

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2024



Website: <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>  
 Editor: Frances Quinn, [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

### Convenor's message

Another bumper issue newsletter! Thank you Frances. The new year has brought us Harps North West 20th Anniversary. Let's get set to celebrate 20 years of wonderful harping, friends made and cake! We started the year with The JaNEWary Challenge. Midnight Lullaby is such a beautiful piece. We hope you enjoyed learning it. Thank you Mary Dunsford and Eira Lynn Jones.

We hope we'll meet as many of you as possible over the year at one or more of the 20th Anniversary Playing Group Concert-Parties or at the practices, live and on Zoom. These events will give each Playing Group the opportunity to play with members from across HNW and to play for their family and friends in their own locality. Do revisit and enjoy playing the selection of music that HNW has played over the 20 years from our most loved composers. These pieces will contribute to the Playing Groups Concert-Parties and give the chance for members to play together. See the details of the music and the events below. More Concert-Party dates will be announced as each Playing Group plans their own special day.

Two very special items will be 'raffled' at live events over the anniversary year. A beautiful quilt made by Ann Woolley will be raffled. A 'Name the Bear' competition will be held for a hand-made teddy bear with harp, made by myself, the harp was made by Alastair Woolley. More details of these at the first live rehearsal for Playing Group Concert-Parties on Sunday 24th February at Grizebeck Village Hall. A second live full-day rehearsal is planned for Sunday 21st April at a venue to be confirmed in the north. Mary Dunsford will lead the rehearsals.

The Harps North West 20th Anniversary Festival, due to be held at Higham Hall from 19-21 July, has proved very popular and is almost full. Do contact Higham Hall if you are wanting to be part of this event. If you are not attending the Festival perhaps come along to the concert on the Friday evening. With the festival tutors Mary Dunsford, Stephen Dunstone, Shelley Fairplay and Wendy Stewart, there are treats in store.

The Performance Group has enjoyed learning some new pieces and will be contributing to a Charity Concert in Ings on 24th February. As part of the Anniversary concert tour the Performance Group will support the Playing Group Concert- Parties. On Sunday 4th March they are supporting a concert starring Susan Lambert and Mary Dunsford at The Heron Theatre, Beetham, Milnthorpe on Sunday 4th March.

We are planning further Zoom events over the coming year and will be inviting guest tutors, hopefully broadening your experience of different harp genres and teaching approaches. Keep an eye open for these events.

We look forward to an exciting year. Happy harping. Gill

### February Events

Wednesday 7th February No fee for members	<b>Second Practice of the HNW members' pieces for the 20th Anniversary Concert Tour. Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b> All members will be sent the link to the Zoom meeting a few days before the event. No need to sign up. The sheet music will be sent out to all members. See below for details of the pieces.	Zoom
Sunday 25th February 10:00 tuning. Workshop 10:30 - 12:30  No fee to members	<b>Live practice for 20th Anniversary Concert Tour, Playing Group PlayDays and concerts</b> <b>Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b> Please let Mandy/Gill know you are coming on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> Suggested pieces for 20th Anniversary PlayDays and concerts, for members to play in order to celebrate the contribution of these wonderful harpists to Harps North West: - We Are Harps North West - Karen Marshalsay - Gaelic Air - arr. Charlotte Petersen - Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden - Seal Lullaby - Ralf Lovland. Arr. Lauren Scott (2020 Jan Challenge) - Summer Is icumen In - Wendy Stewart (a lively round) - In the Snow Where the Deers Are - Wendy Stewart - Clouds in a Sunlit Sky - Eira Lynn Jones (2021 Jan Challenge)	Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH
Sunday 25th February 13.30-16:00 Cost: £30	<b>Absolute Beginners Workshop</b> <b>Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b> Harps and music stands are provided. No previous musical experience is needed. Harps will be available to hire after the workshop. Please contact Mandy/Gill on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> to reserve a place.	Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH

## HNW Dates for the Diary

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

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Wednesday 7th February No fee for members	<b>Second Practice of the HNW members' pieces for the 20th Anniversary Concert Tour. Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b> All members will be sent the link to the Zoom meeting a few days before the event. No need to sign up. The sheet music will be sent out to all members. See below for details of the pieces.	Zoom
Tuesday 20th February 11:00-13:00	<b>Harps North West harpists</b> , Ann, Carol, Judy and Linda, play background music at this National Trust property.	Allan Bank, Grasmere
Sunday 25th February 10:00 tuning. Workshop 10:30 - 12:30  No fee to members	<b>Live practice for 20th Anniversary Concert Tour, Playing Group PlayDays and concerts</b> <b>Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b> Please let Mandy/Gill know you are coming on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> Suggested pieces for 20th Anniversary PlayDays and concerts, for members to play in order to celebrate the contribution of these wonderful harpists to Harps North West: - We Are Harps North West - Karen Marshalsay - Gaelic Air - arr. Charlotte Petersen - Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden - Seal Lullaby - Ralf Lovland. Arr. Lauren Scott (2020 Jan Challenge) - Summer Is icumen In - Wendy Stewart (a lively round) - In the Snow Where the Deers Are - Wendy Stewart - Clouds in a Sunlit Sky - Eira Lynn Jones (2021 Jan Challenge)	Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH
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Sunday 3rd March 14.30 Tickets £15	<b>Mary Dunsford and Susan Lambert in Concert at</b> The Harps North West Performance Group will be in support as part of the 20th Anniversary Concert Tour.	the Heron Theatre, Beetham, LA7 7AS
Saturday 27th April 10:00 for 10.30-13.30	<b>Joint D&amp;G Clarsach Branch/HNW: Workshop with Charlotte Petersen</b> <b>*more inside*</b> A joint venture with our friends from Dumfries and Galloway Clarsach Group	Richard Greenhow Centre, Central Avenue, Gretna, DG16 5AQ
Dates and venues to be announced	<b>Harps North West 20th Anniversary Concert Tour: Playing Group PlayDays and Concerts for family and friends.</b> As part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations, in order to include as many of you as possible, each Playing Group is planning to host a PlayDay and a concert in their locality. These will run on similar lines to the Christmas Party day - rehearsal in the morning, shared lunch and an informal performance/concert for family and friends in the afternoon. There is a playlist of music that we can all play (above). There will be two practices on Zoom in January and February led by Mary Dunsford. There is a live practice of these pieces led by Mary Dunsford on Sunday 25th February at Grizebeck. We shall be planning a further live practice in the north. Hoping you'll be able to join at least one of these PlayDays/Concerts and help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Harps North West.	To be announced HOW - May HUN - June
June 2024	<b>JuNEWary with Mary Dunsford *more inside*</b> Join us in June to learn a second piece, this time by Karen Marshalsay	Online daily videos
Sunday 16th June 2pm Tickets £10	<b>Wendy Stewart and Susan Lambert in Concert at the Kirkgate Theatre, Cockermouth</b> The Harps North West Performance Group will be in support as part of the 20th Anniversary Concert Tour.	The Kirkgate Theatre, Cockermouth CA13 9PJ
Friday 21st June 14:00 - 16:00	<b>International Make Music Day - Windermere Jetty Museum</b> Calling all members - if you would like to come and play for International Make Music Day please contact Ann Woolley via <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> . The aim is to play to the museum visitors and spread the word about all things harp-y.	Windermere Jetty Museum LA23 1BN
Friday 19th July 16:00 Sunday 21st July	<b>Harps North West - 20th Anniversary Festival</b> <b>Tutors: Stephen Dunstone, Mary Dunsford, Shelley Fairplay and Wendy Stewart</b> Priority booking for members 15- 29 January - directly with Higham Hall. The festival programme will be sent to all members with details of how to book onto the festival itself, the concert and/or the festival dinner. We hope to see many of you there.	Higham Hall, near Cockermouth CA13 9SH
Friday 8th to Sunday 10th November	<b>A Weekend with the Harp - Tutors Karen Marshalsay and Lauren Scott</b> Contact Higham Hall directly to secure a place. <a href="mailto:admin@highamhall.com">admin@highamhall.com</a>	Higham Hall, near Cockermouth CA13 9SH

## Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2023/2024

On-going	Learn how to use a Loop with Ruth Lee <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iw0L6Kv0dDc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iw0L6Kv0dDc</a>	On-line learning
Friday 5th April 19.30	Polaris Duo - Eleanor Nicholson - harp, and Gillian Blair - saxophone <a href="https://www.polarisduo.com/">https://www.polarisduo.com/</a> Booking: <a href="https://www.grangeoversandsconcertclub.org.uk/">https://www.grangeoversandsconcertclub.org.uk/</a>	Grange over Sands Concert Club, Victory Hall

### Payments for HNW events

Harp 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.**

## Any Budding Editors Interested in producing the HNW Newsletter?

Dear HNW members: due to other commitments, I can no longer compile the HNW newsletter. It has been really lovely and I have enjoyed it. You get to know what is being planned really early! It also is an opportunity to engage with the harp community, keeping people informed and it has the potential to expand further.

If anyone is interested, please contact Gill or myself at [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

## HNW Upcoming Events and Activities

### Charlotte Petersen Workshop details: Joint D&G Clarsach Branch/HNW

Saturday 27 April **10:00 for 10.30 - 16.00**

Venue Richard Greenhow Centre, Central Avenue, Gretna, DG16 5AQ

Cost £20 – payable by BACS to The Clarsach Society D&G Branch 83-24-02 a/c number 00126275 or cheque, to Treasurer D&G Branch, 37 Boreland Road, Kirkcudbright DG6 4JB and register with Lyn at [lyn.walby@uwclub.net](mailto:lyn.walby@uwclub.net)

Please bring a mug and something for shared lunch (but no facility for heating food) – nothing onion-family based for Charlotte!



Charlotte Petersen. Based in her home town of Peebles in the Scottish Borders, Charlotte is one of Scotland's most talented harpists, composers, arrangers and performers of music for the clarsach and harp. A well-known face at the Edinburgh Harp Festival, Charlotte's warm stage presence and skilful communication make her a sought after performer. Audiences around the world have delighted at her compositions, some of which have been recorded as soundtracks for BBC radio plays. Charlotte's own arrangements have been published in a series of books and a number of these are included in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Traditional Music Syllabus. An experienced and committed teacher, Charlotte teaches at schools around Edinburgh including St Mary's Music School and has inspired a succession of students to pursue a career in music.

### \*NEW\* JuNEWary: \*NEW\*

To complement our January offering, we will bring you a second gorgeous piece in JUNE, and in a lovely full circle moment this piece is from Karen Marshalsay, our original contributor and composer in residence!

As always, these offerings are brought to you through Mary Dunsford's daily gentle teaching videos, supporting you every step of the way as the piece grows day by day under your fingers. All links and sheet music will be shared to our members via email during the challenge period, as well as on our website and via social media. Can't wait til January? Check out all the previous years' offerings on our website now!

### Post Beginner's Personal Best series

We are delighted to have launched 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 Beginners' 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!

Cost: £45 for members and non-members, £30 for beginners who have taken part in an Absolute Beginners Workshop or are hiring a harp from HNW.

To purchase the package, contact [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

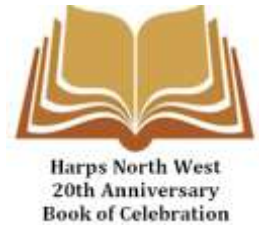


### Feedback from harpists following the Post Beginner personal Best series:

*'I just wanted to thank you for this course, it was very enjoyable and built up nicely. It helped me focus on elbow and thumb position, and closing positions for all fingers, all of which have been weak points for me. Still work in progress as far as technique goes, but I feel as if I'm on a better track to fixing them!', M.*



## Harps North West 20th Anniversary Book of Celebration



### Hi members,

It is not too long until we can start to celebrate 20 years since the establishment of Harps North West. Way back in 2004 a small group of committed harpists, based mainly in Cumbria, set up this independent charity. We have grown from a small organisation to a charity with over 120 members that are based not only in the North West but across the UK and the world.

We are planning lots of ways to celebrate this anniversary and we'd like members to be as much part of the celebrations as possible. Keep your eye on the website and the newsletter over the next few months.

One way you may like to contribute is by helping us to **compile a book of Harps North West memories that bring together all that this wonderful organisation has achieved over these 20 years.** Any HNW experience of interest, uniqueness, nostalgia, sentiment or humour will be welcome.

### We are looking for:

- **short descriptions of meaningful events**
- **lots of photos**
- **pieces of harp music that are/were meaningful to you and a short description of why** (Please make sure that you have the composer's / arranger's permission for us to publish any sheet music that you would like to see included.)

### Events of note could include, though I am sure there are many more:

- The establishment of Harps North West
- The Festivals: 2022 & 2019 (Ambleside); 2017 & 2015 Newton Rigg; Casterton School; Sedbergh School?
- Higham Hall courses - many over the years
- The Playing Groups - each one is so different.
- Visiting harp tutor Workshops
- The HNW Christmas Parties
- Memorable performance gigs
- The launch and on-going of the JaNEWary Challenge
- Concert at the Award Ceremony at the Sage in Gateshead (for the establishment of The JaNEWary Challenge)
- Composer in Residence - Karen Marshalsay - The Lay of the Land 2015
- Composer in Residence - Lauren Scott 2020-21
- Harps for Harmony -Pachelbel's Cannon 2020-21
- The Composition Competition during Lockdown 2021
- The establishment of Zoom sessions
- Lockdown ....
- The Bursary Awards to young harpists
- Joint Playing Sessions with Dumfries and Galloway
- Gill Lowden's compositions
- What has being a member of HNW meant to you?
- What is your harp journey?

We would particularly like to hear from our founder members and all the convenors who have served in those 20 years. However we welcome contributions from any member or former member.

The timetable for contributions through to publication are:

- Invitation to contribute - October (please let Gill know that you would like to contribute asap)
- Submission of contributions - deadline - by end of December
- Compilation and editing - deadline - end of March - Susan Lambert has kindly offered to compile the book which will be on similar lines to the Composition Book.
- Printing - by end of April (probably by Milners in Barrow in Furness)
- Distribution in time for its launch at the 20th Anniversary Summer Celebration in May, and for distribution at the 20th Anniversary Concerts and the 20th Anniversary Festival at Higham Hall in July.

Please let me know if you would like to contribute by contacting me, Gill (current convenor), on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)  
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Gill

Convenor - Harps North West

## HNW Harpists playing in Cumbria - upcoming dates drop in and listen or just say hello



### Dalton Castle

Harp North West harpists Gill, Kaye and Mandy are playing at the National Trust property, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness- 14:00 until 15:30.

Mandy, Kaye and Gill will play Christmas music - **Saturday 9th December**



### Allan Bank

The dates are roughly once a month and always on a Tuesday (apart from December) from around 11.30 and we tend to play for an hour and half or so. The dates are also on the National Trust website under 'upcoming events'

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/allan-bank-and-grasmere>

Harp North West harpists, Ann, Carol and Judy will play Christmas music  
**16th December 11:00 to 13:00**



### Egremont Farmers Market

Harp Out West play for this market most months of the year, coming up:

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

**19th January 2024, at 11:00**

## NEWS of Recent HNW Events

### HIGHAM HALL HIGHLIGHTS!

I've been tutoring for Harp North West since the early formation of the group 20 years ago, and have fond memories of being welcomed by Ian Ludlam during that first weekend in the Lakes. This was my third visit to the Higham Hall residential weekend, and it was a real delight to meet and work alongside Luke Webb. The course is the perfect blend of a beautiful location, delicious and plentiful food, a well stocked bar and intrepid participants who were a joy to work with.

I had Welsh music prepared and hoped that we might get to do some movements of my very much 'in preparation' ensemble version of The Sunken Forest. Such was the enthusiasm and ability of the group, we were able to perform the whole Suite on the Sunday, with heartfelt narration for each movement from four of the members. What can I say except WOW! I wrote this during a pandemic lockdown, not knowing if it would ever get a performance. It was a magical and emotional moment. I really want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who was part of it.

The ensemble version is still 'in preparation', and I will let you know when that is ready - maybe HNW would like to do that premiere? Just let me know! The good news is that I will perform the solo version with dancers and narrator, in collaboration with Dance Syndrome: a multi-award winning inclusive charity, giving opportunities to people with Downs Syndrome. It will open their show on Sunday, March 17th at Blackburn Empire Theatre. 3pm. Tickets: £11.50

During the Saturday night concert at Higham, I played a tune from my new collection of Hygge Serenades. Giving them just the word 'winter', I asked them for suggestions on what images it conjured up.

Judy Sharps " ... sitting around the fire in the warm. Snowing outside".

Paul Crichton Rankin " ... Warm by the light of the fire with my love".

The actual title is Cocoa by Candlelight. They have both now received a complimentary copy of my book



Here is a link to the set. <https://youtu.be/Np91J1I5pvI>

Thank you again for inviting me to be part of this incredible community. Keep harping on!

Eira Lynn Jones [www.eirallynnjones.com](http://www.eirallynnjones.com)

## JaNEWary 2024

### A message from Eira Lynn Jones

Dear JaNEWary Challenge Participants,

First of all, thank you for being part of this lovely initiative by Harps North West, led so beautifully by Mary Dunsford. It was a privilege to contribute a piece in 2021 and now for 2024. I enjoyed hearing how you were getting on, and then seeing some of you in the live Zoom meeting.

At the end of the challenge, I asked people to nominate who should receive a surprise, free copy. 46 names were suggested. I chose one nominee to represent each aspect of Hygge. Here they are.

### KINDNESS

Dawn Leask (Carole Miller) "For kindness and connection" - from one friend to another.

- We all need to look out for our friends -

### LOVE

Caryl Hughes Love (self-nomination) "I need inspiration. My harp sits in the corner and I want to start playing again, to show my love towards it".

- Self-care for herself and the harp -

### JOY

Rachel Avery (Julie Sonnenberg U.S.A.) "She has brought the JOY back to my study of harp . I cannot thank her enough"

- There were several teacher nominations, but this one stood out. Joy is the perfect Hygge word -

### APPRECIATION

Frances Quinn (Chris Shearin + Nicola Hartley) "Frances is a member of HNW, and convenes our playing group, HUNnies. She does the thankless task of keeping the group together ... we don't appreciate her enough"

- Now you do! -

### SHARING

Bethan Cole - 17 years old. (Nominated by her mum, Phae) "She enjoys finding time to share the joy of music. She has raised £2k+ to start a grass roots harp project + joined National Open Youth Orchestra to understand how musicians with disabilities learn music and play".

- Sharing our passion for music is so important -

### GRATITUDE

Bethan Watson - The Harp Studio (Multiple nominations). "What would we do without her?" "Answers the phone! - efficient, helpful, friendly". "She deserves a harp community thank you!"

- She certainly does! A thank you to those who help us goes a long way -

THANK YOU to everyone who nominated It's been a wonderful reminder of the kindness around us.

Hygge Serenades is made up of:

Midnight Lullaby ~ Cocoa by Candlelight ~ A Feeling of Home ~ Joyful Contentment.

Thank you to those who have ordered the book, and also asked me to sign them - that's always a privilege. Some have ordered two copies, and sent one to a friend. An amazing gesture, and one which continues the Hygge ethos.

You can listen to me playing these tunes [HERE](#).

With thanks for all your kind words. Happy harping!

Eira

### Rachel Poirier

Thank you so much for this wonderful piece composed by Eira Lynn J. and greatly taught by Mary!

### Kath Wilson

A beautiful piece, thank you. 'New' fingering to play bars 37/38 a challenge, but one I'm trying to embrace! XX Many thanks again xxx

### Laurie Becker

The chords are just so beautiful!

## HOW play at the local 'Abbeyfield ' Care Home in Gosforth.

Today 6 of HOW harpists had fun playing to about 12 residents at Bradbury House, Abbeyfield's care home in Gosforth. We should have played there on Tuesday 23rd January, but the power went off for most of the day! Today, the sun shone!



Our convener Gill, plays with us. As a former fell runner, she was SO excited to talk to Joss Naylor, the legendary fell runner from Wasdale, who is now a resident. A magic moment!

## NEWS from Members

### Jean's 80 Birthday Party.

On the last Sunday of the month at least 20 harpists collected from all over Cumbria (and Dumfries and Galloway...Guess who from there!) to a lovely pub in Threlkeld, near Keswick, to join with Jean Altschuler to celebrate her very special Birthday. Over a lovely lunch, there was lots of 'catching up', and Jean looked very happy. There were harpists from the very beginning before HNW was formed when, apparently, they had the equivalent of coffee and cake, and plant sales, with Jean playing her harp by the open patio door! I thought this sounded idyllic!

How enterprising to follow on with the formation of HNW, which those that were involved can tell you about, as I am just a recent member of HNW. But I do know how successful it has become with over 100 members, who ALL have the same enthusiasm of Jean and those first members, and who are all without exception so very welcoming.

We celebrated with Jean perfectly for a few magical hours on that Sunday. Thank you to Lyn (who seemed to be the main organiser) and I believe Mary, Ann and Carol were involved too.

Judy

### Free French on-line Harp Magazine

For all you Francophiles out there, you might be interested in a really good free online magazine devoted to the harp. Articles are occasionally in English, but if you don't want to read the French ones, there's lots of interesting music you can print off at no charge; often Breton or British folk music.

The magazine also publicises makers, courses, festivals, CDs and books and is called "Harpesmag."

All you need to do to receive it, is to email Didier Saimpaul (who is very pleasant and speaks English extremely well) at this address: [harpesmag@net-c.com](mailto:harpesmag@net-c.com)

I'm hoping to see my little books publicised in the magazine. It would be wonderful to have HNW featured in France!

While I'm here, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has bought one of my books. It's really encouraging to hear which pieces people like and why! I appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing some of you at future events.

Bonne Année!

Gill Lowden

### Jane at the Timber Yard



I played carols on my harp in the Timber Yard Cafe at NT Lyme during December (last year I played sessions on the Erard in the house but this wasn't available this year due to how the House was set up for Christmas). It seemed to go down well with visitors and the cafe staff alike. It was warmer than last year as I was sitting next to a radiator!

*Photo courtesy of Jip Magee, Facilities Co-ordinator, NT Lyme Park.*

### Halsway Manor

Just been to Halsway Manor for a harp weekend with Steph West, Irene Watt and Stacey Blythe. Sorry, didn't take any photos.  
Marie Carson

### Not everyone was able to 'Harp'

I admit I didn't do anything over Christmas! I had a new knee installed on 31 Oct so for quite some time I was unable to sit at the harp at all. However, I did JaNEwary and enjoyed it, thanks to Mary's videos. I've also recently sung at a new folk session being run in Tebay. Lots of guitars, several singers, a mandolin, and whistles. I have promised to take the harp to the next evening (early Feb). You'd think that after 12 years of harping I'd be able to sing AND play but if I go to the session it will be the first time I've tried both in front of an audience. It's not going to be accompaniment to my song so much as dramatic or acoustic support. Oo-er. I may report on it - or may not!  
Sue Millard

## Gill Lowden's Books of Music

Gill has produced three terrific publications available as hard copies or pdfs. She is very kindly donating all sale proceeds to Harps North West.

1. Stargazing - seven pieces for two or more lever harps. £12 per hard copy or £10 for a PDF. Postage of the hard copy - £2.40
2. The Yellow Wheelbarrow – seven Solo pieces. £10 per book or £8 for a PDF. Postage of the hard copy - £2.40
3. Souvenirs d'une Scierie is a single advanced solo piece. Only available as a pdf file £6.

For hard copies of pdfs please contact Gill Salter-Smith on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk). The files will be sent to you by email once the payment has been received in the Harps North West Bank account. (See below for how to pay.)

### Cheshire Harps: A message from Lauren Scott to HNW members.



I've got a really lovely core of harp members and (when everyone comes along) it currently stands at about 13 members. I'm hoping that in time this will increase. There are a few HNW members who come along to Cheshire Harps and I think a group of them attended the recent Higham Hall course that you were doing.

We meet monthly on a Sunday in Sandbach (Junction 17 of the M6) and whereas this year it's been a drop-in session each month, I'm making it a 6 months rolling subscription from January.

#### Cheshire Harp dates for 2024

January 14th, February 11th, March 17th, April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th, October 13th, November 17th, December 8th

If you would like to get involved please contact Lauren Scott on [laurenscotharp@gmail.com](mailto:laurenscotharp@gmail.com)

PS. HNW is planning a joint venture with Lauren Scott at some some point during 2024. We'll keep you posted! Gill x

## Harp for Sale

34 string Dusty Strings lever harp for sale. Made of American maple, and much loved. Now physically unable to play. £2500 or I'll listen to offers. Good solid case with many useful pockets. Stand attaches to base of harp. Stays well in tune.





# 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](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com) Tutor: Susan Lambert.

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on [hazyhead49@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 for practice 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](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

## The Management Team from 11<sup>th</sup>Sept 2022 - Sept 2023

Gill Salter-Smith	Convenor Membership Secretary - overview Higham Hall Link	<a href="mailto:convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Mandy Bartlett	Vice Convenor Harp Hire Secretary - overview Events: members' bookings	<a href="mailto:harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Ann Woolley	Secretary	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	<a href="mailto:online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Veronica Wilkie		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington	Venue bookings	
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	<a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Linda Taylor		
Alison Stobbs	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer Harp Hire - admin & support Membership - admin & support	<a href="mailto:administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>



### 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.