

NEWSLETTER – April 2022

Website: <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

Editor: Frances Quinn, events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



A message from our Convenor

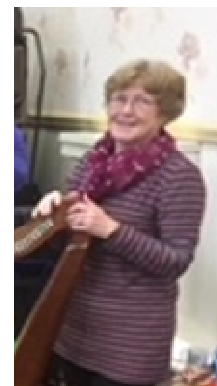
I hope you were able to enjoy the unexpected good weather last month. I wonder if any of you have played your harp outdoors? It has been another busy month. The live Skills Workshop and the Beginners' Workshop, both led by Susan Lambert, were well attended and much appreciated. Eira Lynn Jones's excellent workshop on Zoom proved to be very popular. I hope we'll see Eira working with us 'live' in the not too distant future. Lots coming up in April. Perhaps I'll see some of you at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival in their new venue.

Do try and join in the HNW 'Play for Ukraine' Zoom session on Tuesday 12th April, 8pm. Let's show our support for the Ukrainian people and play for them in the spirit of Harps for Harmony. We hope you enjoy the collection of Ukrainian tunes we have gathered. Has anyone ever 'busked' with their harp? A thought for fund-raising?



Later in the month we have a live session on Sunday afternoon 24th April with Lauren Scott our composer in residence 2021. We'll be in the village hall at Threlkeld, near Keswick, with the amazing views of the mountains and a really good cafe. Lauren will have something for every harpist in her imaginative and exciting pieces. I do hope you can make it.

Finally, on behalf of the festival planning team, we send our apologies for the delay in opening up the bookings for the HNW Summer Festival 2022. We were on track to send out the programme and the booking forms to members and open up booking in March. However, we hit a technical glitch and rather than risk jamming your email systems with over-sized files we are waiting until after Easter now in order to be sure that the problem is resolved.

With very best wishes, **Gill**.



April Events

 <p>Tuesday 12th April. 20:00 - 21:30 BST/UTC+1</p> <p>Open to all harpists.</p>	<p>Play for Ukraine</p> <p>In the spirit of 'Harps for Harmony', Harps North West is coming together to 'Play for Ukraine'. A zoom link will be sent out to all members the weekend before. No need to sign up. Please do ask other non HNW members to join us. We just ask that you let us know they are joining us and that when they join the Zoom meeting they show their harps very clearly.</p> <p>We have compiled a play list of Ukrainian tunes or highly relevant pieces that have been arranged and shared by fellow harpists. There is something for all levels of harpists. The sheet music was emailed on 30/03/22. Thank you to the arrangers for sharing this music with us. Susan Lambert has offered to support our playing. Thank you Susan. Thank you to those of you who have offered to lead a piece, Ann W, Mandy B and Carol C. If anyone else would like to lead a piece or offer another suitable piece of music please let Susan and/or Gill know by email to events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</p>	Zoom
 <p>Sunday 24th April tuning 13:30, playing 14:00-16:00 Free to members</p>	<p>Workshop with Lauren Scott, our Composer in Residence</p> <p>Lauren will have something for every harpist in her exciting new ensemble piece. "Carousel of Dreams".</p> <p>The session will conclude with a mass playthrough of her arrangement of "Pure Imagination" as taught by Mary in the 2019 JaNEWary challenge sessions. A simple version of this will be available for early harpists.</p> <p>Sheet music will be sent out to members for all of the above nearer to the event. To sign up contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</p>	Threlkeld Village Hall CA12 4RY

Harps North West Festival 2022 - update



Festival booking opening later this month - Keep an eye on the website and your emails for updates. The venue and tutors are now confirmed for our Festival, running from Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July 2022. At The University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside - as it says on their web '*Where Beauty inspires Brilliance*'. <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/student-life/locations/ambleside/>

Tutors: Charlotte Peterson, Lauren Scott, Mary Dunsford, Jean Altshuler.

Key events: A concert will be given by Festival tutors on Friday evening.
Absolute Beginners session Saturday am. Youth Workshop on Saturday pm.
Harp servicing by Mark of Teifi Harps will be available.

Alternative activities: Tai Chi, Alexander Technique, Harp care
The programme will be published and bookings will be taken from mid April.

HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are GMT/UTC to end of March. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Tuesday 12 th April, 20:00 - 21:30 BST/UTC+1 Open to all harpists.	Play for Ukraine Let's show our support for the Ukrainian people and play for them in the spirit of Harps for Harmony.	Zoom
Sunday 24 th April tuning 13:30, play 14:00-16:00 Free to members	Workshop with Lauren Scott, our Composer in Residence To sign up contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Threlkeld Village Hall CA12 4RY
Sunday 26 th June 10:30 to 16:00 Tuning from 10:00	*NEW! Ailie Robertson full day workshop more details to follow	Croftlands Community Centre, 44 Central Drive, Ulverston LA12 9JN
Tuesday 5 th July 19.30	'Playing in a Session' with Susan Lambert In preparation for the Saturday night party at the festival, or any other session! Donations welcome.	Zoom
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st July *Save the date!	Harps North West Summer Festival More information soon, booking opening mid April	
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th November 2022	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp - Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton	Higham Hall CA13 9SH

Booking and Paying for an event. Harps North West (HNW) is committed to providing opportunities to play and appreciate the harp. To cover costs we ask members for a voluntary donation for many events (suggested minimum of £5) or we ask for a specific fee for workshops. Non-members are asked to join HNW and the cost of the first event is included in the membership fee. (See the HNW website for details on how to become a member.) Payments can be made by bank transfer or, from outside the UK, by Paypal - details at the end of the newsletter. ***See changes to bank details at the end of the newsletter***

*UPDATED: COVID-19 Guidance Changes

Latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

The government has removed domestic restrictions in England and free tests are now only available to vulnerable groups. There are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

Friday 8 th April to Monday 11 th April	Edinburgh International Harp Festival https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/ *UPDATES: Announcements about artists and tutors begin now and the box office is now open. This year the festival takes place in George Watson's College, Colington Road, Edinburgh,
Tuesday April 12 th to Wednesday April 13 th	Wales Harp Festival https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/
Friday 17 th June 19:30 to 21:30	Karen Marshalsay - evening concert Shambelie House, New Abbey, Dumfries, so why not have a weekend in sunny Dumfries and Galloway? Booking https://www.shambelliehouse.org/product/scottish-harps-with-karen-marshalsay/
Saturday 18 th June 10:30 to 15:30	D&G Branch of the Clarsach Society: workshop with Karen Marshalsay Kirkcudbright Parish Hall, cost £20. Booking for the workshop to Lyn Walby (lyn.walby@uwclub.net) Payment by cheque, to Clarsach Society, Dumfries & Galloway Branch, Lyn Walby, 37 Boreland Road, Kirkcudbright DG6 4JB, or by bank transfer BACS 832402 00126275.
22 nd July to 28 th July	14th World Harp Congress https://www.whc2022.wales/
24 th August to 27 th August	Glasbury Harp Summer School - online https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101

NEWS of Recent HNW Events

Skills Workshop, 12th March, Slyne, with Susan Lambert



Thirteen members came together in the very pleasant Slyne with Hest Church Hall, just north of Lancaster. Well done to those who traveled long distances in order to attend the session. It was good to see you. Thank you Val for opening up the hall, providing superb coffee and biscuits and making us all feel so welcome. I hope we'll be back again one day.

A huge thank you to Susan for all those finger twisting activities and for stepping in unexpectedly to cover the session for all levels of harpists. After all that loosening up and stretching, I felt so much more relaxed and ready to play. We worked through basic finger placing, intervals and scales with all sorts of tricky variations. We jumped around all the octaves of the harp with chords and arpeggios with different intervals. Susan's gentle guidance with an emphasis on how to achieve good technique and sound with both hands gave plenty of challenge. We finished the session playing through two Ukrainian tunes, the folk tune, 'Why Didn't You Come', arranged by Janice Eckworth and 'Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished', the national anthem arranged by Rebecca Root. My challenge now is to include some of these exercises into my regular practice! A very well spent Saturday morning. **Gill**

"Today, we enjoyed a happy, uplifting harping experience with Susan, at a beautifully, clean and fresh church hall in Hest Bank. Susan made fingering exercises fun, managing her two hour slot perfectly! The time flew. I would also like to add, how welcoming and friendly other HNW harpists are! I'm delighted to be a member!" Kath Wilson

Just for fun, here are some of the stretches for all to try!



Absolute Beginners' Workshop, 12th March, Slyne, with Susan Lambert

In the afternoon, seven people came along to the Beginners' workshop, trying out the harp for the first time. This was also well received. The next one is in July at the Harps North West Festival in Ambleside.

"Just to say how much I enjoyed yesterday. I felt very privileged to be able to handle such a lovely instrument, and one that, by chance, happened to be your own personal one.

I didn't always keep up, as it's been so long since I needed to read music and I was finding it difficult to see the strings unless I closed one eye! Later you explained that strategic lighting is important, so hopefully it wasn't my eyesight failing, as I had feared. I need to polish up my music reading skills before I have another go, but much to my delight I could play the tunes on it 'by ear' and the sound is so wonderful, even when you get it wrong!

So yesterday was a really lovely day. I have ticked something off my 'bucket list' and I even enjoyed the drive. The sound of the harp made the current bad news in Europe seem so far away; it's so peaceful and relaxing". Bernie Young

"A very big thank you to all involved with the organisation of the Harps Beginners Course at Slyne with Hest yesterday. I had a fabulous time. A special thank you to Sue, our teacher, whose patience, skill and good humour made it such a wonderful and informative afternoon". Helen Jump

Eira Lynn Jones Workshop on Sunday 27th March.



The workshop was very well received by 14 members and many others requested the recording. Every word and phrase used by Eira was a nugget of golden information. Eira gently encouraged us to reflect on many basics even down to the space we use for our harp practice. The importance of working out fingering and placing and of good technique were emphasised. I loved the piece - Nada te turbe (Jacques Berthier) - so relevant and poignant in these harrowing times. Thank you so much for agreeing to let us share this piece with members in preparation for the HNW Zoom playing session - 'Play For Ukraine - Harps for Harmony'. The workshop was a helpful and worthwhile way to spend a Sunday morning. Thank you Eira. **Gill**

"As a beginner, I was initially dubious about joining this workshop, despite the security of zoom and no-one being able to hear me. However, it turned out to be well worthwhile, with Eira starting by stressing she was going back to basics, talking about how to learn, then going on to some technical exercises, some of which were distinctly harder than others - I'm still wrestling with number 5 and haven't quite graduated to number 6. One of the principal tips was to take everything very slowly to begin with, which suits me well, just a shame it takes me a very long time to speed up! An excellent session, and I will be using the video recording (thanks Susan) to refresh my memory and practice the tune, which is appropriate for Ukraine. Well done to the volunteers who played the examples as requested by Eira."

Chris Pollington

"The Eira Lynn workshop was a great revisit to basics. It's always a good idea to have a re-view with a different tutor as they always have something new to try. Plenty on offer here. Lots of ideas to help improve technique and music to try. Thank you Eira Lynn and of course Susan for sorting out the recording. Being able to pick it up at a convenient time is great". Eil Bentley

"In my experience Eira Lynn Jones has a very individual approach to group teaching. Unlike most tutors Eira concentrates on the basics of technique and practice. Her zoom Workshop on 27th March was no exception. She emphasised the importance of such things as reading and studying the music away from the harp and practising at the speed of 'no mistakes'. Eira quoted another professional musician who said "aspire to the state of a beginner". The importance of working out the fingering and acknowledging that fingering may evolve. Eira introduced a piece called 'Let Nothing Disturb'.

Eira Lynn Jones is an inspirational teacher. Her approach resonates with me because I tend to be disorganised in my practising - when I do practise! Being reminded of how I should progress is important". Ian Ludlam

"I was able to watch the recorded session today. So many useful suggestions. I especially enjoyed how Eira worked with how to choose fingering and placement. Thanks so much!" Sheryl Hogg, Minnesota, USA

"Thanks for this (video). Yes, a wonderful workshop and well worth watching again! Thank you to Susan for the very nice editing". Maureen O'Sullivan

News from Members

Spell Songs online concert, Saturday 9th April

"Members may be interested in this online concert based on The Lost Words and The Lost Spells books, featuring harpist Rachel Newton and others. Wonderful music and such an interesting project." Judy Sharps

More information and tickets available at <https://www.thelostwords.org/spell-songs/>

Download 'Carol of the Bells' and donate to Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund: from Ailie Robertson



In light of the horrific news from Ukraine, I am offering a free download of my lever harp arrangement of the Ukrainian tune 'Carol of the Bells'. In return, please use the button on the page to donate - all donations will be sent to **Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund**. Every donation, large and small, will make a difference.

<https://www.ailierobertson.com/harp-tips-blog/2022/2/27/download-carol-of-the-bells-and-donate-to-save-the-childrens-ukraine-crisis-relief-fund>

Harps North West Information

HNW Playing Groups

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 once and sometimes twice each month. Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com Tutor: Susan Lambert.

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. Tutor: Mary Dunsford.

Harps Up North are based in Watermillock, usually meeting the first Thursday morning of the month. Contact Frances on francesmquinn@btinternet.com.

Red Rose Harps are based at Slyne Village Hall, North Lancashire. They meet on Tuesday afternoons twice per month. Contact Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

The Management Team from 11th Sept 2021 - Sept 2022

Gill Salter-Smith	Convenor Membership Secretary - overview Higham Hall Link	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Vice Convenor Harp Hire Secretary - overview Events: members' bookings	harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Carol Coldwell		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington		
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
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 membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



WANTED! Your Harp Society Still Needs You!

If you are a keen harpist committed to enjoying playing with others, we would be delighted to have you join the committee. We're a friendly bunch who just love playing the harp.

We still need a TREASURER and/or TREASURER ELECT, though Ann Woolley has agreed to stay in the role for now. Our administrator, Alison, deals with the day-to-day bank payments and writes up the cashbook spreadsheet. The Treasurer provides an overview, writing brief reports for committee meetings and pulling together the end of year accounts and claiming gift aid annually. The treasurer (or secretary) reports to the Charity Commission each year. If you think you could help with any of the roles above, please contact Alison on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Payment - Bank details for use when paying donations for HNW workshops.

★ IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS - changes to accounts ★

Our current bank, HSBC, have started to charge a monthly fee for charity accounts and so we have taken the decision to close all but our current account for the time and we will be on the lookout for a free banking account in the future. Watch this space...

Please note that the only account now open has the following details so if you have the Festival account details saved somewhere (I know there are a few of you out there as we need to do the occasional transfer!) this should now be deleted. Cheques and cash transactions are also now charged so we appreciate your payments being made by direct bank transfer. Thank you.

Bank: HSBC

Name of Account: Harps North West

Sort Code: 40-16-22

Account Number: 81806521

For those paying HNW from outside the UK please use PayPal <http://paypal.me/HarpsNorthWest>

When paying by PayPal please choose the pay 'friends and family' option where possible to avoid charges.