

# NEWSLETTER - JULY 2020

## Website:

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

## Facebook:

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

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith

[events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)



## A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

Here we are in July already, with a glimmer of hope of lockdown lifting soon. I haven't heard of any HNW members who have caught Covid, so I hope that's an accurate estimate. Despite lockdown, our Harps for Harmony video has been released this month to great acclaim – 80K+ FaceBook views and more than 1.8K YouTube views. Keep telling all your families and friends about it! Roll on our day at St Bees to complete the project!

Also our first Zoom workshop took place last month with over 30 attendees. Lauren Scott did a wonderful job with her online teaching and YouTube videos of her stunning music. The videos are on our website, and there's a link in this newsletter. So please watch if you haven't already. It's amazing how much online material is available, both music and teaching.

On a personal note, June has been sad as we lost our younger dog Poppy, and had a week's food poisoning aargh! And now the rain has come... Freshwater Tears?

Hopefully Regional Groups should be able to meet soon in person, and we will arrange extra HNW playing sessions to make up for those we've missed ASAP. Look forward to seeing you all soon. Time to practice harp and cake making!



Something to make you chuckle – from Carol!

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

??? Whether these events go ahead is dependent on government advice and on local community halls opening up.

**WORKSHOPS POSTPONED until 2021.** 1. Cumbrian Tunes. Tutor: Jean Altshuler. 2. Kulning. Tutor; Mary Dunsford.

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> July Free to members	HNW playing session on ZOOM. 10:00 to 12:00. <b>Lockdown favourites. To take part please contact Gill</b> on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwestorg.uk">events@harpsnorthwestorg.uk</a>	Zoom	
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING -TBC</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> August Free to members	<b>Online Half-day Zoom workshop with Lauren Scott</b> - A Beatles song arranged by Lauren for lever harp. 10:00 to 12:00. <b>To book please contact Mandy</b> on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Zoom	
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> September Free to members	<b>??? Playing Session – preparation for the Christmas concert.</b> Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Shared lunch – 12:30 to 13:30. <b>HNW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 13:30</b>	Over Kellet Village Hall	LA6 1DN
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> September All day	<b>??? Joint Playing Session</b> with Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Group Tutors: Mary Dunsford and Wendy Stewart	Stormont Hall, Gretna	DG16 5DZ
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> October Fee £25	<b>??? Absolute Beginners' Workshop</b> 13:15 for a 13:30 start until 16:30 <b>Committee Meeting 13:30</b>	Grizebeck Comm. Hall	LA17 7XH
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> October Adults £35. Youth £20. Non-members £40	<b>??? Full Day Workshop with Rachel Gladwin.</b> <b>Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 until 16:00. More details below.</b> <b>To book contact Mandy</b> on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> November Free to members	<b>??? Preparation for the Christmas Party Concert</b> <b>Committee Meeting 13:00</b>	Braithwaite Inst. Keswick	CA12 5RY
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Higham Hall</b> - A Weekend with the Harp. Tutors Jan Bennett & Shelley Fairplay. <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a> . Book now.	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> December Free to members & guests	<b>??? Xmas party &amp; 10:00-12:00 rehearsal, shared lunch, afternoon concert</b>	Newbiggin	CA11 0HT
<b>2021.</b> Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> January; Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> February; Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> March; Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April		HNW sessions TBA	

## EVENTS COMING UP



### Making Music Virtual Concert

The Harps for Harmony video has been specially selected to be included in the next Making Music Virtual Concert.

**Tuesday 7th July at 7 pm.**

You can watch it by going to [Making Music's YouTube channel](#).

If you subscribe to the Making Music YouTube channel you will be sent reminders about the performance.



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### HNW ZOOM PLAYING SESSION – LOCKDOWN FAVOURITES SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY – 10:00 to 12:00. Hosted by Susan Lambert

**Free to members.**

Playing for the NHS and Key Workers on Thursday evenings has finished now but you can still play the tunes at a HNW Playing Session on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**.

We are looking for **volunteers to lead the playing** of any of the pieces listed below or you can offer to lead your own **favourite lockdown piece**. Playing session participants will use their mute button and play along with the lead player from the comfort of their own home.

**To sign up please contact Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)**

You will need to have downloaded the Zoom App or programme beforehand.

You will then be sent a link to the Zoom meeting and any music that you need.

Please state which pieces of music you need because most of the pieces have been sent out to members already.

**Please volunteer to lead the playing of a tune.**



**Over the Rainbow**

**You'll Never Walk Alone**

**We'll Meet Again in F major**

All arranged by Susan Lambert to suit all playing levels

**Walking in the Rain** – 3 parts – composed by Gill Lowden

**Keith's Seals** – See below. Composed by Sharon Affeltranger written for Keith Triplett.

Music attached to the message with this newsletter.

These arrangements can be played by HNW members to ourselves and not in a public concert or where we make money.

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### Wire Branch of the Clarsach Society Summer Medieval Music Course

The Wire Branch is offering an online summer workshop led by Bill Taylor in playing medieval music on all harps. The course will be broadcast over three days from **6th- 8th August 2020**, and recordings will be available for participants to access and download.

The course will consist of six sessions altogether, with two 90-minute sessions each day, from 10:30 - 12 noon and from 14:00 to 15:30 UK time.

All harps are welcome, including those strung with gut/nylon as well as wire. Players at all levels are invited, except beginners. We will examine playing medieval music with a view to understanding how damping techniques can serve to clarify the melody, to enhance the accompaniment and to bring out decorations.

Bill has chosen pieces from a variety of repertoires, including

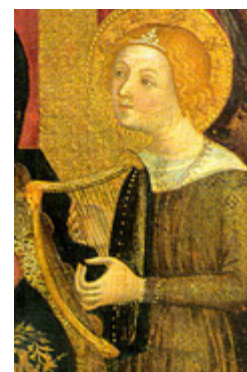
- Plainchant • Trouvère songs • English medieval dances • Cantigas de Santa Maria • Robert ap Huw manuscript
- Within this short course we'll develop skills for
- Fingering and damping • Playing decorations • Interpreting original notation • Improvising

We will meet online using Zoom. Participants will be sent invitation links by email for the six sessions, and it is simply a matter of clicking the links at the designated times. We recommend that participants download 'Zoom Client' (it's free) prior to the first session.

Music and articles will be emailed in advance for participants to print prior to the sessions.

The price is **£100** for Wire Branch members and **£120** for non-members. Please write to [wirebranch@gmail.com](mailto:wirebranch@gmail.com) to reserve your place. Payment can be made by Paypal, cheque or bank transfer.

Harp player, detail from  
Virgin and Child by Pere  
Sera, 14th C,  
Barcelona: Museo de Arte  
Cataluña.



## HNW ZOOM WORKSHOP with LAUREN SCOTT

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 10:00 to 12:00**

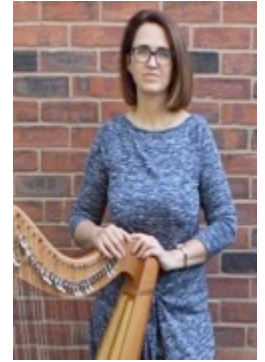
### **“Across the Universe” – The Beatles**

**Free to members**

A two hour group Zoom session working with Lauren Scott on a multiple, different level versions of Lauren's arrangement of the Beatles' tune – “Across the Universe”.

Warm up music and videos plus the different level harp parts will be sent to participants in advance. There will be plenty of scope to try out different effects that will include left hand harmonics.

You will need to download the Zoom App or programme beforehand.



To sign up for this Zoom event please contact Mandy on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)



### **PLAYING SESSION SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

#### **Preparation for the Christmas concert**

Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Shared lunch – 12:30 to 13:30.

### **13:30 HARPS NORTH WEST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Venue: Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DN**

**Subject to government guidance and village halls being in operation.**

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### **RACHEL GLADWIN – Full Day Workshop Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Venue: Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall**

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

This promises to be a really fun day. Working mainly without music (but available 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**



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### **HIGHAM HALL – A WEEKEND WITH THE HARP**

**Friday, 13 November 2020 18:30 – Sunday, 15 November 2020 13:30**

All ability levels except absolute beginners. Emphasis will be on having fun, but attention will be paid to technique, tone, accuracy and musicality. Written music supplied and specially written parts will cater for all levels. All styles - something for everyone!

Guest Tutors: Jan Bennett and Shelley Fairplay

Organised by Harps North West ([www.harpnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.harpnorthwest.org.uk))

Residential: £258 Non-residential: £189



**A weekend with the Harp  
Higham Hall November 2019**



Higham Hall is planning on being fully functional well in time for November. Administration staff are returning to the office and will be contacting everybody on the list of interested participants compiled last November by phone, in the first instance, to find out whether they are still able to come.

The Office phones will be answered by humans from 20th July.

Office Hours 09:00 to 17:00

Telephone: 017687 76276.

[admin@highamhall.com](mailto:admin@highamhall.com)

<http://highamhall.com/>



# NEWS from HARPS NORTH WEST

## Harps for Harmony 2020

### HNW's very special inclusive and worldwide collaborative project

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



Mary Dunsford, who inspired and led this amazing project. Words cannot express how much we appreciate your contribution to Harps North West!

Thank you Mary from all of us!

#### The Project

**Pachelbel's Canon**, arranged by Sylvia Woods, was taught by Mary in the **2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge** to harpists across the globe

**14<sup>th</sup> March**, Shap Cumbria, rehearsal for a live performance - days before UK lockdown

**28<sup>th</sup> March** live performance and recording due to take place in St Bees Priory, Cumbria, postponed

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – deadline for harpists' video submissions

**200+ hours** of editing by Mary and Jon Borgia

**19<sup>th</sup> June Launch Day**

<https://youtu.be/Yyv1JTuuI7o>

**196** video clips from a total of **109** harpists from across the globe

**45** HNW members. **19** young persons (youngest age 5), **13** males

**77** lever harps, **29** pedal harp, **3** lap harps including **1** cardboard harp

**Local** teachers, **World-reknoned** harpists including **Sylvia Woods** herself

**80K+** facebook views

**2K+** YouTube views, to date

**Well done and thank you to all who have taken part!**

**Please keep on sharing with your friends, family and contacts.**

#### A selection from the myriad of comments

**Sylvia Woods** - "Thank you so much for doing such an amazing job with my arrangement. I love the video, and I'm happy to have been a part of it!"

**Transpennine Harps Group, Clarsach Society** "That was just beautiful. Congratulations to all involved with such a special collaboration. Lovely to see so many familiar faces too!"

**"NE Scotland Branch of Clarsach Society**. That was so special. Thank you. Catriona."

From California. "Sooooo COOOOL!! Thank you for ALL that work! That was a ton of work and so beautifully done! I've already posted it on Facebook! & my friends love it, too!"

From Egypt. "I just want to tell you that you are just so charming and beautiful guys."

"Such a wonderful experience and a stunning piece of music, Well done Harps North West".

"Really excited to join this project, Thank you Harps North West for making such a beautiful harmony."

"Oh wow, how amazing! I absolutely cannot believe I was able to be part of such a fabulous event after having joined a beginners workshop with Mary just before lockdown in March – thank you for the encouragement and the opportunity."

"Superb." "Amazing." "Beautiful." "Awesome."

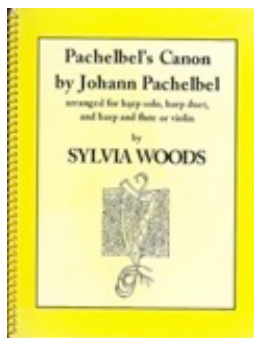
"That was one of the best things of 'Lockdown!!'... my absolute favourite piece of music, beautifully played!!!! please perform again soon."

"Brilliant! Well done. It's a lovely harp family – not only am I and some of my pupils on this, but also my harp teacher from 25 years ago."

"It made me cry." A Covid survivor.

"One of my favourite pieces of music, beautifully played by over 100 harpists! Love it. Walked down the aisle to this at my wedding so brings back lovely memories of a happy day. Thanks to everyone who played and who put together the video."

"A massive thank you to Mary Dunsford for organising the absolute BEST world's virtual harp ensemble playing Pachelbel's Canon! I loved being a part of it. My family and friends are so proud of me and the team, sharing the video with their friends! A great niece of mine, who is 6, is showing an interest to play the harp now! May harping grow and grow! Thank you, again, Harps North West."



## ... and the project is not over yet!

We hope to hold a **live recording** of the piece **performed by HNW members** in **St Bees Priory**, as originally planned before lockdown, as soon as we can, possibly in the autumn. We'll let you know when. Look forward to seeing you there.

**Still time to get practising and involved. You will need Sylvia Wood's arrangement.**

If you would like some simple accompaniments prepared by Mary suitable for beginners and early players please contact Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

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## **URGENT - Membership renewal is now overdue**

### **HNW Membership fees increased from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

Adults £20. Youth Membership £10. Family membership £25.

**With the increase in fees we would like you to complete a new membership form.**

If you pay by Standing Order you will need to contact your bank to adjust the amount.

A new membership form and standing order mandate are available on the HNW website.

<https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/become-a-member---new-.html>

On completion of the new forms please send to Alison, HNW administrator, to the address given on the form or to [membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

PS Please complete all sections of the form, including, if appropriate, the Gift Aid section remembering to indicate that you are a UK tax payer.

**PLEASE, DO IT NOW!!!! Thank you for your help and continuing your membership.**

Please let us know if you no longer wish to be a member and we shall delete all your personal information from our records.

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## **LAUREN SCOTT – HARPS ACROSS THE NORTH.**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. On ZOOM!**

What a privilege for HNW to be involved in this special project! And what a fabulous morning it was!

HNW is one of three harp groups chosen especially for this project. Harps across the North is a new 15 minute multi-level harp ensemble piece composed by Lauren Scott for mixed-ability harp groups. Based on the 'Rain Stone' poem by Simon Armitage (Poet Laureate), **Freshwater Tears**, the piece is written in four parts. This piece is inspired by the joy of rain which is so beautifully demonstrated in the poem. The emphasis was on having an enjoyable online workshop playing new music written especially for Harps North West.

This was the first online session we have tried. Being unable to meet 'live', Zoom served as a useful platform for the workshop. More than 30 members took part and judging by the many positive comments and write-ups we have received this new venture has been a great success. Thank you Lauren and all those involved in the organisation. Here is the link to the practice video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQBHwTFYsA&feature=youtu.be>

We are planning on performing this piece at the HNW Christmas concert. So please start practising.

Please contact Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk) if you need the music

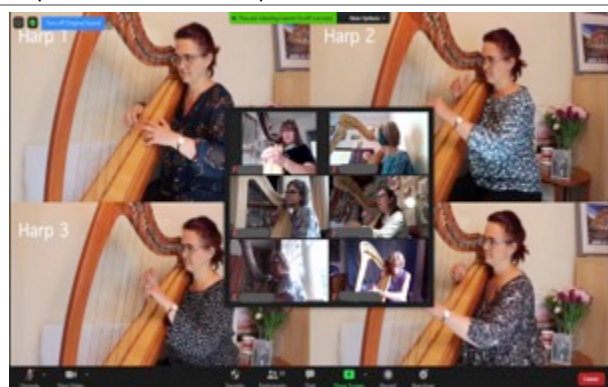
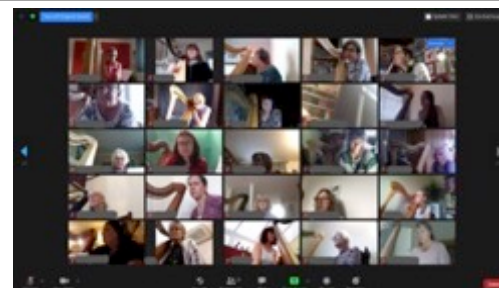


## Your comments

Freshwater Tears' was a seamlessly crafted and really interesting workshop. Lauren must be a technical genius; she'd thought of everything possible to help all levels of playing ability access (and make the most of) each of the parts of her composition. It really helped to see 'my' part being played in the top left of the screen and it was a huge help in guiding me with timing. The break enabled harpers far and wide to introduce themselves. It was great to see everyone, and chat to new folks. Advanced players shared their expertise and offered tips to those of us who needed them! I know this is a piece that I'll need to practise many times but oh, how lovely it sounded when we heard Lauren play! Aren't we fortunate to have so many lovely people who enjoy playing the finest of instruments! **Cathryn Binns**

### I Zoom, you Zoom, we all Zoom together.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June and over 30 members of Harps North West gathered each in their own home for an online workshop with Lauren Scott to play her specially commissioned piece Freshwater Tears based on the poem Rain by Simon Armitage. Leading us through the piece with the help of skilfully edited videos and recording, and a digital metronome, Lauren guided us through her highly evocative piece which was no mean feat given there are up to 11 separate parts that might have been chosen by members to play! It was an outstanding morning where we all came to understand how the extended techniques as well as the notes fit together to reflect the sound and emotional impacts of rain. By the end of the workshop some members were calling for more Zoom experiences! Many thanks to the organizers and to Lauren for a fabulously inspirational lockdown experience. **Ruth Lee**



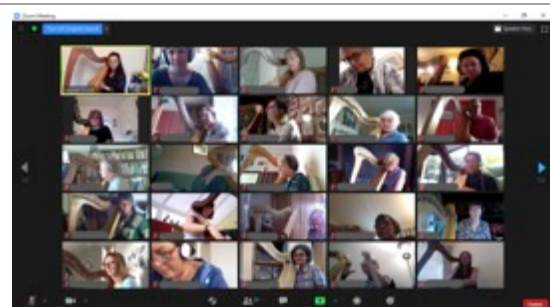
Today, June 27th, I attended my first group tutorial via zooming!! Having practised Lauren Scott's truly helpful exercises and music in advance, I felt excited, but nervous at the same time, to play with others!! Lauren's composition 'Freshwater Tears' is a beautiful piece of music and I was so grateful for the mute button whilst attempting to keep up with the speed of play! I certainly didn't want to mess it up!! Lauren gave reassurance to all of us, guiding us with prompts as we played the piece in full at the end of the session! Would I take part again in a zoomed tutorial? A big fat 'Yes' is the answer! Thank you, Harps North West, I'm going to return to my harping after tea to speed up my placements and fingering!! Thank you so much Lauren, for such a beautiful piece of music for us all to share together. I benefited a great deal with your helpful prompts and thoroughly enjoyed the session. **Kath Wilson**

Hi just fresh from the zoom session with Lauren Scott and everyone there. It was just lovely to see everyone as I've never managed a live session yet as it's clashed with work each time. This morning was hectic with IT issues and getting the music but that was my end issue not HNW. It was so worth attending and having a go. I thought it was great how Lauren taught us in sections and repeated it and had the video going at the same time. Then flying through to the room – it was like a Harry Potter special on a broom stick so clever! Having time to chat with those in Room 3 was great, getting to know people and chatting harps and lockdown. Then back to everyone and playing through the whole piece was super fun. It's been raining here the whole session so the music was very apt. Can't wait to get together and play as a group live when we can. Thanks everyone for organising it all. **Jane Fox**



Just wanting to say a huge 'Thank you' to Lauren for the workshop today. As a beginner on the harp I was pretty glad no one could hear the sound I was making! But it was great to hear how the harp can be used in more ways than plucking the strings. Thank you too for the 'behind the scenes' managing and sorting out who received what email. Best wishes. **Alison Hardingham**

"Freshwater Tears - possibly the harper's answer to Eric Whitacre's 'Cloudburst'? I am in awe of the amount of work that has gone into this - multi ability-level parts for Harp 1 and presumably also for Harps 2, 3 and 4! **Sue Millard**



What a super morning we have had with Lauren Scott working on her special new piece based on Simon Armitage's Freshwater Tears! Thank you so much for making the whole thing so accessible to us all Lauren, both in how you led the session and within the music itself. Can't wait to play it all together! **Mary Dunsford**

Really enjoyed this workshop. Thank you Lauren! It was very well prepared, very relaxing to be part of and a great piece to play. And thank you HNW for having this Zoom workshop. No one can hear my mistakes so it's a great way to practise and play, and still fell part of a group. Works great for me and I hope you can organise many more! **Margaret Stocks**



### More Amazement

Someone said at the start of Lauren Scott's workshop, "Who'd have thought six months ago we'd have been doing a workshop like this!" We go from one achievement to another!

*Freshwater Tears* is a gorgeous piece for ensemble, and the workshop on Zoom was fantastic! I was so pleased I was able to do it – in normal times I was already booked for another event, so it was an extra special lockdown treat. And I appreciated not having to drive a 200+ round trip. And 31 people – fantastic! And, you know, this working with the Mute on, and only the leader (or her multi-video) audible takes all the pressure off. I have no idea how many right notes I played, but I got the counting right (thanks Mary).

So the only disadvantage to Zoom is not being able to have proper catch-ups with everyone? Thank you everyone at HNW and Lauren for a fantastic morning. I'm still crossing my fingers for a Harps Across the Border in September – how many do you think we can fit into the Hall with social distancing? THANK YOU! Xx

*Lyn Walby*

Yesterday we had the first of what I, and probably everyone else, hope will be a regular HNW event. Particularly during poor winter weather. An online workshop. We had been sent Lauren's music before hand, which was great as we then had a basic idea of what we were doing and we could dive straight in. Lauren's music was thoroughly enjoyable. It was divided into 4 parts, with each part having 2 or 3 levels. Very atmospheric and encompassing several harp techniques, such as swooshing the soundboard/box, damping a string at various levels to change the pitch and stopping the strings at the base to give more of a crisp percussive sound. All with interesting notation on the sheet. A great ensemble piece. (Just a thought, is there a solo version? Or perhaps could we, have more workshops with the music circulating, so that we all eventually have the full work?)

Attending an online workshop was a new thing for me. I'll admit I'm a ZOOM zombie. Slow and creaky. Apologies to Lauren and my group, as I discovered, after an hour, that I hadn't turned on my mic or camera. I could see and hear everyone else, but they couldn't see me. (I was the one in the black box with white blobs) Must do better. Thank you HNW and Lauren for a most enjoyable morning. **Eileen Bentley**

**There's another online workshop with Lauren Scott planned for August. Details above.**

**On Zoom on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> August - 10:00 to 12:00.**

**A two-hour workshop introducing a Lauren Scott arrangement of a Beatles song suitable for players of differing abilities and experience.**

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## A Young HNW Harpist raises funds for Medicins Sans Frontieres



**From Emily.** 'Thank you to everyone who has sponsored my **Harp for Health** project.

I'm raising money for Medicins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

because I want to help them fight covid-19, and save lives.

I'm still adding new films, and you can still donate if you'd like to."

Here are my links:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSDpctK-vwE8i\\_GZLjBXZw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSDpctK-vwE8i_GZLjBXZw)  
and

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/harpforhealth>

My daughter **Emily**, aged 9, was expecting to do her ABRSM Grade 2 Harp next in July. These exams aren't happening this summer, so she was keen to plan a project to keep her motivated to practise, and to give you all some snippets of music to enjoy. She has dreamed up '**Harp for Health**'. Emily is uploading films of herself playing the clarsach onto her own little YouTube Channel, in order to raise funds for **Medicins sans Frontieres Covid 19 appeal**. **Ann Bruce**. A proud mum in Windermere

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## HARPS OUT WEST – NOW PLAYING TOGETHER LIVE!

Having been in lockdown enjoying the sunshine and lots of local walks, to say nothing of the gardening, my harp playing with others was becoming decidedly rusty. Yes, I'd done some practice, but not really enough, so when Brenda contacted me suggesting at least some HOW members meet in person, I was only too pleased to join them. Because several members of the group are shielding, only four of us met in Linda's garden once Boris had said that we could see others outside. The 'shielders' may have been glad of the excuse as although we took some shelter from the rather chilly wind, this was socially distancing in a rather draughty gazebo. Our first attempts at familiar tunes were definitely not showpiece material, but things improved and it was lovely to play together being able to hear each other properly - wind allowing. Playing was followed by an excellent afternoon tea and the decision to meet again just two weeks later.

So we four met again, this time in Brenda's gazebo on a rather warmer, calmer day, but with much the same initial experience of a distinct lack of co-ordinated group timing. Things improved, more notes, the right ones at the right time [mostly] came together and we all enjoyed ourselves. The decision was also made to concentrate on just a few pieces, including some which are new to us for playing as a group. Being a beginner and not the quickest learner, I'm hoping to join in more proficiently with a few more notes if there are fewer pieces to practice. More excellent refreshments, much of it from the Brenda's garden followed our practice session and we hope for more harps out in the gazebo this week. We are, however, looking forward to the whole group getting together again soon. It's just not the same without you! **Chris Pollington**



Photos from spring and summer 2019



## Suggestions for good music to play

The choice for July from Keith Triplett

### Keith's Seals - composed by Sharon Affeltranger

This is a lovely piece that is not too difficult to play. It was written by Sharon for Keith Triplett after he played his harp on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean when he visited Sharon at her home in San Francisco. He met up with Sharon at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival about ten years ago and they have remained good friends. The music is attached to the email message with the July newsletter as a pdf file.



Please send your favourite pieces and where to buy them to Gill [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)  
SUPPORT OUR MUSICIANS!

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## IDEAS TO KEEP US BUSY



### CHALLENGE MONTHS

2015 NEWvember

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 JaNEWary

### CHALLENGES

Five challenges are currently available on the HNW website.

Enjoy excellent tuition from Mary Dunsford

<https://www.harpnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>



**2020** - Day 1 - Warm up exercise

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

Day 2 - The Seal Lullaby, arr. Lauren Scott

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

Day 12 - Chopine, Doug Thomas

Day 14 - Ruff Reggae, Ben Creighton-Griffiths

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

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

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

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

Day 7 - Armenian Duduk Melody, arr. Wendy Stuart

Day 11 - The Wolves, Stephen Dunstone

Day 17 - Row Row Rondo, arr. Mary Dunsford

Day 21 - Cumbrian Music, arr Mary Dunsford

Day 22 - Funky Blues, Ben Creighton Griffiths

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

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## HNW WEBSITE NEWS – Update from Susan Lambert

### HNW Online Learning

<https://www.harpnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>

### HNW SESSION TUNE BOOKLET –available on the HNW website

Keep an eye out for The HNW Session tunes booklet which will be uploaded soon for you to use as you wish!

An on-going compilation of folk songs for us to play together in any setting for fun. Feel free to download, print and use however you wish.

#### Individual Sheet Music

1. John Ryan's Polka
2. Egan's Polka
3. Spootiskerry
4. The Fairy Dance
5. Athol Highlanders
6. O'Carolan's Dream
7. South Wind
8. The Butterfly

9. March of the King of Laois
10. Marie's Wedding.
11. Morpeth Rant
12. Soldier's Joy
13. Cumberland Reel
14. The Mucking of Geordie's Byre
15. The Blarney Pilgrim
16. The Dusty Windowsill





You will find videos and links to online workshops and tuition from outside of Harps North West, including Edinburgh Virtual Harp Festival on the online Learning page.

Rachel Hair and Ailie Roberston are no longer offering a live session but their material is still available online.

Shelly Fairplay's online free course has finished too, though you can sign up for her regular courses.

Lots to do and learn from the comfort of your own home.

#### Harp at Home - Rachel Hair Tune Workshops [www.rachelhair.com/harpathome](http://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome)



#### Edinburgh International Virtual Harp Festival [www.harpfestival.co.uk](http://www.harpfestival.co.uk)



#### Ailie Robertson - Facebook Live Lessons [Ailie Robertson Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AilieRobertson)

EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
4PM GMT

### LIVE HARP LESSONS

Streaming live on Facebook



#### Shelley Fairplay - Online Courses [www.startharp.com](http://www.startharp.com)



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### ANOTHER EVENT FOR THE FUTURE – all being well The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 – Fingers crossed that this will go ahead



Venue: The University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus.

Dates: 23-25 July 2021

If you can offer help or would like to join the Festival Planning Team please contact our convenor, Carol, on  
[convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

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### TIPS FOR HARPISTS – Alice Pell

During the warm sunny summer months, always make sure that your hire harp is not sat in direct sunlight. Sunlight can cause the harp wood to discolour in the long term which would be a shame. If you have an old sheet or sleeping bag you could place this over the harp when not in use to prevent sunlight UV rays on the harp.

Do keep on top of tuning your harp. You may be taking your harp out regularly for harp lessons which means different temperature environments, so be aware that this can affect the tuning of your harp. This is why we say to arrive early at HNW events to allow the harps to acclimatise in the room and allow for tuning up if necessary.

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#### New Album by Karen Marshalsay **The Road to Kennacraig**

The CD can be downloaded from iTunes, Google Play Music and Amazon (UK)

It can be streamed on Spotify and Apple Music

Sales of CDs from Karen's website have been temporarily suspended until the Coronavirus crisis is over

## FOR SALE



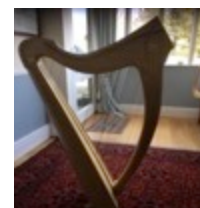
### 32 String Lever Harp

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](mailto:ruth@ruthwall.co.uk)

### Pilgrim Ashdown

£1900 with upholstered stool

Contact Carol Coldwell on [coldwellcarol@gmail.com](mailto:coldwellcarol@gmail.com)



**PLAYING GROUPS – indoor face-to-face group 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 for a chat and for a playing session.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Contact Helen on [helenbrian@sky.com](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com)

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on [hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

## The COMMITTEE from September 2019

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