

NEWSLETTER

June 2023



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

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

Convenor's message



I hope you are enjoying this glorious weather? Have any of you had the opportunity to play outdoors? If you have why not let us know about it. Send a photo and a few words and we'll publish them in the newsletter.

It is nearly time to renew your membership. Do see below to check out the many benefits of being a member. For example, Mary's Skills' Session on Finger Placing for Steady Players on Zoom last month was free to members. It was excellent with something for every level of harpist. In addition HNW supports the many Playing Groups that are dotted around the area. These give harpists of all levels a wonderful chance to play together. Check out the details at the back of the newsletter and on the website.

The HNW Performance Group Plus enjoyed playing at Gatesfield Quaker Housing Association in Windermere. We were well sheltered from the sun on a beautiful day. Kaye and I played at the NT's Dalton Castle, a lovely and fascinating venue. The Performance Group will also be playing in Cockerham Church on 9th June, a free concert.

Hoping we'll meet many of you at the Making Music Day at Leighton Moss on Sat 1st July and at the Summer Celebration in Barrow-in-Furness on 2nd July. I am really looking forward to hearing 'There Were Always Going to be Owls' played live with Mike, Susan and HNW harpists. Hoping that our amazingly active Playing Groups will entertain us with a piece or two.
 Happy summer harping. Gill

June

<p>Monday 12th June 19:30 to 21:00</p> <p>No fee for members but donations are always welcome. Non-members £15</p>	<p>*This Monday! * Develop your harp skills 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. Non-members - contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p> <p>Don't forget that the recording of the Skills session, Finger Placing for Steady Players is still available. Do get in touch if you'd like a copy.</p>	<p>Zoom</p>
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The HNW Summer Celebration At the North West Music Academy: July 2nd

<p>Sunday 2nd July – 10:00 – 17:00</p> <p>Concert tickets for Friends and Family (NWMA policy) £5</p>	<p>* Details inside * Harps North West Summer Celebration or A Harp Extravaganza! North West Music Academy (NWMA) Full Day end of year Summer Celebration A chance to meet and play with a group of blossoming cardboard harpists who have been working with Mary in the NWMA. Includes: - World Premiere of Lauren Scott's piece for sax and harp ensemble with Susan and Mike - Premiere of HNW Pachelbel Canon video (the live edit!) -HNW playing groups are invited to play</p> <p>To Sign up: Contact events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you would like to join in.</p>	<p>Live! NWMA Centre Ramsden Square Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1XA</p>
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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
Monday 12th June 19:30 to 21:00 No fee for members but donations are always welcome. Non-members £15	Develop your harp skills 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. Non-members - contact Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk Don't forget that the recording of the Skills session, Finger Placing for Steady Players is still available. Do get in touch if you'd like a copy.	Zoom
Saturday 1st July 11:00 arrive 11:30 to 14:30 All welcome	Making Music Day 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. If you'd like to come along to play or talk to people about harps, contact Ann Woolley on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	The Holt Room Leighton Moss RSPB Centre Silverdale LA5 0SW
Sunday 2nd July - 10:00 - 17:00 Concert tickets for Friends and Family (NWMA policy) £5	* Details inside * Harps North West Summer Celebration or A Harp Extravaganza! North West Music Academy (NWMA), Ramsden Square, Full Day end of year Summer Celebration A chance to meet and play with a group of blossoming cardboard harpists who have been working with Mary in the NWMA. Includes: - World Premiere of Lauren Scott's piece for sax and harp ensemble with Susan and Mike - Premiere of HNW Pachelbel Canon video (the live edit!) - HNW playing groups are invited to play To Sign up: Contact events@harpnorthwest.org.uk if you would like to join in.	Live NWMA Centre Ramsden Square Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1XA
Sunday 23rd July 10:00 to 12:00 Fee: £10 to members. Non members £15	* New * 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	Zoom
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

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.**

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2023

Sunday 25th to Friday 30th June	International Festival for Irish Harp - An Chuir Chruitreachta Artist in Residence: Rachel Hair Co Louth, Republic of Ireland. Full details coming soon at https://www.cairdenacruite.com/festival
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July	Harp Haven in Appleby-in-Westmorland An hour of scintillating music for the soul performed on lever harp by Lauren Scott 1st July, 19:30 Appleby-in-Westmoreland 2nd July 15:30 Kendal 2nd July 19:30 Orton Tickets https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/harp-haven-in-cumbria-1975809
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/side-aisle-ticket-restricted-v
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 Upcoming Events and Activities

Harps North West Annual Membership: Fees are 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.

Harps North West Summer Celebration or A Harp Extravaganza! Sunday 2nd July

At the North West Music Academy (NWMA), Ramsden Square, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1XA

A full-day event celebrating so much that has happened within HNW this year. A chance to meet and play with a group of blossoming cardboard harpists who have been working with Mary in the NWMA. Includes:

- World Premiere of Lauren Scott's piece for sax and harp ensemble
- Premiere of HNW Pachelbel Canon video (the live edit!)

We shall be playing:

- The World Premier of Lauren Scott's, 'There were Always Going to be Owls' with Susan Lambert on harp and Mike Smith - guest saxophonist, with HNW accompaniment. (HNW members commissioned this piece a wedding gift to Susan and Mike.)
- Stargazing - Gill Lowden (<https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links/2023-janewary-challenge.html>)
- Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden
- Pachelbel's Canon - Sylvia Wood. You will need to purchase your own copy unless you work from the gentle approach by Mary Dunsford, an elementary alternative.

Playing Groups are invited to play a piece or two.

Please let Mary D. know what you'd like to play via events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Free to members: Members wishing to join the event please sign up by contacting Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Friends and family wishing come to the performance (£5 entrance payable on the day) and/or the HNW shared lunch please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org

There will also be a zoom link to the event sent to all HNW members.

The performance at the end will be very relaxed, as per other HNW events. NWMA will charge £5 a ticket for this, (their policy for all performances held at NWMA) but audience size will be small due to space limitations.

The Full Timetable:

Time	Who	Where
10.00	HNW members arrive via back access	Hall (with Kitchen use)
10.30-12.30	Mary lead HNW rehearsal with saxophonist for premiere.	Hall
12.30-1.30	HNW bring and share lunch break	Kitchen/Hall
1.30-3.15/30	HNW afternoon rehearsal/playing session	Hall
1.00-3.00	Absolute beginners on Cardboard Harps	Tutti Room
3-3.30	6-pack players rehearsal	Tutti Room
3.30-4	Sort hall space	Hall
4.00	Open doors to public	Hall
4.15 – 5.15	Performance of beginners, 6-pack players and HNW	Hall

★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 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.

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.

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.

Arrive 11:00, playing 11:30

All members are welcome to join us. If you'd like to come along to play or talk to people about harps, contact Ann Woolley on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

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.

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 13th June
Tuesday 11th July
Tuesday 22nd August
Tuesday 19th September
Tuesday 17th October
Tuesday 14th November
Saturday 16th December



Dalton Castle

Harp North West harpists are playing at the National Trust property, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness- 2pm until 3,30pm

Gill Lowden - [Sat 17th June](#)
Gill Salter-Smith, Linda Taylor and Ann Woolley- [24th June](#)
Gill Lowden and Mandy Bartlett - [Sat 15 July](#)

Egremont Farmers Market

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

Friday 16th June
Friday 21st July
Friday 18th August

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



NEWS of Recent HNW Events

HNW Performance Group Plus at the Gatesbiel Garden Party on the 20th May



What a lovely afternoon at Gatesbiel Quaker Housing Association Garden Party today, Saturday 20th May. There were so many comments from people about how much they had enjoyed our playing and lots of interest in the harps. It was good to see a few HNW members there.

A big thank you to all you players for playing beautifully but also helping me out with sheet music when I realised I'd picked up my 'Mandy and Gill' folder and not the Gatesbiel folder!! A lesson learned for me.

Everyone from Gatesbiel was very helpful and very friendly and it was good to be playing outdoors on such a lovely day. The two gazebos worked very well to give us shade from the sunshine. It was a very special moment when we played 'By the Beck' especially for Gill Lowden's uncle in law, Peter, who was helped down to the area by the Gatesbiel staff especially to listen. From what Keith Triplett, HNW member and resident at Gatesbiel, said I think they will probably want us back next year. I have a feeling that there will be enough harpists who will be very happy to make a return visit. Gill

'We really enjoyed the concert at Gatesbiel Garden on last Saturday. Weather was nice and music was beautiful. Tea and cakes were delicious too.' Binh and John (thanks for the photos, Binh)

'All things placing' Harp Skills Course with Mary Dunsford For steady players, Monday 15th May

Tutor Mary Dunsford led a special skills session for Steady Players, consolidating brilliant finger placing to play with fluent beauty! 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' and Kumbaya were used to demonstrate and practice placing. The comments show the course was well received.

Don't forget that the recording of this Skills session, **Finger Placing for Steady Players** is ***still available***. Do get in touch if you'd like a copy.

'It's like playing castanets' Mandy, South Cumbria

'We've got a rainbow outside in Loughborough!', Sue, Loughborough

'A great session. Thank you Mary', Gill, currently in Andalusia

'Thank you Mary, very helpful', Diane in Australia

'Many thanks, very useful guidance and tips', Sue

'Fantastic very useful workshop! and excellent speed Mary! Thank you!', Judy T.

'Thanks Mary', Gill's, South Wales

'Thanks, that's great', Veronica, Ambleside

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

Some lovely photos of HNW performance group playing on Friday 9th June; a beautiful church and a great audience. Thanks to Rod E. for the photos.



News from members



Summer Challenge for Green-Fingered Harpists???

Spotted by an eagle-eyed HNW member in Mount Stewart gardens near Belfast - anyone feeling like creating a topiary harp in their own garden?

Thanks Nicola for the photo!

A little Astrological Entertainment

www.coverbandcentral.com

What's your Music Sign?

Ukulele

Jan 6th-Feb 11th



You have a limited range and people leave town to avoid hearing you talk.

Expect misfortune, but stay positive. Because you will anyway won't you?

Kazoo

Feb 12th



You are a one note drone. You keep making the same point. Repeatedly.

Someone will listen to you today. Consequences will be unfortunate.

Banjo

Feb 13-Jun 15 (Mid West USA, Patagonia, Tasmania)
Feb 13th—April 6th
(everywhere else)



Expect battle.

Harmonica

April 7th to Lunchtime



If you try hard you'll hit the right note.

The day will be uneventful, but ensure you are safely earthed.

Harp

April 8th – May 32nd



You are a thing of beauty and everyone loves the sound of your voice.

Your diet will face challenges today, and you will have difficulties being heard.

Tamborine

Jun 1st – June 16th



Your happy tones are enjoyed by everybody.

Your attempts to show your depths may meet some success today. After all, if your mother can't say something nice, who will?

Glockenspiel

June 17th – Aug 1st
(Germany, North Korea, next door)
June 17th – July 17th
(southern hemisphere)



Your attempt at humour always endears you.

Avoid ladders and bookcases.

Guitar

Aug 24th



Everyone loves you.

Your day will be wonderful. Continue to practice that 4th chord.

Accordion

June 17th – Aug 21st (Ulster, Finland)
July 18th – Aug 21st (Jupiter, Saturn)



Nothing will happen today for you. Again.

Recorder

Aug 22 – Aug 23rd, Aug 25th – Sept 6th



Do not go out in public. We warned you last time.

Harpsichord

Sept 7th – Nov 9th



Your out of date views continue to annoy.

Take care when crossing roads. The threats are real.

Triangle

Nov 10th – Dec 31st



You have reached the pinnacle of your life's achievement. Continue to sit in the background.

You will order salad.

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.