

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2023



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

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

Convenor's message



Well, we're past Midsummer Day but hopefully there is plenty of the summer still to come. At this time of year I recall a head teacher in the Scottish Highlands who, every midsummer's day, would sit and read with natural light all through the night. I wonder if there would be enough light for one to play the harp until those early hours? Has anyone ever experienced this?

June brought us Mary's Zoom session, 'Intrepid Harping', another gem of advice, gentle guidance and a lovely tune. The HNW Performance Group gave a much appreciated concert at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Cockerham,

Lancashire. Thank you for the generous donation.

July brings us two live events and a Zoom workshop on **'World Music and Playing in a Session' with Clare Bakewell**. By the time you read this HNW harpists will have introduced members of the public to the harp at the Making Music Day at Leighton Moss. Many of us will also have played at the world premier of 'There Were Always Going to be Owls' with Susan and Mike at the HNW Summer Celebration in Barrow-in-Furness. At the end of the month the HNW Performance Group will be playing at the **Beetham Garden Festival from 12noon until 1pm on Sun 30th July**. The HNW Performance Group will be giving a concert, free of charge, at **Dalton Castle on Saturday 9th September 3pm until 5pm**.

Your hard-working committee will be taking a break during August so your next newsletter will be due at the start of September. In the meantime maybe we'll meet some of you at Higham Hall in August with Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley.

Do look out for the details of the AGM at 1.45pm on Sunday 10th September at the Athenaeum, Leasgill. In the morning Mary Dunsford will be introducing the tunes to be played at the HNW Christmas Party. Gill

July/August

<p>Sunday 23rd July 10:00 to 12:00 Fee: £10 to members. Non members £15</p>	<p>World Music and Playing with others in a Music Session Tutor: Claire Bakewell A recording will be available. Please contact Gill if you would like to take part on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p> <p>Have you ever wanted to play your harp in a pub or festival music session? The harp has unique advantages and disadvantages in this environment and the session 'etiquette' can be a little daunting! Clare will lead you through some basic techniques and give you tips on how to join in with confidence. Many sessions now include music from around the world so we will be sampling a selection of session tunes from the UK, Finland, Brittany, Sweden, Belgium and others. Clare's website is https://joywoodharps.com</p> <p>The session is suitable for all levels but beginners should be confident with playing chords.</p>	<p>Zoom</p>
<p>Saturday 19th to Monday 21st August 2023</p>	<p>Higham Hall – A Summer Break with the Harp Tutors: Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley Contact Higham Hall directly. http://highamhall.com/</p>	<p>Higham Hall CA13 9SH</p>

HNW Dates for the Diary

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

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Sat 15th July 14:00 to 15:30 free	Dalton Castle Harps North West harpists are playing at the National Trust property, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness - all free of charge. - Gill Lowden and Mandy Bartlett	Dalton Castle LA15 8AX
Sunday 23rd July 10:00 to 12:00 Fee: £10 to members. Non members £15	World Music and Playing with others in a Music Session Tutor: Claire Bakewell A recording will be available. Please contact Gill if you would like to take part on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk Those signing up will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting and the sheet music required a few days beforehand. They will also receive a recording of the event.	Zoom
Sunday 30th July 12:00 to 13:00 Free entrance	Beetham Garden Festival , near Milnthorpe The HNW Performance Group will be playing from 12noon until 1pm.	Beetham Garden Festival, LA7 7AP
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
Saturday 9th September 15:00 to 17:00 - Free	HNW Performance Group with concert at Dalton Castle part of the Dalton Castle Heritage Open day/Weekend	Dalton Castle
Sunday 10th September 10:00 - tuning. 10:00 to 12:30- playing 12:30 - Shared lunch	* New * Introduction to HNW Christmas Party Tunes with Mary Dunsford Free to members. Please let Mandy know you are coming onevents@harpnorthwest.org.uk Donations are always appreciated	The Atheneum, Leasgill. LA7 7 ET
Sunday 10th September 13:45	* New * The HNW Annual General Meeting	The Atheneum, Leasgill. LA7 7 ET
Saturday 14th October 19:00	* New * Chloe Matharu in concert Chloe Matharu is a singer songwriter and harpist from the West Coast of Scotland. A Navigational Officer in the Merchant Navy, she offers an authentic voice for the female seafarer in the folk scene. Her ethereal and innovative music gives a glimpse into the modern mariner's life, and is truly unique. Supporting act - The Harps North West Performance Group	The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge, CA23 3AR
Sunday 15th October 10:00 Tuning 10:30 to 12:30 workshop 12:30 to 13:30 Lunch 13:30 to 15:30 workshop Fee to members £35 Non-members £45	* New * Workshop: Accompanying singing Tutor: Chloe Matharu (https://chloematharu.co.uk/) Attendees will be sent the recording of the songs prior to the event. The tunes will be taught by ear. We'll learn the melodies before exploring chord structures. We'll then do a basic accompaniment that we'll play together before we explore the more advanced of ways of making chord patterns more interesting. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge, CA23 3AR
Monday 16th October 19:30 to 21:00 Free	* New * Christmas Party practice with Mary Dunsford on Zoom Free to members, no need to sign up. All members will be sent the sheet music and the Zoom meeting link.	Zoom
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
Sunday 19th November 10:30 to 12:30 practice shared lunch 13:30 to 15:30 - playing Free to members	* New * Christmas Party practice - live with Mary Dunsford Practice in the morning Playing session with your favourite Christmas tunes in the afternoon No need to sign up but please let us know you are coming by contacting Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Shap Memorial Hall CA10 3NR
Saturday 2nd December	* New * HNW Christmas Party Practice in the morning, and a concert for family and friends in the afternoon * details soon * Absolute Beginners - date and venue not yet confirmed	Quaker Meeting House, Penrith CA11 7TR

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 2023

Sun July 23rd, 7:30 pm	Sioned Williams presents 'A celebratory 70th birthday spiral of discovery and adventure' , performing music from her childhood to the present day, combined with audiovisual illustrations, spoken word https://www.conwyclassicalmusic.co.uk/event/sioned-williams-harp/
Tuesday 1st August 15:00	Lake District Summer Music Festival - Louise Thompson in concert Hawkshead Parish Church, https://tickets.ldsm.org.uk/sales/events/28-july---6-august-2023/louise-thompson
Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th August	Glasbury Harp Summer School https://glasburyarts.co.uk/?page_id=3163

HNW Upcoming Events and Activities

Harps North West Annual Membership: • Fees were due on July 1st 2023.

Membership fees: Adult £20; Family £25; Youth £10. See the website for membership forms.

Please make the payment, as set out on the membership form. Only send a membership form if any of your details have changed.

Updated membership forms can be sent to our administrator, Alison, on membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The Harps North West offer to members:

- The JaNEWary Challenge - all free of charge - FOC
- Live Playing Sessions and Skills workshops, live or online- FOC
- HNW Christmas Party preparation in autumn both online and live - FOC
- Xmas Party and rehearsal in December. Distant members can join the party on Zoom – FOC
- Guest and HNW tutor-led workshops arranged throughout the year both live and on line. Fees vary
- Between six and ten Zoom sessions per year
- The opportunity to join a local Playing Group
- The opportunity to play with others at public events
- The Summer Festival every two years with at least four professional tutors
- Support for the 'Weekend with the Harp' course at Higham Hall, at least once, sometimes twice, per year
- Access to Harp Hire and the organisation of Beginners Courses.
- Xmas Party practices live an on Zoom
- Xmas Party

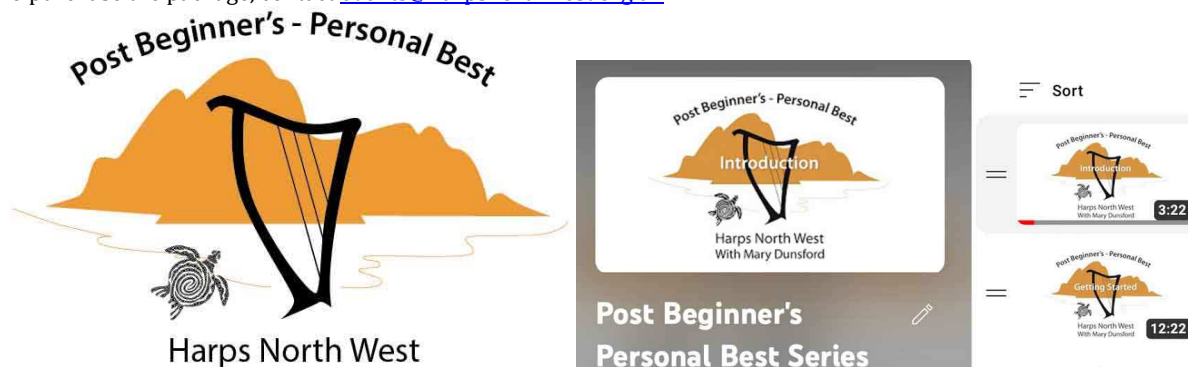
Post Beginner's Personal Best series

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



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.

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



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. It is a combination of Ann Woolley, Carol Coldwell, Linda Taylor and Judy Sharps - more or less depending on holidays! The dates are also on the National Trust website under 'upcoming events' <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/allan-bank-and-grasmere>

Tuesday 11th July, Tuesday 22nd August, Tuesday 19th September, Tuesday 17th October

Dalton Castle



Harp North West harpists are playing at the National Trust property, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness- 14:00 until 15:30. HNW Performance Group Concert Part of the National Heritage Day at the castle.

Gill Lowden and Mandy Bartlett - Saturday 15 July

Egremont Farmers Market

Harp Out West play for this market most months of the year, coming up: Friday 21st July, Friday 18th August <https://www.facebook.com/egremontmarket/>

NEWS of Recent HNW Events

Zoom Skills - Intrepid Harping, 12th June, tutor Mary Dunsford

A skills session for those comfortable at a faster pace, looking at intention, intervals, intelligent (or indeed, intuitive) playing to fully integrate the hands!

This course was greatly appreciated as can be seen from the comments. A recording is available.

Thank you for an incredible session, Annie J.

I love this tune and its gradual development! Thank you so much for a lovely, most helpful intrepid harping session Kath, Lancashire Amazing. Thank you. Annie J.

That was lovely, exploring the development of Ryti Akimis. Especially hearing about your inspiration and how you think about composing. Lots to learn! Sue, East Midlands

Very beautiful piece - thank you! June E.

Thanks Mary great, Judy, Natland

A lovely piece thank you, very helpful on how to develop a piece, Diane, Australia

Thanks, Mary, lots of useful tips as ever. Jane, Edinburgh

Making Music Day, 1st July, Leighton Moss Bird Reserve, Silverdale



Photos from Alice Pell

Making Music Day 2023 saw HNW kindly being hosted at Leighton Moss. 13 Members attended the day, eleven players and two helpers. We had a nice steady stream of appreciative listeners who wanted to sit and enjoy the music and a few who wanted have a go on a harp too. We enjoyed a pre-ordered lunch that we were able to enjoy together in 'The Holt' (our venue for the day). The weather was a little downcast in the morning but steadily improved as the day went on. We played a lovely variety of HNW well known pieces in parts and altogether.

Thanks to Ann & Gill for organising & Irene for making sure everything ran smoothly at the site. Alice Pell.

The Harps North West Summer Celebration at the new North West Music Academy on Sunday 2nd July



Featured:

- The World Premiere of 'There Were Always Going to be Owls' composed by Lauren Scott for harp, saxophone and harp ensemble played by Susan, Mike and HNW harpists
- The final launch of the Harps for Harmony recording of Pachelbel's Canon, including the live performance at St Bee's Priory
- Performances by two young HNW harpists, the playing groups: Harps Out West, Harps South Lakes, The HNW Performance Group and the NWMA cardboard harpists

Wow, what a special day that was. A massive thank you to Susan and Mike. They played 'There Were Always Going to be Owls' brilliantly. I could see the owl soaring through the skies bringing the wedding rings to the castle, their feathers fluttering as they landed. What an uplifting magical piece Lauren Scott has composed for them. It was such a privilege to play alongside professionals who are also friends. (The piece was commissioned by Harps North West members and HNW to celebrate Mike and Susan's wedding.) Thank you to all the HNW harpists who came along and helped to make the day so special.

It was good to see two of HNW's young harpists perform - their technique and confidence always amazes me. I loved Ellie's beautiful outfit with pink sparkly shoes and Evie's energetic sprint to and from her harp! The performances by HNW harpists went really well with a good balance of pieces from three of the Playing Groups. Gill Lowden's pieces, Stargazing and Pachelbel's Kite were much appreciated. And what enthusiasm oozed from fourteen of Mary's cardboard harpists. They are clearly enjoying their introduction to this wonderful instrument.

A huge thank you to Mary and NWMA for her leadership and her hard work and organisation. It ran like clockwork. Well done everyone and thank you. I always appreciate how much our members are prepared to 'muck in' and help to make these events go so well. From **Gill**

"Thank you so much to all who came and shared in the Summer Harp Celebration day at the new North West Music Academy. As a trustee of NWMA and with HNW being such a big part of my life, it was wonderful to have these two worlds come together in such a delightful way!

We paid homage to every step of our learning journeys, from complete beginners who had only touched a harp for the first time that day, through players who are only a few months in, spotlighting young harpists, delighting in our seasoned players ensemble pieces, and culminating in our amazing professional musicians in Susan and Mike's stunning rendition of "...there were always going to be owls!", written by their friend and ours, Lauren Scott, and performed on solo harp, soprano saxophone and our wonderful HNW players in ensemble! Wow, what a special day!" **from Mary Dunsford**



The World Premiere of 'There Were Always Going to be Owls' composed by Lauren Scott

This starred Susan Lambert-Smith on harp, Mike Smith on soprano saxophone, supported by an ensemble of HNW harpists. Commissioned by Harps North West members and given to Susan and Mike as a celebration of their wedding. Enjoy the recording. It was a very special day and part of the Harps North West Summer Celebration on Sunday 2nd July at the North West Music Academy, Barrow-in-Furness.



Recording Link <https://youtu.be/fuMva1jS2EU>

Some great feedback -

'Thank you for such a lovely day. It was an absolute pleasure to be part of it and I really appreciate all the hard work and effort the HNW Committee put into organising this special event. It was a huge success and you must be delighted with it. There was such a lovely atmosphere and the venue was just wonderful. I'm sure it's the start of some serious harping in Barrow!' Gill L.owden

What can I say? Just Wow! What an achievement! Thank you to everyone who made this possible. Gill L.

'What a wonderful experience today, to play the fantastic "There Were Always Going to be Owls". It's up there with some of my best music experiences! Spine tingling. Didn't Mike and Susan do a great job. Can't wait to see the video. A great day. Thank you and thanks to all involved. Days like that come with masses of work behind the scenes from all involved Well done to all.' Judy S.

Thank you so much for sending such a lovely video of 'Owls' . Just watched it on the T V. What a magic day you all had, Judy Aaww, how beautiful!!!! So sorry I couldn't be there xxx Thank you xxx Kath W.

HNW Performance Group in concert at St Michael's and All Saints Church, Cockerham



Thanks to Mary Adams for the following:
On Friday 9th June a melody of seven harpists, from the Harps North West Performance group, were given a very warm welcome by an audience at Cockerham church. It was a lovely evening in an attractive venue. We performed a varied programme of pieces from throughout the UK, and worldwide, together with some interesting context and background to the songs and our group.
It was very nice to see how interested and appreciative people were, not just in our harps, but in the works and purpose of Harps North West.
In summing this up, we were thanked by the organiser for all we do as harpists, and for 'Bringing beauty into peoples lives'. Which was a nice thought for us to take away from the evening.
Thanks again to Rod E. for the photos.

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 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

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.