

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2021

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

Happy New Year to all our members! Christmas has passed, hopefully most of you managed some contact with family and friends. Let's hope 2021 gets better and we are all vaccinated ASAP!

Susan did a great job in making us all feel Christmassy with the carol session just before Christmas – thank you Susan! ... and what an amazing Christmas Party we had! Thank you Mary.

We have a growing list of events for 2021, both online and live, including our **new announcement** that Lauren Scott is becoming our **Composer in Residence** for the year, writing three pieces especially for us and including some workshops during the year. Read more below!

Quite a few harpists are now running online events via Zoom, so I hope some of you are dipping in, and enjoying contact with other harpists and music.

Enjoy New Year, if possible, and I look forward to seeing you all again. **Carol**



HNW Dates for the Diary 2021 – all times are GMT/UTC

- All live events are dependent on government advice (national and local) and on local community hall risk assessment. See page seven of the newsletter for HNW specific guidance.
- If you are not a member and wish to join a workshop, please join Harps North West. (Currently £10 per adult January to June). This will cover the first workshop and entitles you to join all workshops thereafter that are free to members and those that ask for a voluntary donation. The membership form is found on the HNW website. Please follow the instructions.
- Details of how to pay into the HNW bank account are set out at the end of this newsletter. Please only use PayPal if you live outside the UK.

1 st to 31 st January Free to all	The HNW JaNEwary Challenge 2021. Mary Dunsford presents this annual challenge on behalf of Harps North West. Daily tutorials throughout the month. Three new pieces to learn. All members receive a daily email with links to the sheet music and a tutorial video. More details below.	Online
Sat 16 th January Members: £5 minimum donation. Non-members please join HNW	Shelley Fairplay - Workshop You CAN Do It! The art of breaking pieces down to make anything feel easy! To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org	Zoom 09:45 - 12:00
Now and until 31 st March Sun 30 th January Free to members. Non-members please join HNW.	The HNW Composition Competition – Deadline for entries 31st March. See below for details NEW EVENT. Basics of Composition Workshop led by Susan Lambert See below for details	Zoom 15:00 - 17:00
Sun 21 st February Members: £5 minimum donation. Non-members please join HNW	Rachel Newton - Workshop Rachel will teach one of her own compositions and make sure that you are reminded of technique and learn new skills. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom 09:45 - 12:00
Sun 21 st February	Committee Meeting	Zoom 13:00 - 14:30
Sat 27 th or Sun 28 th February TBC	NEW EVENT. Lauren Scott – HNW Composer in Residence 2021 Preliminary workshop for the first piece of three. More details to follow	Zoom
Mon 9 th to Wed 11 th August	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp Tutors: Jan Bennett and Mary Dunsford www.highamhall.com	Live at Higham Hall, Cumbria CA13 9SH

More dates for 2021: Sat 20th March; Sun 18th April.

HNW holds a workshop, skills session or playing session once per month. Recently these have been held on Zoom rather than live. This will continue until the pandemic ceases to be a concern. In addition we try to hold an additional Zoom session each month. We are moving some of these to the afternoons (GMT) in order to give more opportunity to our International members to join in.

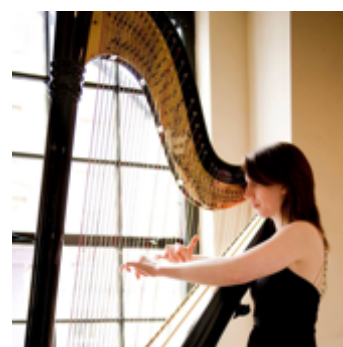
PROPOSED WORKSHOPS and other EVENTS for 2021. We'll keep you informed of dates when they are secured.

1. **Lauren Scott** (Composer in Residence for 2021): workshops to develop three pieces to be composed especially for HNW. **NEW**
2. Full day: **Harps for Harmony Project** live recording of Pachelbel's Cannon in St Bees Priory. Director: **Mary Dunsford**
3. Half day live workshop: **Cumbrian Tunes** Tutor: **Jean Altshuler**
4. Full day live workshop: Tutor **Rachael Gladwin**
5. Live play through: **Freshwater Tears** Tutor: **Lauren Scott**.
6. Half day workshop: **Kulning** Tutor **Mary Dunsford** - June 2021
7. Half day **Beginners Workshop**: Tutor: **Mary Dunsford**

Other Dates for a Harpist's Diary 2021

January	Ailie Robertson's Practice Challenge for January. Plus other activities, such as a beginners' workshop https://www.patreon.com/ailierobertson	Online Patreon and FB
Tues 5 th January Thereafter first Tuesday of each month	Shelley Fairplay's Dynamic Harps Virtual Ensemble A free offering to all harpists around the globe to come together in friendship, peace and harmony to enjoy our wonderful instrument and distract ourselves from COVID-1. Shelley also offers many other online courses suitable for all levels of harpists. https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/	On Zoom and FaceBook 20:00 – 21:30
Fri 8 th to Sun 10 th January	Harp in Scotland online – harp course Tutors: Corrina Hewitt, Wendy Stewart, Cheyenne Brown and Isabel Pendlebury All information and booking form online www.harpsinscotland.com	Online
Fri 29 th to Sun 31 st January	Winter Harp Festival - Join acclaimed harp tutors Grainne Hambly (Ireland), Tristan Le Govic (Brittany), Ailie Robertson (Scotland) and Adriano Sangineto (Italy) https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-harp-festival-online-tickets-126198215259	Online
Fri 9 th to Mon 12 th April 2021	The Edinburgh Harp Festival Announcement video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbWfK4iKJdo&feature=youtu.be	On Zoom

HNW EVENTS COMING UP



The 2021 Harps North West JaNEWary Challenge

We are getting excited for this coming year's JaNEWary Challenge! Look out for the emailed links to the teaching videos from **Mary Dunsford**, starting from 1st January and throughout the month.
Free to members and all other harpists.

A message from Mary

This year the JaNEWary Challenge features a lap-harp piece by **Kristine Warmhold** - a German composer who is prolific in her writing for lap-harps. It can of course be played on a larger harp too!

We also have two brand new compositions, which we shall be premiering in our learning! The first is by **Eira Lynn Jones**, professor of harp at the Royal Northern College of Music. This piece will feature in a new publication being released later in the month. As yet, this piece is

without a name and we are being invited to put forward our suggestions for this as we hear the piece on Day 1, and work on it over the subsequent days. Who knows, yours may be the chosen title for the final publication? Wow!

The third piece, again a brand new composition, is by the stunning film and tv composer, **Paul Lewis**. Paul is married to a harpist and has a great understanding of the instrument, as well as having decades of composing experience going back the 1960s. We are delighted to have him involved in this year's JaNEWary Challenge.

For those who are new to this, the JaNEWary Challenge is three pieces taught over the course of the month in short daily extracts. This encourages you to really focus in on the musicality and quality of what you play and accumulate the full piece over a period of days. This is done via a daily teaching video and a separate play along video to support and encourage, along with the sheet music released daily. Using our paper-saving function, if you can get to grips with how to load the paper into your printer to print in the orientation you want, then you can keep any notes you make as the piece grows over time, and we can do our part to support our environment. The sheet music also appears on screen. The piece is always played in full on the first day, so that you can hear what you will be aiming towards, but you are not then overwhelmed with tackling the full piece in one go. You can, of course, take it at your own pace and do it your own way.

We will share this via daily emails throughout JaNEWary. If you would prefer not to receive these, please do let us know. We look forward to sharing the month with you. **Mary**

Five previous challenges are currently available on the HNW website. 2015 NEWvember, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Enjoy excellent tuition from **Mary Dunsford**

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

The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition

Brief

To help get you started we have some guidelines:

- We would like you to compose a piece of music inspired by a favourite photo/image or feel free to use this image.
- It must feature the harp, but there is no limitation on how many instruments can be included.

We can't wait to hear your ideas, and have a go ourselves.

Happy harping! From the HNW Management Team



How to enter

Your composition can be submitted as a recording (mp3 or equiv) and/or a score (pdf) along with the image that inspired you. If you'd like help with either the recording or the notation, please feel free to work together with others and combine skill sets.

We will also be running a **basics of composition/trouble shooting workshop** (see below) where you can ask questions and get ideas on how to record and notate your piece. A crib sheet on ideas of how to get started will follow.

You can also find a lot of information online and on YouTube. Just ask Google! (Other search engines are available)

Deadline for submissions – 31st March

We would love as many as possible of you to give it a go, even if you have never composed anything before or feel that you would not know where to start. What better way to learn more about the instrument?

Winning entries will be selected by a friendly, independent panel from outside HNW.

Prizes for the winning composers will include:

Free membership to HNW for 2021/22. Vouchers for music suppliers. An opportunity for their piece to be played at a future workshop/event.



Workshop on Zoom with Shelley Fairplay

Saturday 16th January 10:00 - 12:00

You CAN Do It!

The art of breaking pieces down to make anything feel easy!

Do you have a piece you would love to learn in 2021? In this two-hour workshop, we will work on the art of breaking pieces down, however complex they might be, to make simple units/passages of music we find easy to practice

This allows us to tackle anything, safe in the knowledge that SLOW means FAST and we will get there if we make sure we work using manageable steps to take us to our goal. Using techniques such as snippet practice, loop practice and creating our own exercises allows us to really master tricky sections. Please bring a piece along to the session you would like to learn in 2021, so that the ideas we cover can be tried out on your own piece towards the end of the session.

Suggested minimum donation of £5. Non-members please join HNW.

To sign up for this workshop please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Basics of Composition Workshop

Led by Susan Lambert

Sunday 31st January on Zoom 15:00 - 17:00 GMT/UTC)

Susan will cover the basics of composition and trouble-shooting. You will be able to ask questions and get ideas on how to record and notate your piece. A crib sheet on ideas of how to get started will follow. You can also find a lot of information online and on YouTube. Just ask Google! (Other search engines are available)

Free to all members. Non-members please join HNW. All members will receive a link to the Zoom meeting.



Rachel Newton Workshop

Sunday 21st February 10:00 – 12:00 on Zoom

Singer and harpist Rachel Newton specialises in interpreting traditional folk songs in both English and Gaelic as well as writing and arranging her own music.

Rachel will teach one of her own compositions, incorporating advice on improving technique and ideas for making your own harp arrangements along the way.

Find out more about Rachel on her website: Rachelnewtonmusic.com

To sign up for this workshop please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk
Suggested minimum donation of £5. Non-members, please join HNW.

A NEW PROJECT for HNW!

Composer in Residence for 2021

Initial workshop on the first piece - on Zoom Sat 27th or Sun 28th February - TBC

Lauren Scott will be our **Composer in Residence** for the year 2021, funded by the **Arts Council**.

Lauren will be writing three pieces especially for us, and into which we will have input.

The pieces will all be for mixed-ability ensemble and all suggestions of themes/styles/ideas will be welcomed.

The first piece will be produced in February/ March, with an informal online workshop in February, followed by completion in March and rehearsal and play through by the end of March.

The second and third pieces will follow in June/July and October/November and hopefully we will be able to have a live performance after that.

This is a great honour for HNW and we hope that all members will be able to be part of it.

We'll keep you informed of how it will work and how to get involved.

HARPS FOR HARMONY 2020-21

HNW plans to hold a live recording of the piece performed by HNW members in St Bees Priory asap

THIS EVENT WILL HAPPEN – JUST NOT SURE WHEN!

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

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

Still time to practise and get involved.



The Project

Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, taught by Mary Dunsford in the 2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge.

<https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/jannewary-challenge-2020.html>

28th March '20, live recording postponed. 1st May '20, deadline for harpists' video submissions.

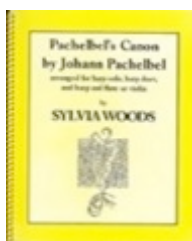
19th June Launch Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyv1JTUul7o&feature=youtu.be>

196 video clips. 109 harpists from across the globe. 19 young persons (youngest age 5)

The Live Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 is postponed due to Covid-19.

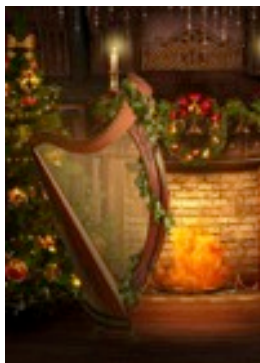
Watch this space for further festival news.



HARPS NORTH WEST NEWS - reports on recent events

The Harps North West Christmas Party – Saturday 5th December Master of Ceremonies – Mary Dunsford

Forty-five members participated in the HNW Christmas Party on Zoom – a record! Here are some members' thoughts and thanks.



Harps North West had a party,
On Zoom we had to see,
Because of a pandemic
In one room we could not be.
'Mary Christmas' did the honours,
The screens were full of cheer,
Mince pies, mulled wine and fizzy
stuff!
Christmas past though brought a tear.

All up and down the country,
And from far afield,
Harps shimmered, plucked and lit up,
They had no need to shield.
The harpists they got fancy
In Christmas outfit 'dos',
Pudding, tree and robin hats
An Angel landed too.

Little Donkey told nativity,
But three kings had a twist.
A skater danced to Winter sounds;
That was not the only Frozen mist.
With, oh, so many highlights,
It's hard to pick a few.
So Merry Christmas one and all
Next year will dawn anew.

Ann Woolley

Winner of the prize for best-dressed harpist! ... Aaww, how kind of you, thank you so much. I really enjoyed preparing for the occasion! I absolutely loved this afternoon's Christmas harpists' party! The whole afternoon was full of fun and smiles. Thank you to the HNW committee, you deserve medals, but especially to Mary who created a wonderful afternoon! Such creativity was involved in presenting a special, uplifting Christmas event! Thank you again.

Kath Wilson

Winner of the prize for best-decorated harp

What a fabulous Christmas party afternoon ... who would have thought a year ago that such an amazing Christmas atmosphere could be generated in a Zoom get together? It was great fun and my first Harps North West Christmas with everyone. It was a real surprise to win a prize for my music stand/harp Christmas decorations ... I did have fun putting it together. A big thank you to everyone involved in planning, contributing to and organising the party and to Mary for being such an amazing host. Hopefully by next Christmas I'll have met you and many other Harps North West people in person. **Annie Allison**

What a lovely afternoon. Mary is an absolute star! Lots of joy but also a bit poignant as I'm finding events like this remind me how much we've missed this year! Will be all the more special to be together again. Thanks to all at HNW for keeping me going through this year. Really looking forward to the challenge in January

Judy Sharps

As Carol said in her introduction, it was just so lovely to see people's faces! And Mary is a phenomenally good MC - as always!

Lesley McCourt

Thank you very much for a fun and uplifting afternoon!

Nicola Hartley

As a first time, newly to this group, I had a lovely afternoon. It was so much fun to see a lot of the ladies dressed up in Christmas style. And I was happy Mary did the tunes to play in a very understandable way and at an acceptable speed. So, thank you very much, that I could participate. Best wishes, **Joke Verdoold**

What a great Christmas Party, with a superb host! Big 'THANK YOU' to Mary. I did enjoy it all, including what happens in Holland! And I didn't know that Father Christmas was dressed in green before Coca-Cola took him over! Or that it was in the 1920's! .

All the solo video clips were so good, but Little Donkey was just 'Christmas for a child!' Well, just Christmas really!

Judy Taylor

Please pass on my thanks to Mary for a wonderful afternoon on Saturday, and thanks to everyone else who had a hand in the organisation. Who would have thought that so much fun could be had looking at a computer screen for the afternoon? I really enjoyed having a party atmosphere with lots of dressing up. The videos were good, and I especially enjoyed the purple bird and Susan's skating. It was good also, to reminisce about previous years and see us all performing together, which we are looking forward to doing again in 2021. However, Zoom does have its good points as no one can hear my wrong notes or dodgy timing, especially as I decorated my harp by attaching things to the tuning pins before tuning up. Many thanks to everyone, **Val Gill**

I really enjoyed it, thank you to Mary and all contributors. I mostly watched but managed to join in with some of 'Carol of the Bells' and 'Walking in the Air'! Not sure I will ever be able to 'keep up' but it was great to hear other individuals and groups. Rhythm tapping of snowmen and bells was fun, as was the quiz. Really appreciate everyone's gift of time and effort in putting this together.

Rose Roberts

Thank you so much, Mary and HNW, for such an entertaining Christmas Eparty. I think we had many more people than ever before enjoying the quiz, Christmas munchies and dressing up and the playing. Thank you all. **Eil Bentley**



...and as a special thank you to Mary for a super Christmas party,
a Christmassy afternoon tea for the Borgia (Dunsford) family from
Harps North West members!

Play Along Carols with Susan Lambert Sunday 20th December on Zoom

Twenty-Five members of HNW joined Susan on Zoom for a wonderful morning of Carols ...and as a bonus to the fun we had, we learned more about how to develop a left-hand accompaniments to well-known tunes. Members really appreciated the way Susan played each piece at a different level, gradually increasing the complexity of the left hand, and sometimes the tune, and ensuring that harpist of all levels could join in. **Gill – The editor**



Thank you for a lovely Sunday morning of playing Christmas music. It has started things off very well. What with Heather Downie & Shelley Fairplay's Christmas Collaborations and the internet, we have been very fortunate that we live in this technological age (even if it doesn't always work). Hope you all had a Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing some of you in the years to come.
Best wishes from **Marie Carson** in South Wales (one of your distant members)

Well, what a wonderful way to start Christmas Week! Susan's 'Carol Play Along' was full of fun and festivity! Non-stop smiling, replacing concerned worries over 'what to do next, re unusual Christmas arrangements!!' Susan is a breath of fresh air and always manages to slip in subtle, most useful, tips for us to help improve our harping! Happy Christmas and New Year to everybody! **Kath Wilson**

What a lovely morning. Especially coming after yesterday's cancelling Christmas announcements from Boris. I felt so sad yesterday but this has cheered me up! Roll on a better year! Looking forward to the JaNEWary challenge. Thank you Susan.

Judy Sharps (Thank you Judy, for your contribution to the morning. **Gill - the editor**)

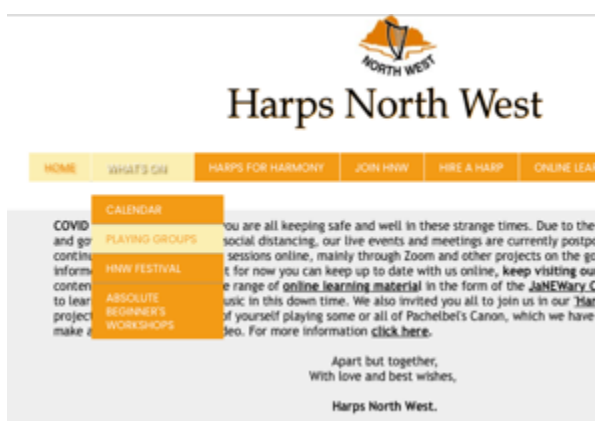
A most enjoyable morning, even if I did just sit and watch this time. We had some really lovely carols, including one of my all time favourites, Gaudete, with its funny little changes in time signature. If anyone would like to hear it to get the feel of how it flows, YouTube have some great versions: Steeleye Span and the King Singers etc. I have found two freely available scores that are included as pdf files in the email with this newsletter. Thank you all. All the Best for 2021. **Eil Bentley**

News from the HNW Website

We now have a page on the website dedicated to **playing groups**. You can find it in the drop down menu of "what's on" section, as well as a link from the home page. I would like to build this page as a contact point for the playing groups to share and showcase what they have been up to, any projects or events, or ideas and photos. Please feel free to send me any information about your group that you would like me to put onto the website. You can now contact me on online@harpnorthwest.org.uk

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see on the website, feel free to get in touch. Best wishes, **Susan Lambert**

The website page:



Location of the Playing Groups



FOR SALE

Piano for sale

A friend is selling his piano. It is a Zender and was bought for the chap's wife at a cost of £2000. She died 2 years ago and he is moving house. He has no idea what to ask for it but will consider any offer. If anyone is interested for themselves or a friend, ask them to contact me and I will put them in touch. Irene Mower - either by phone 015395 63522 or at storthelkhounds@outlook.com



32 String Lever Harp

32 string harp from low C to F above the stave. Made and signed 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.

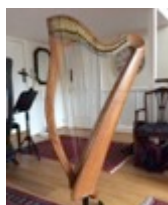
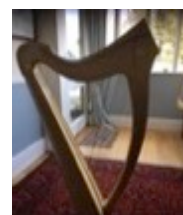
Contact Ruth Wall on ruth@ruthwall.co.uk

Pilgrim Ashdown – 34 strings

£1900 includes a cover and an upholstered stool

This harp is being sold on behalf of Betty Balmain, a founder member of HNW.

Please contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com



Mark Norris 34 string harp

£1400, including stand and new case. Beautiful rosewood instrument.

Contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

PLAYING GROUPS

Please contact group leaders to find out how each playing group is proceeding during these unusual times.

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 at Braithwaite Hall near Keswick on the second Wednesday evening of each summer month, will re-start in April 2021. If you are interested please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk.

The MANAGEMENT TEAM from September 2020

Carol Coldwell	Convenor Harp Hire - overview	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Events: members' bookings	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Cathrine Livesey		
Gill Salter-Smith	Vice Convenor Newsletter editor Membership Secretary - overview Higham Hall Link	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.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 - admin & support Membership - admin & support	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Bank details for use when paying voluntary donations for workshops.

Bank: HSBC

Name of Account: Harps North West

Sort Code: 40-16-22

Account Number: 81806521

For those paying from outside the UK please use PayPal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – not too many of those just now!

HNW members attending 'live' events where legally acceptable, please adhere to the following HNW protocols based on government guidance and law.

Be aware that national government and local guidelines can change with little notice!

HNW PROTOCOLS FOR ATTENDING LIVE EVENTS IN COVID-SECURE SETTINGS

1. Please do not attend a live session if you are feeling unwell, have a temperature, a persistent cough or have recently lost your sense of taste or smell or if anyone in your household is similarly unwell.
2. Undertake your own risk assessment and only attend if you are happy to accept the risks. Take particular account of your personal health and situation and those of others in your household or of those who visit you often.
3. Where possible, avoid car sharing with those not in your household.
4. Maintain at least 2m social distancing at all times.
5. Wear a face mask/covering at all times.
6. Bring and use hand sanitiser and antiseptic cleaning wipes.
7. Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens will not be available.
8. Print your own copies of the music to be played in advance.
9. Avoid touching other people's property. Wash your hands often.
10. Be familiar with the risk assessment and the specific requirements for each venue you visit.
11. **Respect the decisions of others but do not be afraid to ask others to adhere to the protocols if you feel you are at risk.**

Nominated organisers of HNW events. Ensure that a specific risk assessment has been carried out for each venue and the activities to be undertaken. Inform participants of its requirements, especially for registration, entrance, exit and use of toilets. A sample risk assessment is available, please contact the HNW administrator, Alison, on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>