

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

Website:

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

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

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith

events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

Hello everyone.

How quickly has July gone? Hopefully August will bring better weather. Those of you 'Shielding' should be out of hiding by now; remember, going to the supermarket is not very exciting! I'd probably prefer to stay at home listening to an online harp concert or even playing my harp. Good things about lockdown - We now have weekly food deliveries from a company who supplied restaurants pre lockdown (yummy rare breed meat and fresh fruit & veg); handmade pies delivered frozen from Wagtail Kitchen; and gelato delivered from Mia Italia in Bolton Le Sands. Needless to say, I'm hoping this will continue, plus home-grown stuff - what a diet! On the musical front, look out for online concerts on the UKHA monthly newsletter, and there's a report later from me about Red Rose Harps who had their FIRST LIVE playing session since lockdown.

We're hoping the AGM this year will be held live following a playing session in the morning.

We have St Bees to look forward to. No date yet, see below. We need your preferences – autumn 2020 or spring 2021?

Hopefully I'll see many of you on Zoom for Lauren Scott's workshop this month also. I think it's wonderful that we've managed to keep things happening through lockdown. **Carol**



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

??? Whether these events go ahead live and/or on Zoom is dependent on government advice and on local community halls opening up. We will try to have a Zoom link to events but cannot guarantee this yet as we are all still learning!!!

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

Sat 15 th August	COMMITTEE MEETING 09:00. Zoom meeting will be open from 08:30 to enable a natter before the meeting starts.	Zoom	
Sat 22 nd August Free to members	Online Half-day Zoom workshop with Lauren Scott - A Beatles song arranged by Lauren for lever harp. 10:00 to 12:00. To book please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom	
Sun 13 th September Free to members	??? Playing Session – preparation for the Christmas concert. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Tutor: Mary Dunsford. Possible Zoom link. Bring your own refreshments and utensils - 12:30 to 13:30. 13:30 - HNW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. All members are welcome. Watch this space - hoping for a Zoom link for members who cannot attend live.	Over Kellet Village Hall Experimental Zoom link	LA6 1DN
Sat 26 th September All day	??? Joint Playing Session with Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Group Tutors: Mary Dunsford and Wendy Stewart NB Details not finally decided but this session could become a Zoom session.	Stormont Hall, Gretna	DG16 5DZ
Sat 10 th October Fee £25	??? Absolute Beginners' Workshop 13:15 for a 13:30 start until 16:30 Open to all.	Grizebeck Comm. Hall	LA17 7XH
Sun 11 th October Adults £35. Youth £20. Non-members £40	??? Full Day Workshop with Rachel Gladwin. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 until 16:00 with breaks. More details below. To book contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sun 8 th November Free to members	??? Rehearsal for the Christmas Party Concert Committee Meeting 13:00 -15:00	Braithwaite Inst. Keswick	CA12 5RY
13 th - 15 th November	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. Tutors Jan Bennett & Shelley Fairplay. Sponsored by HNW. www.highamhall.com . Book now.	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 5 th December Free to members	??? Xmas party & 10:00-12:00 rehearsal , Bring your own lunch and utensils, afternoon concert	Newbiggin Hall, Penrith	CA11 0HT
2021. Sat 16 th January; Sun 21 st February; Sat 20 th March; Sun 18 th April		HNW sessions TBA	

EVENTS COMING UP

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE HNW COMMITTEE COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS THAT WE SHOULD ALL ADHERE TO

All being well, HNW is planning on holding more 'live' events over the coming months. Playing groups may well wish to resume their 'live' meetings.

There are important considerations to have in mind and precautions to take.

1. Each community facility will have its own systems in place to manage the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus. They will have carried out a risk assessment. The organiser of each HNW activity (user) must be fully informed of its contents and requirements.
2. Each community facility will ask every user to adhere to their requirements and each user must carry out their own risk assessment that takes account of the activities and the participants involved.
3. HNW will carry out a thorough risk assessment of each community facility that will be used for live HNW events taking into account the activities and the participants involved. One person must be nominated to organise each of the events. Participants must be informed of the risk assessment and advised on actions they need to take when attending the event.
4. Playing groups are required to carry out a risk assessment for each facility they use. One person should be nominated to organise this. Each participant should be informed of the risk assessment and the actions they need to take.

In general terms HNW advise:

- that community facility kitchens should not be used. Members should bring their own refreshments and utensils to events;
- one-way systems for entry and exit must be adhered to;
- guidance re numbers per event must be adhered to;
- contact details of participants in events must be recorded;
- touch-points, furniture and toilets must be cleaned by the users before and after each event;
- hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes should be available, however, it is advisable for participants to bring their own;
- masks should be worn where it is not possible to maintain 2m social distancing, dependent on government advice at the time.

It all sounds very scary and we understand and respect that there will be some members who prefer not to attend live events. With this in mind we are working on ways to ensure that all members can be included through the use of online **Zoom** contact.

We have a sample risk assessment that has already been used by a playing group. If you would like to see it or get more help, please contact Alison on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

For government advice on the use of community facilities see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Be aware that government guidelines can change with little notice!

And now for more cheery harps action!

Oliver Wass – classical harpist



In concert as part of the 2020 Absolute Classics Festival

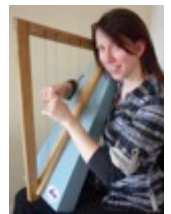
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pxhHSwf2IU>

**Mary Dunsford plays for
The Heron Music Cafe**

Half an hour of Mary playing and singing great songs!

What a talent she has, great performer and so lovely to watch and listen.

<https://youtu.be/FdMsjeZhgxw>



The Virtual Edinburgh Harp Festival 2020

We're going to be retiring the videos on the 1st of September, but don't worry, you've still got a full 4 weeks to enjoy them!

We hope you've been enjoying catching up and re-watching the 2020 VEIHF videos this summer. These include many workshops and concerts.

<https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/the-videos>





Welcome to the HARP at HOME - Rachel Hair

'Hi everyone

Just a very quick note to let you know I have decided on a release date for Series 2 of HARP at HOME - yay!!

Series 2 will be another 8-week series and will go live (in same way as last series) on **MONDAY 17TH AUGUST** ... so put that date in your diary!

More info to follow soon....'

Rachel x

<https://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome/>

HARPS NORTH WEST ZOOM WORKSHOP with LAUREN SCOTT

Saturday 22nd 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 level versions of Lauren's arrangement of the Beatles' tune – 'Across the Universe'.

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.

You will be sent a link by email to the Zoom meeting by Lauren beforehand.



To sign up for this Zoom event please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

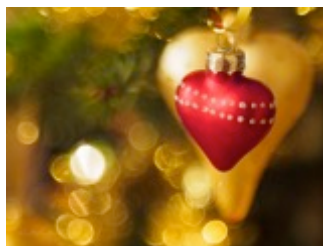
Don't forget to state your playing level.



Elementary You have been playing for a short while and/or you prefer to work at a steady pace.

Intermediate: You are a more experienced player with a confident approach who prefers music that is slightly more challenging.

Advanced: You are an experienced player who picks up new music quickly and is happy to move at a fast pace.



LIVE PLAYING SESSION - Preparation for the Christmas concert SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Venue: Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DN. Free to members

Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Lunch 12:30.

Christmas music will be announced and practised.

Bring your own refreshments and utensils. The kitchen will not be available.

HNW is experimenting with sharing this event online through **Zoom** for those not able to attend live.

The live event is subject to government guidance and village halls being in operation.

Members will be advised of the actions to be taken to avoid risks.

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

13:30

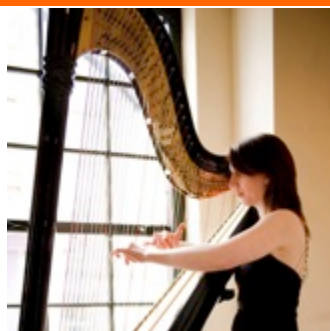
HARPS NORTH WEST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DN

Bring your own refreshments and utensils. The kitchen will not be available.

Possible Zoom link for those not able to attend in person.





SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH

13:15 for a 13:30 start until 16:30

Tutor: Mary Dunsford

Cost £25. Lever harps, music and music stands are provided.

Encourage your friends and family to learn to play. There should be harps available for hire following this session.

If you would like to attend please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

RACHEL GLADWIN – Full Day Workshop SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

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

HNW is hoping to share this event online through **Zoom** for those not attending the live event. Cost to be decided.



HIGHAM HALL – A WEEKEND WITH THE HARP Friday 13th November 2020 18:30 – Sunday 15th 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.harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

Residential: £258 Non-residential: £189

Numbers are restricted to 20

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 <http://highamhall.com/>

NEWS from HARPS NORTH WEST

URGENT, URGENT, URGENT!

We really do not want to lose you so, if you have not done so already, please rejoin NOW!! It's so easy to forget to do this.

Thank you to those of you who have renewed or joined as new members. We hope you enjoy the activities and information we provide.

HNW Membership fees from 1st 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>

Please send your completed forms to Alison, HNW administrator, to the address given on the form or to

membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk

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

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

If you do not renew your membership this month (August) then your personal details will be removed from the HNW records. You will no longer receive the monthly newsletter, you will not be entitled to join the free-to-members events.

Many people have experienced financial difficulties over the past few months. If this is holding you back from renewing your membership please get in touch, in confidence, with Alison on membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk, and we'll see what can be done.

Shelley Fairplay 's GLOBAL DYNAMIC HARPS VIRTUAL ENSEMBLE May to July 2020



For many people lockdown signalled isolation from family and friends. But it also revealed the generosity and care of many. One such was Shelley Fairplay who reached out to harpists across the world to share her talent as a musician and teacher and, as a result, over one hundred harpists of all abilities responded. People from countries as far as New Zealand, Canada, Sweden came together to form an unlikely ensemble group - some setting an alarm to join the sessions at 4.30 am in their time-zone! The breakout groups during the coffee/wine breaks were so interesting. Whilst developing skills in music we were also developing the necessary skills in manipulating Zoom, Dropbox and viewing from one device whilst listening through earphones to another to hear Shelley 's instructions. Somehow she managed to compile a video ensemble, which was distributed via Facebook. Despite being pressed by many Shelley flatly refused to accept any payment for a 10 week course. My thanks are due to Shelley for her energy, talent and enthusiasm and for sharing over two hours every Tuesday evening during lockdown with so many of us. **Kaye Hodgson**

Harps for Harmony 2020 HNW's very special inclusive and worldwide collaborative project

<https://www.harpnorthwest.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 **14th March**, Shap Cumbria, rehearsal for a live performance - days before UK lockdown. **28th March** live performance and recording postponed **1st May** – deadline for harpists' video submissions. **200+ hours** of editing by Mary and Jon Borgia.

19th June Launch Day

<https://youtu.be/Yyv1JTuuI7o>

196 video clips. **109** harpists from across the globe. **45** HNW members. **19** young persons (youngest age 5), **13** males.

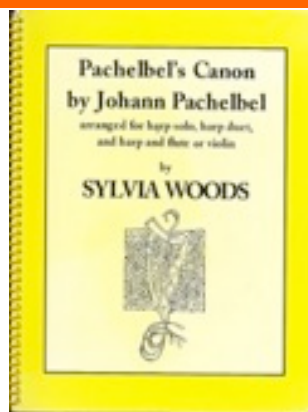
Local teachers, **World-reknowned** harpists including **Sylvia Woods** herself

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

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



... and the project is not over yet!

HNW plans to hold a **live recording** of the piece **performed by HNW members** in **St Bees Priory**, as originally planned before lockdown **either in the autumn or spring 2021**.

If you intend to take part please let us know if you have any preference for autumn 2020 or spring 2021.

Contact Alison on administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk

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

HNW's FIRST ZOOM PLAYING SESSION – LOCKDOWN ARRANGEMENTS SATURDAY 25th JULY – 10:00 to 12:00. Led by Susan Lambert and Gill Lowden

Over the Rainbow, You'll Never Walk Alone, We'll Meet Again in F major. All arranged by Susan Lambert.

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

What a lovely morning we had. Thanks to everyone who participated. Twenty harpists and Alison, our administrator, listened. It was great to see so many of you. A **HUGE** thank you on behalf of all of us to Susan and Gill. You were brilliant! **Gill the Editor**

Members' comments

'Thank you so much for organising this morning's zoom session. Very much enjoyed it! Today, at our HNW 'lockdown' zoom playing session, I felt privileged to be part of a group of friendship! Everyone supports each other, even though we keep our individual playing muted from the rest of the group! Something I am grateful for! Susan Lambert led the first two pieces: 'You'll never walk alone' and 'We'll meet again' in such a happy, encouraging manner, giving us amusing but appreciated tips! Highly infectious! After a break for refreshments/chat, Gill Lowden led her personal composition: 'Walking in the rain' A pretty piece, complete with 3 parts. Can't wait to hear it live, some time in the future, with the three parts playing in harmony! Susan rounded off the session, sharing her beautiful arrangement of 'O'Carolan's Dream' with us. Together we played it in, what was one of our member's description: a lovely 'dream' pace! Beautiful! Thank you all, especially Gill Salter Smith, Susan and Gill Lowden!' **Kath Wilson**

'Really nice seeing you and everyone this morning and an excellent session!' **Kaye Hodgson**

'In the absence of being able to meet safely in person Zoom has come into its own to offer some form of togetherness. Saturday's HNW play was lovely and nice to meet you virtually too.' **Linda Taylor**

'I thought it was excellent. It's a fabulous group and is an excellent boost to my playing. Ordinarily I struggle to travel far due to disability so as you can imagine Zoom has been tremendous for me Zoom might be especially helpful to consider for winter!! Harpists from further afield could be tempted to join too, especially given the participation in Harps for Harmony.' **Ruth**

'Didn't we have a lovely morning? Twenty members all together. More than we usually have in a playing session. It was so lovely to see the old, familiar, far flung faces. ZOOM is a wonderful way of bringing HNW together as we do have a pretty far-reaching membership. Also, for those of us who are getting on in years, it is so much easier than packing up our harps, wrestling with wind and rain and travelling many miles away to play. I will admit, I used to enjoy the trip in the olden days, seeing friends and having coffee and cake. (Who remembers Keith's homemade Cakes??) However, I do find it's now much easier to tune in to ZOOM and enjoy it all in cosy comfort.

Susan's, very playable, arrangements of old favourites, Gill's jolly splash in the puddles and Sharon Affeltranger's 'Keith's Seals' among others, drew us together in a flowing stream of flying fingers!! (Oh! Is that too cheesy?) So very relaxing to be able to play without the fear that I was hitting the wrong note or even the wrong bar. Or even the wrong piece altogether, as I was at the end of 'O'Carolan's Dream', when I found I was playing Isobel's 'Social Distance Dance'. They go together remarkably well, if you listen carefully and do the twiddly bits around the same time. All in all, a great morning. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it so. And thanks for the music in advance. Very helpful. Here's to many more. The only down side - no Jane's Jams.' **Eil Bentley**

'It was a superb morning, which I really enjoyed. I think if you've "zoomed" before it's easier, but it was so good to see so many familiar faces, even if we didn't speak directly! It was good to have both Susan and Gill working on their pieces, and didn't they do professional jobs too? Yes! Let's have more Zoom workshops! **Judy Taylor**.

PS It struck me the words of the pieces sort of flowed in the order that we played them, and I wrote the following... which is not good English, and doesn't flow too well! It was just fun to do and I thought it would make you laugh!

MEETING ID86560405422

PASSCODE 978163

We 'zoomed' on 27th July

'Somewhere over the Rainbow' was put by,

But Susan said, 'We'll Meet Again'

We didn't do 'The Distance Dance',

But 'O'Carolan's Dream' put us in a trance

Gill Salter-Smith did a special thing,

To organise a meeting and manage to bring

Us all together for harping fun,

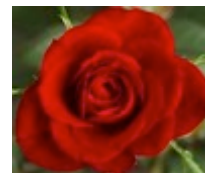
And off we went, and just the same,
'You'll Never Walk Alone' said she.

'Walking in the Rain', 1, 2, and 3,
Gill said, just listen and follow me,

(Although it wasn't in the sun!)
Thank you Gill, Gill and Susan too
For a wonderful morning, they've been all too few!
Judy Taylor

RED ROSE HARPS – FIRST LIVE PLAYING SESSION SINCE LOCKDOWN

Red Rose Harps met LIVE this week at Slyne, in the brand new church hall at St Luke's church! Fabulous five of us in a beautiful light, airy hall with plenty of room for social distancing. Many thanks to Val Gill for completing the risk assessment requirements. We all really enjoyed two hours playing together. Although Slyne is in the south of our area, this is a hall to consider using. **Carol Coldwell**



Shelley Fairplay 's GLOBAL DYNAMIC HARPS VIRTUAL ENSEMBLE May to July 2020



For many people lockdown signalled isolation from family and friends. But it also revealed the generosity and care of many. One such was Shelley Fairplay who reached out to harpists across the world to share her talent as a musician and teacher and, as a result, over one hundred harpists of all abilities responded. People from countries as far as New Zealand, Canada, Sweden came together to form an unlikely ensemble group - some setting an alarm to join the sessions at 4.30 am in their time-zone! The breakout groups during the coffee/wine breaks were so interesting. Whilst developing skills in music we were also developing the necessary skills in manipulating Zoom, Dropbox and viewing from one device whilst listening through earphones to another to hear Shelley 's instructions. Somehow she managed to compile a video ensemble, which was distributed via Facebook. Despite being pressed by many Shelley flatly refused to accept any payment for a 10 week course. My thanks are due to Shelley for her energy, talent and enthusiasm and for sharing over two hours every Tuesday evening during lockdown with so many of us. **Kaye Hodgson**

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.

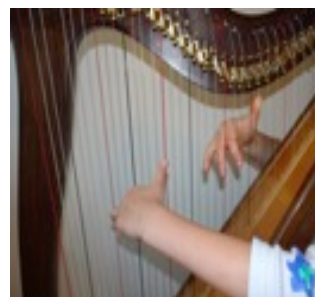
I'm still adding new films, and you can still donate if you'd like to."

Here are my links:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSDpctK-vwE8i_GZLjBXZw

and

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



Suggestions for good music to play

New music from Eira Lynn Jones

The choice for August comes from Mary Dunsford

'I've been sent some music that I heartily recommend for you all. First up are these exercise books for harp. I especially recommend the first one. And also this collection of three new tunes, **Songs of Hope**, which are pleasant to play and very much of this moment... You can buy them as physical books or as downloads here:'

<https://www.eiralynnjones.com/shop-1>

Please send your favourite pieces to Gill events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



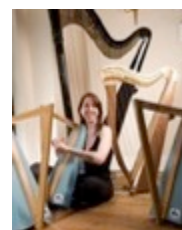
IDEAS TO KEEP US BUSY

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.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>

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

HNW WEBSITE NEWS – Update from Susan Lambert HNW Online Learning

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.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.

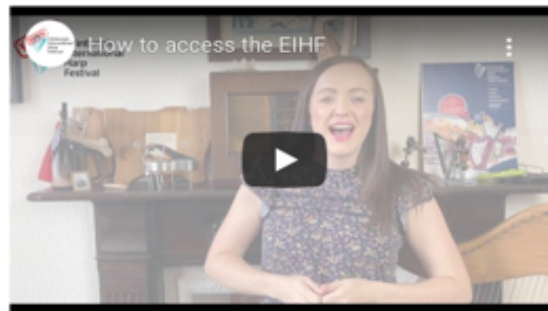
Shelly Fairplay's online free course has finished too, though you can sign up for her regular courses. Her summer 4 week course has just started.

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

Harp at Home - Rachel Hair Tune Workshops
www.rachelhair.com/harpathome



Edinburgh International Virtual Harp Festival
www.harpfestival.co.uk



Ailie Robertson - Facebook Live Lessons
[Ailie Robertson Facebook](#)

EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY
4PM GMT

LIVE HARP LESSONS

Streaming live on Facebook



Shelley Fairplay - Online Courses
www.startharp.com

START HARP

Mobile +44 (0) 7560 718663
info@startharp.com



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@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



MEMBERS' JOTTINGS

The story of my beautiful harp

Blue Peter has quite a lot to answer for! They featured a young harpist on the show and I was instantly hooked, aged 12. My wonderful parents bought me an Erard Grecian harp, which I still have and love today. It was in a terrible state when we first saw it, having languished in an attic for over 20 years. It was covered in dust with all the strings broken but I still thought it was beautiful. The Grecian name refers to the classical ladies, which decorate the top of the pillar.

The renovations, completed by Munsen & Harbour, were not without jeopardy. As the new strings were fitted the soundboard started to separate from the base and a plate needed to be added to keep the two together. One of my harp teachers once told me there is enough tension on the soundboard from the strings to pull a 10 ton lorry, although I have never been able to check if this is true. I discovered from records kept by Salvi that my Erard had originally been bought by a 'Gentleman Farmer' from Gloucester in 1838. I can imagine it having pride of place in the parlour ready to entertain



guests.

Sebastian Erard was originally a piano maker working in Paris and then London. However in June 1810, using his knowledge of piano mechanisms and after eight years of intensive work, Erard patented the double-action harp with seven pedals. There is one pedal for each note of the octave with each pedal having three positions or two notches, which raised the pitch of the note by a semitone for one notch, or a tone for both notches. This was a great departure from lever or single action harps as the full chromatic range can be

Isolation by Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl, I love to meet my mates.
But lately with the virus here, we can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now. We need to stay inside.
If they haven't seen us for a while, they'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did, before we got this old.
There wasn't any Facebook, so not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies, who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s – If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll, the pill and miniskirts.
We smoked, we drank, we partied and were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married and turned into someone's
mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana, who on earth did we become?

achieved. My harp also has the added feature of an eighth pedal hole for opening the sound box to act as a swell, although I do not use this.

Even though my Erard is over 200 years old the mechanism is the same today for concert harps. Since moving to Cumbria five years ago I have also been introduced to the charms of the lever harp – but that is another story. **Ann Woolley**

We didn't mind the change of pace because our lives were full.
But to bury us before we're dead is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside for 4 weeks, maybe more.
I finally found myself again then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me. I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family but I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful, I like a gutsy thriller.
I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze for when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin if I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown, to recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates.
Contributed by Carol Coldwell

TIPS FOR HARPISTS

Susan Crane.Harp teacher.

Found on the 'Learning the Harp Together' FB page.
What I learned practicing today! While working to finish a tricky song, I was finding a couple of passages to be especially problematic. I was using the metronome and got it close to speed but I couldn't move it any more. This morning I finally remembered what I tell my students. I played the passage at half speed. While doing that I paid particular attention to my left hand. I paid attention to **how I finished each note and moved to the next position.** I found that I was moving too much and not opening my hand quite fast enough. Once I figured that out I was meticulous with that hand during the very slow practice. After about 8 times I tried it up to speed and it worked! I repeated that process for the other passages and within about half an hour I could play it all up to speed! Now I'm just kicking myself for not doing that yesterday. I hope this is a good reminder to someone else having difficulty. **Never underestimate the power of very slow practice!**

Harp strings & sanitiser. From SALVI HARPS.

We consulted Bow Brand International Ltd regarding string sanitation methods to prevent CO-VID-19 infection and other viral respiratory diseases. Bow Brand stated:

'it seems that hand sanitiser has no harmful impact on our strings. The disinfectant gel we tested contains 68% alcohol. Even with copious amounts of gel, the strings did not react. In addition, with gel impregnated cloth, the strings dried very quickly due to the alcoholic strength.'

For this reason, whenever you deem it necessary, clean the strings with a gel hand sanitiser found commonly on the market. We always recommend doing this if the harp has been played previously by someone else. Use a soft or microfibre cloth to apply the gel. It is not necessary to rub repeatedly or vigorously. The mere contact with the gel kills the viruses and bacteria and a too energetic or prolonged friction could however affect the finish of gut strings.'



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.

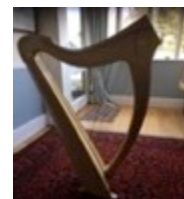
This harp is easy to carry as it is light in weight and slim. Nice sound and a rare find. Cost £750.

Contact Ruth Wall on ruth@ruthwall.co.uk.

Pilgrim Ashdown

£1900 with upholstered stool

Contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com



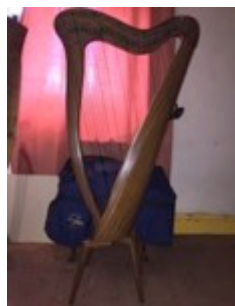
Pilgrim Clarsach, serial number P5666

34 strings, Afrosia wood, quiet nylon levers. A full new string set fitted (with prior approval from Pilgrim!) of Bow Brand Lever Gut, the same tension as their Skylark model - lighter than the standard Clarsach Light Pedal set. Weighs approx. 8.5 kg and fits easily across the back seat of a car for transport. Harp comes with detachable 10-inch legs and an alternative set of stub feet (and their screws), tuning key in holster, and padded travel cover.

Serviced by John Hoare at the 2017 Harps North West Festival. Only selling because I bought another HNW member's harp and husband said, "One in, one out!"

£1700.

Tebay, Cumbria. Tel 01539 624636 or email sue@dawbank.co.uk.



Camac Bardic 27 string lever harp

Constructed mainly of birch plywood with laminated spruce sound board. Removable legs. Camac levers. Alliance nylon strings. Natural wood finish. Tuning key.

Height with legs 45", without legs 36", depth 23".

Weighs 7Kg.

Beautiful tone. In near perfect condition, just 3 tiny marks on the wood.

Comes with padded carrying case that includes rucsac straps.

Selling because I am making a small Boho harp to replace it. This was my first real harp and I loved it.

£850 (Was £1100 new)

Contact Gill on 07711 264387 or email saltersmith@btinternet.com

Grizebeck, South Cumbria. Will deliver if not too far away or we happen to be going your way.



PLAYING GROUPS

See above for important guidance on using community facilities

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 was held in the **North Lakes** playing 7pm until 8.45pm at Braithwaite Hall near Keswick on the second Wednesday evening in March, just before 'Lockdown'. Three harpists attended. We could do with a few more harpists to make this group viable. If you are interested please contact Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk.

The COMMITTEE from September 2019

Carol Coldwell	Convenor	convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Event bookings	events@harpnorthwest.org.uk
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	
Cathrine Livesey		
Alice Pell		

Gill Salter-Smith	Newsletter editor Membership secretary - overview Vice Convenor Higham Hall Link	events@harpnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpnorthwest.org.uk
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	administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@harpnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk