

NEWSLETTER – November 2022

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

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

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



Convenor's message

We welcome Alison Stobbs to her new role of HNW treasurer. We know that Alison will bring her attention to detail and gentle persuasiveness to this important role. Many thanks to Ann Woolley for her loyal and efficient service as treasurer over many years. Ann has now taken on the role of secretary, another vital role that keeps HNW functioning.

Another busy month for HNW started with **Lily Neil's terrific introduction to Rag Time music** on the harp, a Zoom workshop. It was a session full of interest and plenty of challenge.

We were delighted with the success of **Karen Marshalsay's** visit to Cumbria. Karen's varied concert held at the Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green, was enjoyed by an audience of almost 40. The Farmers Arms are keen to work with us again in the future. The workshop the next day reminded us of a piece from Karen's composition for HNW of 2015-16, "The Lay of the Land". Should we would revisit this piece? Karen's three harps including a Bray harp and a wire-strung harp provided much fascination both at the concert and the workshop,

Mary Dunsford's Zoom practice for the Christmas Party was very well attended providing useful guidance on the chosen pieces and much encouragement. Thank you Mary.

The Higham Hall weekend is coming up soon. We look forward to welcoming Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton to this beautiful venue for a weekend of enjoyable harping and great company. There were a few places still available last time I checked.

Christmas party preparations continue this month with a **live rehearsal** led by Mary at Skelton Toppin Hall, just north west of Penrith. Making a full day of it, and after a shared lunch, in the afternoon we'll share seasonal tunes and maybe practise the Christmas pieces some more.

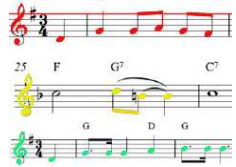
Mary will lead a **Beginners' Workshop** on the same day in the same venue in the afternoon. So if you know anyone who is keen to try playing the harp please encourage them to come along. We have harps available to hire at the moment.

... and it's not long until the HNW Christmas Party on Saturday 3rd Dec at Burton in Kendal. Hope you can make it either live or on Zoom! **Gill**



November Events

Sunday 20th November
10:00 Tuning.
10:30- 12:30 Practice.
Shared Lunch
13:30 – 15:30 Playing
Session
Free to members
No need to sign up



Christmas Party Practice - tutor: Mary Dunsford Followed by Playing session led by members -

A full day of LIVE harp

Morning - Christmas Party Practice

Afternoon - Playing Session led by members
Carousel of Dreams by Lauren Scott/Seasonal Tunes

'Bring your favourite tunes to play and share - I have some crackers! AutumnLeaves, Winter, from the Four Seasons, Gloomy December' Gill

Skelton Toppin
Memorial Hall
CA11 9TE

Sunday 20th November
Arrive 13:15.
Workshop 13:30 to 16:00.
Fee £25

Absolute Beginners Session - tutor: Mary Dunsford

Harp and music stands are provided. No previous music experience is needed.
Harp will be available to hire after the event.

To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

Skelton Toppin
Memorial Hall
CA11 9TE

HNW Dates for the Diary

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

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November 2022	Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton Contact Higham Hall directly. http://highamhall.com/	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
Sunday 20th November 10:00 Tuning. 10:30- 12:30 Practice. Shared Lunch 13:30-15:30 Playing Session Free to members No need to sign up	Christmas Party Practice and playing session - tutor: Mary Dunsford - A full day of LIVE harp Morning - Christmas Party Practice Afternoon - Playing Session led by members Carousel of Dreams by Lauren Scott/Seasonal Tunes See front page for more details	Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall CA11 9TE
Sunday 20th November Arrive 13:15. Workshop 13:30 to 16:00 Fee £25	Absolute Beginners Session Harps and music stands are provided. No previous music experience is needed. Harps will be available to hire after the event. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall CA11 9TE
Saturday 3 rd December Free to members No need to sign up	Christmas Party - tutor: Mary Dunsford Morning - rehearsal Shared Lunch Afternoon - HNW Christmas Party - live and on zoom, invite your friends and family!	Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall, LA6 1NA
Sat 17th December 15:00 - 1700 Donations Ref: Carols+ your initials	Christmas Carol Play-along with Susan Lambert	Zoom
January 2023 Free to all across the globe	And coming in January - the JaNEWary Challenge Mary Dunsford introduces us to new tunes with excellent guidance, given through daily short videos - NOT TO BE MISSED	

Booking and Paying for an event. 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. (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. ***See changes to bank details at the end of the newsletter***

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

Wednesday November 16th 2022 13:00 to 14:00	PELLEAS ENSEMBLE Kendal Midday Concert Club Henry Roberts (Flute), Luba Tunnicliffe (Viola), Oliver Wass (Harp) Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune Rebecca Clarke: Songs (The Cloths of Heaven, Infant Joy, Eight o'clock and Tears) Dowland/Purcell: Suite (In darkness let me dwell, If my complaints could passions move, Fantasia on one note) Jolivet: Petite Suite For latest information: http://www.kendalmiddayconcertclub.org/index.html	
Saturday 17th December 20:00 Levens Village Hall LA8 8NL	Celtic Christmas Strings Máire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman, harp and guitar At different locations in Northumberland and Cumbria, 'Celtic Christmas Strings features a breath-taking blend of traditional Irish music, swing jazz and bluegrass, plus festive favourites.' https://highlightsnorth.co.uk/event/celtic-christmas-strings-2/	
Saturday 7th January 13:00	Get Ready for Burns, online workshop day with Karen Marshalsay For elementary to intermediate level clarsach/lever harp players with gut or nylon/carbon fibre etc strings. On zoom, with recordings available as on demand viewing for 6 months afterwards and sheet music sent out in advance. There are three tune workshops, a presentation on Burns and a concert. There's also an optional add on second zoom workshop the following week to consolidate and ask any questions! Early bird pricing of £35 or £45 with the add on extra zoom session lasts til 30 November. Information and booking https://www.karenmarshalsay.com/burns See the flyer at end of the newsletter	
Friday 27th to Sunday 29th January 2023	Winter Harp Festival - on line. 27-29 Jan 2023 Tutors: Nadia Birkenstock, Harriet Earis, Kevin le Pennec, Una in Flannagain https://www.winterharpfestival.com/?fbclid=IwAR12Fqli29OCHWFRA11kAs-Z99w6Jua2E01tFNXOTpoP3RogctGTa2MumNE	

NEWS of Recent HNW Events

Concert by Karen Marshalsay

Two reports from members who thoroughly enjoyed the concert and workshop by Karen Marshalsay in October. Thanks to Veronica and Val!



'On the evening of 14th October Karen Marshalsay gave a concert at the Farmers Arms in Lowick Green. Karen is currently the wire harp tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Karen introduced us to Scottish folk music, some traditional and some she had written herself. Each piece was introduced with a story and she wove her concert around the traditions of travelling harp players across centuries in Scotland.

Karen brought 4 harps with her, using each to introduce us to different modes of playing, with why each harp had been used. She had 2 lap, wire strung harps, played with fingernails rather than finger pads, the music had an ethereal almost harpsichord like quality. Just before the interval she played on a Bray Harp; a clarsach sized instrument with holly "wood stoppers" giving it a harsher, almost bagpipe like sound, developed so that centuries ago the harp could be heard at dances and ceilidhs. She also played on a more recognisable (to most of the audience at least) clarsach, showing how it makes the most of Scottish ballads and tunes.

*The evening was held in an oak beamed room supported by the community-owned pub which gave an authentic feel to the evening. I hope she will be able to come to Cumbria again and can highly recommend her concerts'. **Veronica Wilkie***



Karen's Bray and Clarsach harpsClose up showing the 'buzz pegs'

'On a stormy Saturday I was driving along to Shap with a beautiful rainbow stretched across the sky anticipating an excellent day of music. I was not disappointed.

Eight of us gathered to meet up with Karen Marshalsay, whom most of us had met previously when she was our composer in residence. It was good to see her again and to enjoy playing her music. The atmosphere was informal and friendly. We were treated gently at first playing a tune, right hand only, bliss for some of us. Then the more complex elements were added gradually, yet with a freedom to choose as much as we could manage.

*We enjoyed a bring and share lunch, quite like old times, then in the afternoon we tackled a Paraguayan piece with some rather tricky rhythms, but excellently taught. All in all a superb day, made even better by Karen's warm and friendly personality'. **Val Gill***

Christmas Party Practice with Mary Dunsford. Wednesday 19th October 8pm on Zoom.



More than 20 members joined Mary for this practice in preparation for the HNW Christmas Party. Mary covered three of the pieces. 'In The Snow Where the Deers Are' is a beautiful piece written by Wendy Stewart after a winter walk with a grandchild. This gentle atmospheric piece really does evoke scenes of snow falling gently around deer who remain oblivious to your presence. There is a part of everyone, whatever your playing experience.

Gill Lowden's 'Pachelbel's Kite' is a lively piece with several parts. The swing element makes it really good fun to play. Mary guided us through some tricky fingering and stressed how important the dynamics are in the different parts so that the tune stands out. Gill was inspired to write this following the HNW Harps for Harmony playing and recording of Pachelbel's Canon in D in 2020-21 and spending time flying kites with a grandchild.

Shelley Fairplay's 'Down by the Walnut Tree' will be familiar to many of you as it was a piece taught by Mary in the 2022 JaNEWary Challenge. It is a pleasant tuneful piece expertly taught.

The next live practice will be on Sunday 20th November at Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall, north east of Penrith, with tuning from 10am. This will give us time to refine these pieces and to tackle the two Christmas tunes arranged by Susan Lambert, Three Ships and Carol of the Bells, a Ukrainian Carol. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

The recording of this session was sent to all members so I hope you got chance to enjoy it. Some of you have sent messages of appreciation. Thank you to Susan for converting the video into a HNW YouTube, making it much easier to view.

A huge thank you to Mary for leading us through these pieces and making them accessible and enjoyable for so many of us.

Gill Salter-Smith



From members



An interesting question from Mike

I had quite forgotten how good Harpo Marx was and this video is worth a watch. Perhaps not a style used today, but definitely shows his dexterity.

'Hi, as a young boy I was mesmerized by Harpo Marx in Night of the Opera playing the song "Alone" on the harp. I was 5 and 62 years later I have often wondered if an harpist could play the song exactly as Harpo did? If someone could tell me if this is possible?

Regards', Mike Kee

Link to the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AonAEW6wIe4>

Picture courtesy of Vandamm Studio, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Flyer from Karen Marshalsay

Saturday 7th January 2023
An online workshop day with leading Scottish harper
KAREN MARSHALSAY

- Initial welcome session
- 3 tune workshops
- Presentation on Robert Burns
- Concert
- All recorded to watch on demand
- Optional follow-up Zoom on 15th January



Get Ready for Burns



- For Elementary / Intermediate lever harp players
- Sheet music PDFs in advance
- Taught by ear
- Recordings available for 6 months

Starts 1pm UK time

Info & booking: www.karenmarshalsay.com/burns

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

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.

★ IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS - changes to accounts ★

Please note that the only account now open has the following details so if you have the Festival account details saved somewhere (I know there are a few of you out there as we need to do the occasional transfer!) this should now be deleted. Cheques and cash transactions are also now charged so we appreciate your payments being made by direct bank transfer. Thank you.

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' option to ensure HNW receives the full amount of the fee you are paying.