuning for 10:00. Workshop 10:30 to 12:30. Free to members	Greenodd	LA12 7RD
Sat 11th July Free to members No need to book	??? Workshop. Cumbrian Tunes for all levels. Tutor: Jean Altshuler. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Committee Meeting 13:00	Braithwaite Inst., Keswick	CA12 5RY
Sun 13th Sept	??? Playing Session & AGM	Over Kellet	LA6 1DN
Sat 26th Sep	??? Joint Playing Session with Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Group	Gretna	
Sat 10th Oct	??? am Tutor Workshop. pm Absolute Beginners' Workshop.	Grizebeck	LA17 7XH
Sun 8th Nov	??? am Christmas party rehearsal pm Committee Meeting.	Braithwaite	CA12 5RY
13th-15th Nov	??? Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. Tutors Jan Bennett & Shelley Fairplay. www.highamhall.com	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 5th Dec	??? Xmas party & concert and shared lunch.	Newbiggin	CA11 0HT

NEWS & EVENTS COMING UP

Harps for Harmony 2020

HNW's very special inclusive and worldwide collaborative project

Update: We cannot do a live recording just now but don't worry - you can still contribute to this Global Collaboration by sending in your own recording of a short segment of the piece!

Have a go at recording yourself playing Pachelbel's Canon at home! Friday 1st May, the date for submitting your video, is coming up very soon.

See the guidance on the coloured sheets below and see the files attached to the newsletter message or go to the website <https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html>

Harps for Harmony

A Global Collaboration

Harps
North
West



Harps for Harmony is a Global Collaborative project open to all harp players, no matter where you are in the world, and no matter what size or style of harp you play!

We will all be playing Sylvia Wood's arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon and are delighted to say that Sylvia herself was the first to commit to be part of Harps for Harmony from her home in Hawaii.

We would love you to join us; all you have to do is record yourself or your group playing an extract of the piece. We will then work our magic to combine all the submissions from across the world into one glorious global performance for everyone to enjoy.

Harps
for
Harmony

A Global
Collaboration

Essentials and tips for taking part

- * Anything goes - solo player, duo or even a small group of players.
- * You can film in your living room at home or take your harp somewhere fancy! We aim to use all footage.
- * Mobile phone footage is fine but please shoot your video in landscape.
 - * The harp player(s) must be in the shot.
 - * Choose a short extract of the piece, 8 bars is ideal.
 - * Practice it to tempo ♩ = 64 bpm.
 - * Ensure your harp is tuned to A=440Hz .
 - * Submissions must be received by 1st May 2020.
 - * For more details please go to :

<http://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html>

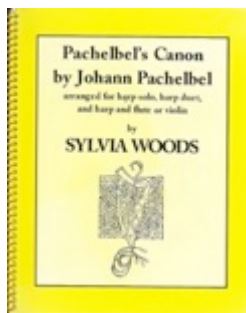


A MESSAGE FROM MARY DUNSFORD

"Are you excited about our wonderful **Harps for Harmony** project - recording Pachelbel's Canon - but a little nervous when you look at the music? Wondering if you should take part?

The answer is absolutely YES!"

Attached to the same email message as this newsletter is a short example of recording and some notes to encourage you to take part. Please look at them. Once read you will be enthused and eager to get involved.



In these, Mary guides you through how little you need to do to be able to contribute so much to the overall performance; we think you'll be both surprised and delighted by what you can add to it!

Remember to get your own copy of the book if you haven't already (search for Sylvia Woods - Pachelbel's Canon), but now you know you don't need to be put off if any of it is harder than you feel happy with!

PS I was worried about keeping in time when recording myself. I think I might have solved the problem. You need two devices and headphones. On one device either use a metronome App and set the tempo to 64 crochets per minute or play the sample recording (file attached to this message). Plug headphones into this device and listen to the pulse or sample. Film with the other device. **From the editor**

SUPPORT OUR PROFESSIONAL HARPISTS

Mary Dunsford, Jean Altshuler, AnnaKate Pearson, Alice Pell, Wendy Stewart, Rachel Howard, Jan Bennett, Ailie Robertson, Shelley Fairplay and many others

1. Buy lots of new harp sheet music to learn and play. Buy a professional harpist's CD.
2. Book an on-line individual or group lessons using Skype, Zoom, Face-time, FaceBook Messenger
3. Commission the composition of a piece for a special occasion
4. Commission a harpist to play a favourite piece to be sent across the air waves to loved ones – "Harpograms" – a term created by Susan Lambert



5. Share your favourite pieces. Suggest a piece and how to buy the publication. See below for Gill's suggestion. **Please send details for sharing in the next newsletter to Gill - events@harpnorthwest.org.uk**

Gill's suggestion (editor)

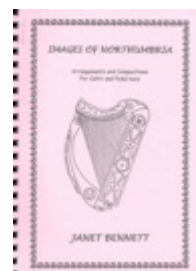
Harp Piece – composed by Janet Bennett

This is a haunting piece that suits the harp so well. My husband loves to hear me play it. It is not a difficult piece. It was written for a beginners' harp course. 'The left hand is a continuous triad pattern which means that the player can concentrate on the melody in the right hand.' JB.

In the same book there are other beautiful pieces that are not difficult to master, Lindisfarne Fantasy, The Water of Tyne and Dedication are my other favourites.

<http://www.janetbennett.co.uk/imagesbook.html>

Please send your favourite pieces and where to buy them to Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



OTHER IDEAS TO KEEP US HAPPY AND BUSY DURING THESE STRANGE TIMES



CHALLENGE MONTHS 2015 NEWvember 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 JaNEWary

Five challenges are currently available of the HNw website.

Enjoy excellent tuition from Mary Dunsford.



2020 - Day 1 - Warm up exercise

Day 2 - The Seal Lullaby, arr. Lauren Scott

Day 12 - Chopine, Doug Thomas

Day 24 - Pachelbel's Canon, arr. Sylvia Woods

2019 - Day 1 - Pure Imagination, arr. Lauren Scott

Day 7 - Pure Imagination, arr. Lauren Scott (advanced)

Day 14 - Ruff Reggae, Ben Creighton-Griffiths

Day 22 - The Good Boy's Lunch, Mary Dunsford. (lap harp)

2018 - Day 1 - Rock to Joy, arr Mary Dunsford.

Day 7 - Armenian Duduk Melody, arr. Wendy Stuart

Day 17 - Row Row Rondo, arr. Mary Dunsford

Day 22 - Funky Blues, Ben Creighton Griffiths

2017 - Day 1 - Music from Skye, arr. Karen Marshalsay

Day 11 - The Wolves, Stephen Dunstone

Day 21 - Cumbrian Music, arr Mary Dunsford

2015 - Day 1 - Tracey's Wiggly Jig, Karen Marshalsay

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL HARP FESTIVAL – 3rd to 8th April

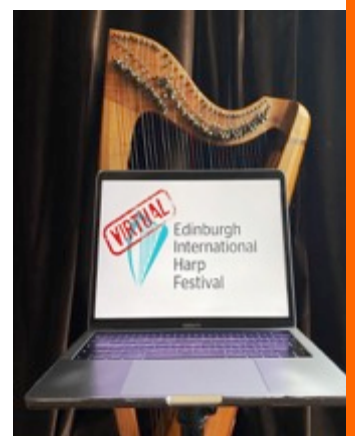
Whilst we cannot all be together this year in Edinburgh, the EIHf still wants to give you the chance to experience some happy harping. So from the evening of **Friday the 3rd of April** until the evening of **Wednesday the 8th April**, we will be uploading **daily videos**.

FREE FOR EVERYONE

NO NEED TO REGISTER, VIDEOS ON OUR WEBSITE / YOUTUBE / FACEBOOK

You will be able to learn some tunes/skills with our **1pm harp tutor videos** AND **every evening at 7.30pm** you will be able to enjoy some fantastic harp music videos. No registration is needed, the videos are free, and will be available to view after they are premiered meaning that they will be accessible in all time zones. Videos will be viewable on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and hopefully also here on our website.

We're very excited about this, and we really hope it will make you smile in what is challenging times for us all.



<https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/festival-2020/the-virtual-eihf-2020>



SHELLEY FAIRPLAY – Harp courses on-line

<https://startharp.com/about-shelley-fairplay/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ailierobertsonmusic/photos/a.706669322820710/706669279487381/?type=1&theater>



POSTPONED - NEW EVENING TIME PLAYING GROUP – BRAITHWAITE near Keswick

HNW are supporting a new **evening-time** Playing Group in the **north of Cumbria**. Everyone is welcome. The group will meet initially on the second Wednesday of the month at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick from 18:30 until 20:45, (playing from 19:00) from March 2020. Some HNW committee members will attend to ensure a warm welcome. Bring a favourite piece along and we can all have a go at mastering it. After these initial sessions, which will be funded by HNW, the harpists can decide how they want to proceed.

POSTPONED - RACHEL GLADWIN – Full Day Workshop

Arrive 10:00. Workshop from 10:30 to 16:00 with breaks.

This promises to be a really fun day. Working mainly without music (although Rachel will provide sheets to take away)

Rachel's description of her workshop

"I'd like to focus on rhythm: starting with body percussion, rhythm games and then using harps, exploring some Cuban and African grooves. Creating tunes together from the bass line up, writing rhythmic chord sequences and adding improvisation over the top. Depending on how confident your group is with improvisation we can either start with the basics or try something a little more complicated. I'd like to break into smaller groups to create new mini-pieces together using the ideas we've learned about. And finish up with learning a simple jazz tune, throwing in all of our best improvisation ideas and harp percussion."

Cost: Adults £35. Youth members £20. Non-members £40



POSTPONED - LAUREN SCOTT – HARPS ACROSS THE NORTH

Saturday 16th May - Half day Workshop. Threlkeld Village Hall CA12 4RX

Tuning from 10:00. Workshop 10:30 to 12:30

What a privilege for HNW to be involved in this special project! HNW is one of three harp groups across the north chosen especially for this project.

Harp across the North is a new 15 minute multi-level harp ensemble piece in three movements composed by Lauren Scott for mixed ability harp groups and is written for three separate harp groups across the North of England. **This workshop is for a new ensemble piece written for Harps North West.**

Based on the Rain Stone poem by Simon Armitage, **Freshwater Tears** is written in four parts and uses various extended techniques to create the effect of raindrops including xylophonics, percussive tapping on the harps and a special tremelo xylophonic glissando technique which Lauren has developed. This piece is inspired by the joy of rain which is so beautifully demonstrated in the poem.

This piece has been especially composed with the HNW members in mind. The four parts are written, but the idea is that each part will be easy to learn within the workshop session and will be taught by ear. The main emphasis is on having an enjoyable workshop session playing through some new music written especially for the group!

Cost: Adults £20. Youth members £10. Non-members £25



POSTPONED The Cumbria Duo, Ed Heslam and Jean Altshuler. St. John's Church in Keswick on 24 April, 19:30.

The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 – Fingers crossed that this will go ahead

Venue: The University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus.

Dates TBC late July, early August

If you can offer help or would like to join the Festival Planning Team please contact our convenor, Carol, on

convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk

RECENT EVENTS

NEW FEATURE - Members' Jottings

There isn't a great deal to report on and there could be even less. So why not let's hear from you, the members.

What have you been up to? How are you filling your days?

Have you any useful tips for fellow harpists? Perhaps send in a picture of yourself.

Please send in your jottings, ditties, creations to Gill at events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

So I'll start it all off.

MEMBERS' JOTTINGS

Lots of my resolutions end up wafting around in the ether. The 'said' necessary routine is set around tea and coffee and mealtimes. In between anything goes. My mantra is 'There are no rules for this...'

I've enjoyed a couple of online lessons with AnnaKate. Zoom works well. Mandy Bartlett and I tried playing together using Zoom. We had a lovely chat and both played the same pieces totally out of synch with each other. It was fun and we're going to give it another try. Tried the Ailie Robertson on-line lessons, got a bit lost the first time without the music but enjoyed 'Angels' Share' today with the sheet music. Wednesday evening I would normally be playing down the pub with the ukes and guitars. Instead we had a virtual 'drink 'n chat' together on Zoom.

The good weather is a real bonus so daily walks and lots of gardening are the norm. Have given up trying to get the big supermarkets to deliver so now have deliveries from our lovely local shops. Have spent far too much on Ebay, Amazon and John Lewis. Hoping you are all well, safe and keeping sane. **Gill Salter-Smith**



Harps for Harmony

Pachelbel Canon rehearsal

Saturday 14th March at Shap

Twelve members braved the imminent virus scare and had a very enjoyable morning rehearsing Pachelbel's Canon with Mary Dunsford. Jon Borgia conjured up lots of technical wizardry and recorded our playing. It sounded pretty good. The special part of this project is to see a room full of harpists of all levels of playing experience contributing successfully to the same piece.

It is now down to you to record yourself and get those videos submitted by 1st May.

Beginners workshop. That same afternoon Mary ran a very successful Absolute Beginners Workshop. We gained three new and very enthusiastic members and the all the hire harps are now being hired out and played. We now have over 100 memberships! Thank you Mary – you must have been exhausted by the end of the day.

Harps at Bassenthwaite - New Playing Group Wednesday 11th March

A small, but dare I say select, group attended The Bassenthwaite Institute for the inaugural evening meeting of this new group, which was well organised by Gill Salter-Smith. Thanks also go to Harps North West for arranging this new group. The venue was comfortable with ample space to allow at least a metre or two between the players (or is that just an Italian requirement)(written pre-lock down) with the all important tea and biscuits supplied.

We all contributed a short favourite piece for everyone to play together, taking an easy pace as we learned the melodies and joined in as much as we could, but certainly not always with both hands. The evening was very enjoyable and sociable as well as, for me at least, providing valuable experience of sight reading, to say nothing of the importance of counting while keeping time with others.

After a look at selected parts of Pachelbel's Canon, we finished the evening listening to Jessie's impressive solo performance of the Seal Lullaby which she had learnt by heart.

We're looking forward to our next meeting (not sure when now) and would welcome more players of whatever standard. We may even choose a name for ourselves, something we entirely forgot on Wednesday! **Chris Pollington**



FOR SALE



32 String Lever Harp

32 string harp from low C to F above the stave. Made (and signed by) by Merlin Maddock in 1985. All new strings and renovated pins. Simple hook levers.

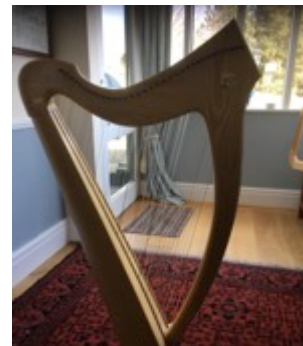
This harp is easy to carry as it is light in weight and slim. Nice sound and a rare find. Cost £750.

Contact Ruth Wall on ruth@ruthwall.co.uk

Pilgrim Ashdown

£1900 with upholstered stool

Contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com



PLAYING GROUPS – face-to-face playing is suspended for now

Why not set up a chat with your group members on the days you would normally be meeting! Zoom works well. See the file attached to find out how.

Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing. The following are contacts for the HNW open playing groups:

Harps Out West is based on the west coast, near Gosforth, usually meeting on the Thursday morning before the 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com

Harps South Lakes are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on hazeyhead49@gmail.com

Harps Up North are based in Watermillock, usually meeting the first Thursday morning of the month. Contact Sue on sue@dawbank.co.uk 01539 624636.

Red Rose Harps are based near Over Kellet, usually meeting on a Wednesday evening once a month. Contact Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

A NEW evening playing group in the **North Lakes** playing 7pm until 8.45pm and will be held at Braithwaite Hall on the second Wednesday evening of the month (mostly). For more detail see above or contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The COMMITTEE from September 2019

Carol Coldwell	Convenor	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Event bookings	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	
Cathrine Livesey		
Alice Pell		
Gill Salter-Smith	Newsletter editor Membership secretary Vice Convenor Higham Hall Link	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Alison Stobbs – Not committee	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer support Harp Hire Membership admin	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk