

NEWSLETTER

April 2023



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

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

Convenor's message

I write this from a beautiful gîte in Normandy, after a pretty stressful journey due to ferry cancellations and a very rough sleepless crossing. I was glad that I had my Bohemian harp with me. Playing for half an hour in front of a warming log fire totally calmed me down. Thank you harp.

How good to see so many of you at The Parish Centre in Ambleside in March for the launching of Gill Lowden's new piece 'Stargazing'. The blue sparkly lights above the stage area made it a fine and suitable venue, matching Gill's beautiful composition. Thank you to Gill for her composition, to Mary for her tuition and to Susan for the video.

There is lots of harping activity to look forward to. In April Harriet Earis will teach us Welsh tunes via Zoom. In May and June, Mary Dunsford will help us to hone up our harp skills via Zoom. The next live session at the start of June brings Wendy Stewart for a full-day live workshop on improving ensemble playing whilst learning her arrangements of Swedish tunes. On Saturday 1st July HNW, members are playing at Leighton Moss Bird Reserve as part of a Making Music event. We'll play and introduce the harp to the reserve's visitors. Do come and join us.

Exciting news for Sunday 2nd July! In collaboration with the North West Music Association (NWMA) in their new base in Barrow-in-Furness, we'll be holding a HNW Summer Celebration. Among other pieces will be the playing the premier of 'There were Always Going to be Owls' live with Susan and with Mike on saxophone. After a morning rehearsal with Mary Dunsford, a shared lunch and then more rehearsal, the day will conclude with an informal performance for family and friends and we'll be joined by a group of cardboard harpists who have been working with Mary. More details of this day to come but we shall be inviting the Playing Groups to come and play a piece or two, on similar lines to the Xmas Party. (HNW with the support of members' donations commissioned Lauren Scott to write '...Owls' for Susan and Mike as a wedding gift from HNW).

The new HNW Performance Group is being kept busy playing background music at The Gatesfield Quaker Housing Association Garden Party in Windermere on Sat 20th May and they will give a concert as part of the St Michael's and All Angels Church, Cokerham, concert series on Friday 9th June. 6.30pm. Do get in touch if you would like to be part of the HNW Performance Group.

The committee is busy planning events for 2024 to celebrate HNW's 20 year anniversary. A concert tour is planned with two venues booked so far. A very special summer festival will be held at Higham Hall in July, we'll keep you updated. Happy harping.
 Gill



April Event

<p>Sunday 30th April 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Fee: Members £10. Non-members £20.</p>	<p>*New* Welsh Tunes - Workshop on Zoom - Tutor: Harriet Earis</p> <p>'Come and discover some more unusual old Welsh tunes. We will learn the basic tune by ear (but with full written music and fingering provided too for those who want it) and then explore ways to develop and arrange each tune by adding ornamentation, different harmonies and new left-hand patterns. The course will be suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced, with something for everyone to take away - ranging from just learning the basic tune if you're a beginner, to putting together a full-blown arrangement on the spot if you want more of a challenge.'</p> <p>A recording will be available. A Zoom link and the sheet music will be sent to those signed up a few days before the event.</p> <p>To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p>	<p>Zoom</p>
--	---	-------------

Inside the Newsletter:

Dates for the diary.....page 2
NEW HNW Post Beginners Personal Best Series.....page 3
 Make Music Day.....page 3
 HNW Bursaries for Young Harpists.....page 3
 New Robert Burns Song Book.....page 5

HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are GMT. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Sunday 30th April 10:00 - 12:00 Fee: Members £10. Non-members £20.	*New* Welsh Tunes - Workshop on Zoom - Tutor: Harriet Earis 'Come and discover some more unusual old Welsh tunes. A recording will be available. A Zoom link and the sheet music will be sent to those signed up a few days before the event. More details on the front page. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom
Monday 15th May 19:30 to 21:00 No fee but donations are always welcome.	*New* Develop your harp skills with Mary Dunsford Working at a Steady Pace - suitable for all harpists but particularly post beginner, elementary to intermediate harpists - 'The steady players' A recording will be available. No need to sign up. All members will be sent the Zoom meeting link.	Zoom
Saturday 20th May 13:00 - 16:00	HNW Performance Group Gig - Gatesbield Contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you are interested in joining the group	Gatesbield Housing Association
Friday 9th June 18:30 to 19:30	HNW Performance Group Gig 6.30 to 7.30 Contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you are interested in joining the group	St Michaels & All Saints Church Cokerham
Monday 12th June 19:30 to 21:00 No fee but donations are always welcome.	*New* Develop your harp skills on with Mary Dunsford Working at a Faster Pace - suitable for intermediate and advanced harpists. A recording will be available. No need to sign up. All members will be sent the Zoom meeting link.	Zoom
Saturday 1st July 11:00 arrive 11:30 to 14:30 All welcome	*New* Make Music Day - more inside An informal playing session where we encourage the public to listen to our playing and have a go at playing the harp. All members are welcome to join us in playing and/or talk to the public. Contact events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you would like to join in.	The Holt Room Leighton Moss RSPB Centre Silverdale LA5 0SW
Sunday 2nd July - Full Day end of year Summer Celebration 10:00 - 17:00 Concert tickets £5	*Save the date! HNW and NW Music Academy present a Summer Celebration of the Harp: A full day, end of year, summer celebration To Sign up: Contact events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you would like to join in. More details to come	Live NWMA Centre Ramsden Square Barrow-in-Furness
Saturday 19th to Monday 21st August 2023	Higham Hall - A Summer Break with the Harp Tutors: Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley Contact Higham Hall directly. http://highamhall.com/	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp - Residential Tutors: Eira Lynn Jones and Luke Webb Contact Higham Hall directly. http://highamhall.com/	Higham Hall CA13 9SH

Payments for HNW events

Harps North West (HNW) is committed to providing opportunities to play and appreciate the harp. We offer many events to members free of charge, though we do ask members to consider making a voluntary donation to help cover costs (suggested minimum of £5). We ask for a specific fee for some tutor-led workshops Non-members are asked for a higher fee or they may join HNW and pay the same as members. Payments can be made by bank transfer or, from outside the UK, by Paypal - **details at the end of the newsletter.**

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

Friday 21st April 19:30	Karen Marshalsay in concert at Quarrymen's Arts Centre, Newton Stewart https://www.ents24.com/newton-stewart-events/quarrymens-arts-centre/karen-marshalsay/6683716
Sunday 4th June 13:00	Lucy Wakeford Harp Recital, Holy trinity Church Bardsea, LA12 9QT https://ulverstonmusicfestival.co.uk/event/lunchtime-harp-recital-lucy-wakeford/
Sunday 25th to Friday 30th June	International Festival for Irish Harp - An Chuirt Chruitireachta Artist in Residence: Rachel Hair Co Louth, Republic of Ireland. Full details coming soon at https://www.cairdenacruite.com/festival
Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th August	Glasbury Harp Summer School https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/126-11th-anniversary-harp-summer-school-2023?Itemid=101

HNW News and Recent Events

★NEW★ Post Beginner's Personal Best series ★NEW★

We are delighted to be launching our brand new HNW Post Beginner's Personal Best series, aimed at supporting new players on the harp, and a great follow up for those who have taken part in one of our Absolute Beginner's Workshops.

We commissioned Mary Dunsford to create a set of **16 videos**, covering **four modules of learning**, building up finger skills and musical playing along the way, with dedicated exercises and brand new pieces to really bring the best out of your playing and to support confidence in joining our playing groups too!

To celebrate the launch, we are offering this lifetime-access package at a special introductory price to any interested existing members until the end of May of just £30! This is also the price that brand new HNW beginners will be able to access it at after a workshop. It will be available to the general public (and to existing members beyond May) at £45 - still great value for the content provided!

To purchase the package, contact events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



★NEW★ International 'Make Music' day

Make Music Day UK is an annual celebration of music-making that takes place in communities across the world on the 21st of June. Make Music Day builds on a concept started in France in 1982 - that a day each year should be dedicated to music, with no barriers to people playing and enjoying live performance - and has now spread to more than 125 countries.

HNW has booked the Holt room at **Leighton Moss** for **Saturday 1st July** for us to play and meet the public to celebrate international 'Make Music' day (which is actually Wednesday June 21st - but near enough!). This is an informal playing session where we encourage the public to listen to our playing and have a go at playing the harp.

All members are welcome to join us in playing and/or talk to the public.

General information at <https://makemusicday.co.uk/>

HNW Bursaries for Young Harpists.

Harp North West are offering annual bursaries to young harpists who are under the age of 18 on 1 September in the year of the award. Applications should be submitted by 1 July to the convenor of Harps North West.

The awards will commence from 1 September.

Applications must include a testimonial from the young person's harp teacher.

Please ask your harp teacher for more information.

**New bursaries
Use email on the forms**

HNW relaunching harp hire/tutoring bursaries, can ask your harp tutor for more information

NEWS of Recent HNW Events

JaNEWary Challenge 2023: bonus live extension



This year, HNW JaNEWary Challenge was extended by a bonus piece, 'Stargazing', written by Gill Lowden, with a zoom learning session to introduce the music, and a live workshop and performance in Ambleside. Recordings are available – see below.

Monday, 6th March Stargazing Zoom session and recording:

More than twenty people from round the globe joined the zoom, beginning with hearing the ensemble piece in full, Mary magically playing both parts. She tutored us through harp 1, then a whistle-stop tour of harp 2, before playing along with the ensemble version to finish. We even learned a new musical term – **scintillante**, meaning 'twinkly'!

Live workshop, 12th March:

Fifteen harpists met at a beautiful hall in Ambleside for a half day, live workshop. Mary Dunsford took us through the ensemble playing of 'Stargazing'. This was followed by a performance where the learners at the beginners' session joined the audience – I feel the music and the setting would have helped inspire them.

Afternoon playing session:

In the afternoon, we had a playing session, playing among others, 'Carousel of Dreams' by Lauren Scott, a great piece with some different harp sounds. Clara joined us and brilliantly performed 'Boundless' by Kim Roberston, on her pedal harp as part of preparation for the South Cumbria Music Festival (see later in the newsletter).

Some of the appreciative comments for Gill Lowden and Mary Dunsford -

Thank you, Mary, for such helpful tips given last night. Gill's composition is so pretty! Love, Kath

Such a pretty piece, Gill!! X, Kath W

Thank you to you and to Mary xx

Thank you -what a lovely piece. I really enjoyed this evening, it's inspired me to come back to playing & practicing my harp more x, Annie A.

Thank you Mary, a beautiful piece Gill!, Diane A

Lovely piece thank you Gill, and thank you for all the help Mary. Lovely evening, Judy T

A lovely piece - feels great to play. Thanks, very much Mary, Mandy

Wish I could be here! A little far....haha. THANK YOU!!!! Heidi D

Thank you Gill for sharing this beautiful piece and thank you too Mary, Gill

Thank you for letting me participate from afar! Very beautiful and at a tempo I can play :-), June E

Thank you very much Gill and Mary. The tunes are very beautiful not too difficult for beginners like me. I think I can play tune of harp 1, John

Thank you Mary& to GILL and look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday. Bye for now, Alice P.

Many thanks to Gill, the composer, and Mary, the tutor, for the Stargazing music so fitting for harps, Marilyn

Beautiful, Marie Jennings

This piece captures the wonder of stargazing and the twinkling stars beautifully, Kathryn McC

You can watch the hour and a half online learning session on the HNW JaNEWary website:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=jFPZnpi4GVc&t=6s>

and Susan's sparkly video of the performance at Ambleside on the 12th March her:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CYi5bAPZh4&ab_channel=HarpsNorthWest

Thank you to Gill Lowden for composing this beautiful piece. Thank you to Mary for teaching it to us as part of the JaNEWary Challenge bonus live extension 2023. Thank you to Susan for making this lovely recording.



News from members

Congratulations to Clara!

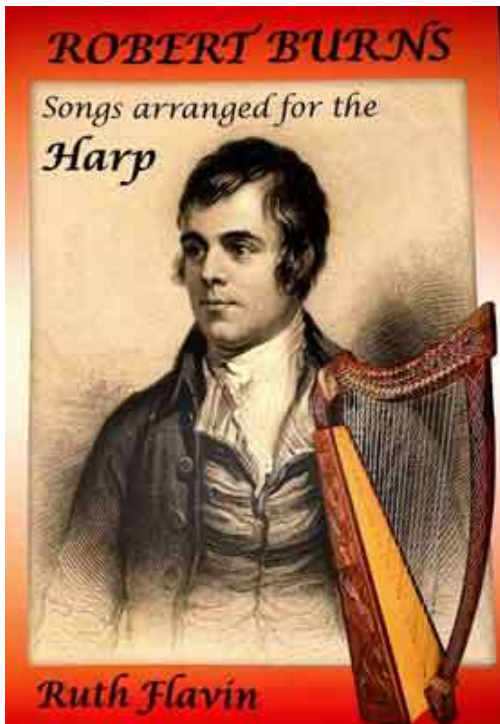


Mary Dunsford's pupil Clara won the Gardner Shield in the school years 7-9 string solo class (706) at the South Cumbria Music Festival. She played a gorgeous modern piece - Boundless by Kim Roberston - on her pedal harp, and was commended on her "exceptional musical performance". Clara also took the opportunity to practice performing this piece to us on the Stargazing afternoon at Ambleside - it was brilliant to hear, a lovely piece of music and performed beautifully .

'So proud of my student', Mary Dunsford

Harp North West is also proud to have such a talented young harpist as a member - well done Clara!

Robert Burns - Songs Arranged for the Harp.



Ruth Flavin has a new harp book out,

The book contains includes accompaniments to singing, solos piece and counter melodies.

Cost £15 plus postage.

Contact Ruth Flavin on rpflavin@hotmail.com

Contents

<i>Ae Fond Kiss</i>	2, 3, 4
<i>A Fiddler in the North</i>	5, 6, 7
<i>Afton Water</i>	8, 9, 10, 11
<i>A Man's a Man for a' That</i>	12, 13, 14
<i>Comin' Thro' the Rye</i>	15, 16, 17
<i>Dainty Davie</i>	18, 19, 20
<i>Duncan Gray</i>	21, 22, 23
<i>Gloomy December</i>	24, 25, 26
<i>Green Grow the Rashies O</i>	27, 28, 29
<i>John Anderson, my Jo</i>	30, 31, 32
<i>Lady Mary Ann</i>	33, 34, 35
<i>Mary Morison</i>	36, 37, 38, 39
<i>McPherson's Farewell</i>	40, 41, 42
<i>Parcel of Rogues</i>	43, 44, 45
<i>Rattlin' Rourin' Willie</i>	46, 47, 48
<i>The Birks o' Aberfeldy</i>	49, 50, 51
<i>The De'il's awa' wi' the Exciseman</i>	52, 53, 54
<i>The Slave's Lament</i>	55, 56, 57
<i>The Winter it is Past</i>	58, 59, 60
<i>Ye Banks and Braes</i>	61, 62, 63

For Sale - Clive Morley 20 string Therapy Harp



In very good condition. Two octaves, lowest string is G, highest is E. Floor to highest point of harp is 79cm. Comes with its own carry bag with pocket, tuning key and attachable bar for easy playing when seated.

£500.

Please contact me if interested: cathrynbins02@gmail.com

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 hazyhead49@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

***New HNW Performance Group:** open to all members. A commitment to practising around once per month with the ensemble will be necessary in order to ensure the balance of parts is optimised. It is not expected that everyone will play in every performance. Parts will be available for all levels. Venues will vary. If you decide you would like to be part of this group or to know more, please get in touch with Gill Salter-Smith on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The Management Team from 11thSept 2022 - Sept 2023

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	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Carol Coldwell		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington	Venue bookings	
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Alison Stobbs	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer 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.

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

★ HNW Bank details ★

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 change the 'paying an invoice or business' option to the 'paying family or friends'.

Cheques and cash transactions are also now charged so we appreciate your payments being made by direct bank transfer. Thank you.