

# NEWSLETTER – Jan. 2022

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

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

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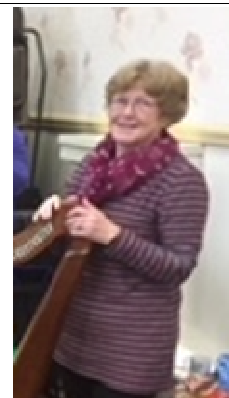


## A message from our Convenor

Happy New Year to you all. I imagine that you have enjoyed playing carols and festive tunes this year. The HNW Christmas Party was a lovely occasion with lots of festive joy. Thank you Mary for leading us and Susan for the arrangement of 'We Saw Three Ships'. It was good to play 'live' and have both a live and a Zoom audience! Hope you all have enjoyed watching the video. Maybe 2022 will give us more opportunities to meet and play together live. Who knows? Whatever is around the corner the enthusiasm of members for our wonderful instrument never fails to astound me.

This month we have the fabulous JaNEWary Challenge in which to immerse ourselves. You should have already received the first days of the challenge. I am particularly looking forward to the Zoom sessions that Mary will lead to help consolidate each piece. These winter months are an ideal time to appreciate and play your harp especially whilst we continue to be cautious of being out and about too much. Stay safe and enjoy the music.

Gill



## JaNEWary Challenge 2022



This year we have two fabulous pieces for you, neither having appeared in publications before, from the brilliant Janet Bennett and superb Shelley Fairplay! Indeed, Shelley's piece is part of a brand new release, Modes Reloaded, being released this very January!

We start with Janet's piece, **Carolan's Dream**, on January 1st, and spend the first part of the month working on this, culminating in a LIVE ZOOM on Wednesday 12th January, 8.30pm GMT - a chance to play all at the same time, and to ask any questions you may have on any of it.

After a couple of rest days, we start Shelley's piece, **Down By the Walnut Tree**, on Saturday 15th January, again finishing with a LIVE ZOOM on Monday 31st, 8.30PM GMT.

With a special focus this year on working on the overall flow of the pieces, opportunities to "catch up" if you feel like you've missed any days, and as always, the encouragement to go at your own pace! Here's to 2022!, Mary Dunsford

Look out for emails from **Mary Dunsford**, from 1st January and continuing through the month. You will receive a link to a tutorial video and the sheet music. Open to all harpists across the globe, on FaceBook, YouTube and the HNW website. Five previous challenges are currently available.

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

## Harps North West Festival 2022



### Save the date! Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

**Tutors: Jean Altshuler, Mary Dunsford and Lauren Scott. More tutors to be announced soon.**

Harp repair and servicing by Teifi.

Alexander Technique and Positive Posture sessions.

Exhibition of sheet music and possibly harps.

To register your interest, please contact Mandy on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

## 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
<b>1st to 31st January 2022</b>	<b>The 2022 JaNEWary Challenge - Tutor: Mary Dunsford</b>	<b>Online</b>
<b>12th January 8:30pm</b>	<b>JaNEWary Challenge - Carolan's Dream, Live Zoom</b>	<b>ZOOM</b>
<b>31st January 8:30pm</b>	<b>JaNEWary Challenge - Down by the Walnut Tree, Live Zoom</b>	<b>ZOOM</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b> 10:00 – 12 noon  <b>Fee £10</b> Ref: LUKE & your initials	<b>An Introduction to Irish Traditional Music- Workshop</b> <b>Tutor: Luke Webb</b> <a href="https://www.lukewebbharpist.com">https://www.lukewebbharpist.com</a> . And on YouTube too. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyIH7PQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyIH7PQ</a> Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event. To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	<b>ZOOM</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> 10:00 - 13:00 <u>free to members</u>	<b>Playing session - bring your favourite piece to play together</b> Session led by members, event leader Ann Woolley To sign up contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Ladyholme Centre, W'mere. LA23 2JA
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> Arrive 10:00, Play 10:30 – 12:30  <b>Fee £10</b> ref 12Mar+initials	<b>Skills Workshops - Tutors Susan Lambert and Mary Dunsford</b> Workshop 1 - Elementary Workshop 2 - Intermediate / Advanced To book contact Mandy <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> ,	Venue to be confirmed TBC
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> Arrive 13:15, Play 13:30-16:00 <b>Fee £25</b> ref BEG+initials	Absolute Beginners Workshop - Tutor Mary Dunsford To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Venue to be confirmed
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b> 10:00 to 12noon  <b>Fee: £10</b> EIRA +your initials	<b>'From the First Note' - Workshop – Tutor: Eira Lynn Jones</b> Eira Lynn Jones will direct a session on the six steps to follow when you start a new piece. She will guide you through her practice method - with technical hints and a tune or two. <a href="http://www.eiralynnjones.com">www.eiralynnjones.com</a> Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event. To book email Mandy; <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	<b>ZOOM</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> Arrive 13:30, Play 14:00-16:00 <u>free to members</u>	<b>Workshop. Third piece from our Composer in Residence - Lauren Scott</b> Live: tuning from 1:30 To sign up contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Venue to be confirmed
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>	<b>Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp-Residential</b> Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
<b>Booking and Paying for an event.</b> 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.		
<b>Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022</b>		
<u>Online video course</u> Discount for HNW - code HARPSOC25	<b>Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott.</b> This is a video course on the traditional hymn arranged by Lauren Scott. Covers topics such as Understanding Musical Form, Exercises for Independence of Fingers, a Healthy Practice Routine, Creating a Dynamic Range on Harp, Right Hand Harmonics and Creating Rich Voicings in your playing. Suitable for intermediate to advanced levels (Grade 4 to post Grade 8) <a href="http://www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision">www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision</a>	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	<b>Winter Harp Festival 2022</b> - Online. Join acclaimed harp tutors <b>Ailie Robertson</b> (Scotland), <b>Kim Robertson</b> (USA), <b>Park Stickney</b> (USA/Switzerland), <b>Marianne Gubri</b> (France/Italy) for a weekend of workshops and concerts. <a href="https://www.ailierobertson.com/winter-harp-festival/winter-harp-festival">https://www.ailierobertson.com/winter-harp-festival/winter-harp-festival</a>	
Fri 28th Jan to Sun 30th Jan 2022	<b>Halsway Manor Harp Weekend</b> - folk harp. Teaching by ear with music available at the end of the course. Quantock Hills, Somerset, Tutors: Steph West (Uk), Irene Watt (Scotland), Merit Zloch (Germany) <a href="https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/halsway-harp-weekend-2/">https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/halsway-harp-weekend-2/</a>	
Friday 4th March  The Cumbrian Duo - concert at Threlkeld and new CD	<b>Ed Heslam and Jean Altshuler</b> will be playing a mix of old favourites and tunes from their new CD 'Bleckell Murry Neet' in Threlkeld village hall and will be limited to an audience of 60. Tickets available through eventbrite. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cumbrian-duo-tickets-226231814447?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&amp;utm-content=attendeeshare&amp;utm-medium=discovery&amp;utm-source=strongmail&amp;utm-term=listing">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cumbrian-duo-tickets-226231814447?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&amp;utm-content=attendeeshare&amp;utm-medium=discovery&amp;utm-source=strongmail&amp;utm-term=listing</a>  The Cumbrian Duo's new CD of Cumbrian music, Bleckell Murry Neet, can now be ordered on Willowhayne Records <a href="https://willowhaynerecords.com/Product/tabid/36/rvdsfpid/the-cumbrian-duo-bleckell-murry-neet-1759/Default.aspx">https://willowhaynerecords.com/Product/tabid/36/rvdsfpid/the-cumbrian-duo-bleckell-murry-neet-1759/Default.aspx</a>	
<b>Friday 8th April to Monday 11th April</b>	<b>Edinburgh International Harp Festival</b> <a href="https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/">https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/</a>	
<b>Tuesday April 12th to Wednesday April 13th</b>	<b>Wales Harp Festival</b> <a href="https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/">https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/</a>	
<b>22nd July to 28th July</b>	<b>14th World Harp Congress</b> <a href="https://www.whc2022.wales/">https://www.whc2022.wales/</a>	
<b>24th August to 27th August</b>	<b>Glasbury Harp Summer School - online</b> <a href="https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101">https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101</a>	

## COVID-19 SECURITY

### HNW ADVICE TO MEMBERS ATTENDING LIVE EVENTS – to help keep members safe

1. Before attending a live event participants are advised to have had at least two vaccines and to have recorded a negative result from a Lateral Flow COVID test within the previous 24 hours.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Come with plenty of warm clothing as venues are encouraging good airflow with doors and windows open.
5. Maintain 2m social distancing, especially from over 70s and clinically highly vulnerable people.
6. Wear a face mask/covering when less than 2m distant from those with whom you do not live and in village halls at all times
7. Bring and use hand sanitizer and antiseptic cleaning wipes. Take your own rubbish home with you.
8. **Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens may not be available.**
9. Print your own copies of the music to be played in advance.
10. Avoid touching and sharing other people's property. Wash your hands often.
11. Be familiar with the risk assessment and the specific expectations for each venue you visit.
12. **Respect the decisions of others, but do not be afraid to ask others to adhere to the advice if you feel you are at risk.**

**Nominated organisers of HNW events:** Please ensure that a specific risk assessment for the venue and activity has been carried out and all participants have been informed of its expectations.

## UK HARP ASSOCIATION PUBLISHED EVENTS for January [www.ukharp.net](http://www.ukharp.net)

- Every Friday at 7pm: Harpy Hour with Olivia Jageurs: [INFO](#)
- Every Friday at 7.30pm: Fiona Hosford live on Facebook: [WATCH](#)

### In person concerts

- 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm: Britten Ceremony of carols (Eluned Pierce) in Bath: [INFO](#)
- 13<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am: Duo Polaris (Elinor Nicholson, harp) for Alnwick Music Society: [INFO](#)
- 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Keziah Thomas) in Farnham: [INFO](#)
- 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm: Gabriella Jones recital in Holborn: [INFO](#)
- 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm: 4 Girls 4 Harps in Southend, Essex: [INFO](#)
- 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm: Sam Hickman Variety Show at the Sherman Theatre, Wales: [INFO](#)
- 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm: Britten Sinfonia (Ravel and Debussy) in Ely: [INFO](#)
- 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Guildhall School Harp Department concert, London: [INFO](#)
- 27<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm: Tara Minton at the Green Note, London: [INFO](#)

### Online Workshops and Take Part

- Every Friday: a new video from Coffee break harp: [INFO](#)
- 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Retreat to the Harp Zoom workshop with Catrin Finch: [INFO](#)
- 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: Winter Harp Festival with Ailie Robertson, Kim Robertson and more: [INFO](#)

## NEWS of Recent HNW EVENTS

### The Harps North West Christmas Party - 11th December



Wonderfully, we managed to have a combined live and zoom party this year in Braithwaite's very roomy and very well ventilated hall. Mary Dunsford took us through a practice in the morning and led the afternoon performance in the presence of a very restricted audience. Several groups played 'party' pieces, giving quite a range of music. The performance was also broadcast on zoom for those not able to attend with Mary and Susan doing a great job on the technology.

Comments from both those present and online:

Nicola Hartley - It was such a pleasure to have and to hear a gathering of 15 harps at Braithwaite Village Hall on 11th December. We made such a beautiful festive sound, and Susan Lambert's arrangement of "We Saw Three Ships" gave a lovely feeling of the joyful tolling of Christmas bells. It was good to meet some harpists who hadn't played with a group before, and to re-live that spine-tingle when you play in a group for the first time and hear those beautiful harmonies. Thank you once again to Mary and the committee for braving the ever-lurking COVID restrictions to enable us to gather safely and so enjoyably.

Gill Lowden - Dear All,

What a brilliant concert! Jeff and I really enjoyed it. Brian Boru came across really well and I love Susan's Three Ships arrangement. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. That'll teach me to mix with bug infested babies and pre-schoolers.....! Thank you for a lovely afternoon. It really cheered me up!

Linda Daubney - A big well done and thank you to everyone for the HNW Xmas Party. It's was lovely to be able to enjoy it courtesy of Zoom. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year .





## Christmas Carols - playing and accompanying - 18th December

On the Saturday after the party, Susan Lambert led a carol playing zoom session. Using sheet music from the HNW Christmas Carol booklet, she took us through how to accompany music when only the melody line is given - a very useful skill and lots of tips and techniques for a range of abilities. This was a lovely follow-up to the party and a cheering look forward to Christmas itself.

Thanks to Susan for a great session.

### NEWS FROM MEMBERS



#### Mandy and Gill at Thornleigh Hotel in Grange over Sands

Mandy and I played for the Cumbrian Methodist Ladies Group during their annual visit to Grange over Sands at the end of November. We planned a programme of pieces we thought the ladies would enjoy and that we thought we could play with reasonable fluency, given plenty of practice of course. We included Cavatina, Skye Boat Song, O Mio Babbino Caro, Autumn Leaves, Brahms Lullaby, Home at the Hearth, Gaelic Air, Scarborough Fair and Grenadier and the Lady. We added a few carols from Jan Bennett's book of Carol for beginners and were delighted when the ladies sang along. We both felt it went well and we received plenty of warm thanks and there much much interest taken in the harps. We both used amplification and felt it enhanced our playing, Mandy and I returned to the venue, a Christian hotel, in December to play background carols for the elderly guests whilst they had their tea and mince pies on their arrival for a Christmas break. We enjoyed playing for others on both occasions. We also appreciated the generous donations made to Harps North West. **Gill**

#### Ann and Carol at Rydal Mount

Rydal Mount, once home to William Wordsworth and his family, held their first ever Christmas Fair the weekend of 11/12th December and Harps North West received an invitation to play to entertain the visitors. Carol Coldwell and Ann Woolley went along and had their own Harry Potter under the stairs experience as you can see from the photo. The cabinet next to us was full of treasures such as Dorothy Wordsworth's miniature tea service and we almost got to sit on original Wordsworth chairs before the trustee thought better of it!

There was a lovely atmosphere in the house with a very appreciative audience and a few queries from budding harpists. The selection of stalls was very interesting and varied; there were some gorgeous things, all produced by local artisans and a few Christmas presents may have followed us home... Hopefully the weekend was a success and Rydal Mount will consider organising another next year.



#### Red Rose Debut Concert

On 18th December four intrepid harpists, Carol, Ann, Judy and Kaye, braved the atrocious foggy driving conditions to join Val at her church Christmas social evening to play for the assembled group.

We played a varied selection of music, some Christmassy, some not, including Judy's 'Sunrise'. The Welsh piece Suo Gan was enjoyed especially by a Welsh member of the audience who sang along to it. We enjoyed playing "I saw Three Ships" with gusto, now it has become quite familiar to us, and we finished with 'Jessye's carol', a nice slow one. It suits those of us who are less experienced as the tempo has to be kept slow to allow those with more experience to play their semiquavers.

The concert was well received, and a number of people in the audience said that they had only previously heard the harp as a solo instrument, and they enjoyed hearing us as an ensemble. I think we will be invited back in the summer, hopefully without any fog.

Congratulations to Red Rose Harps for braving the fog!



#### Harps Out West - Christmas 'gigs'!

HOW were quite busy at the beginning of December playing Christmas music at two different venues. One was for the 'Thornhill ladies', a group of lovely ladies who meet weekly in Thornhill (a village close to Egremont). We played for them back in the summer, and they invited us back for Christmas. They were so appreciative, and we all sat down together afterwards, with a box each of a lovely afternoon tea, made by the local bakery in Thornhill. What a start to Christmas!

The following Tuesday we played for the Gosforth WI Christmas Party, which we have done a few times in the past. It is held in Gosforth Public Hall, which is always decorated for Christmas. The Gosforth WI ladies are wonderful cooks, and know how to put on a beautiful lunch. We played for about half an hour before we ate, which they all seemed to enjoy. After some amazing food, the true star of the event 'took to the floor!' It was our harpist, Helen Holmes, who is a retired music teacher, and can truly get anyone to sing! She led the carol singing on the piano. This year she'd planned a





rendering of 'A Little Robin in a Fir Tree' (instead of a partridge in a pear tree). Signs for each number were handed out to random people, who waved them at the appropriate time. At '5 golden rings!' we all stood up and waved our arms! and it was all such fun! And outside the wind howled and the rain lashed at the windows! Storm Barra could not dampen our Christmas Joy! **Judy**

## 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 [hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto:hazeyhead49@gmail.com). Tutor: Mary Dunsford.

**Harps Up North** are based in Watermillock, usually meeting the first Thursday morning of the month. Contact Sue on [sue@dawbank.co.uk](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk) 01539 624636.

**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 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 was started in 2020 just before Lockdown One. Members will be informed when this group can restart, probably spring 2022. If you are interested, please contact Gill on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk).

### The Management Team from 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 – Sept 2022

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 Treasurer - overview	
Susan Lambert Carol Coldwell	Website & Facebook	<a href="mailto:online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington		
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	<a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Linda Taylor		
Alison Stobbs – Not a committee member	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer - admin & support 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.

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](mailto:administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

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

**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.