

NEWSLETTER – October 2022

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

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



Convenor's message


Two exciting events are coming up this month. **Karen Marshalsay**, a renowned Scottish Harpist, and a longtime friend of HNW, will be in concert at the Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green, on Friday 14th October. A number of us are meeting up for an Early Bird meal beforehand... so we're looking forward to a fun evening with lots of harping to appreciate. The day after Karen will be leading a **full-day workshop at Shap**. So do come and join the fun.

The Christmas Party rehearsal with Mary was most enjoyable. I hope you are enjoying the Christmas music especially the Ukrainian Carol of the Bells arranged by Susan Lambert. Maybe you can join the rehearsal on Zoom with Mary on Wednesday 19th October and then live on Sunday 20th November at Skelton, near Penrith. We shall be linking the actual Christmas Party party to members via Zoom, so no need to miss out if you cannot make it live.

Last month at the AGM we were able to recognise the hard work of committee members who have sustained a lively programme of events over the year fulfilling the aims of the charity. We especially thanked Ann Woolley for her immense efforts and attention to detail that she has brought to the role of treasurer over the past five years (well over the three year span normally expected). However we are now **without a treasurer**. This role needs to be filled. So please join the search for a suitable person to take on this role. They do not have to be a member of HNW. **THIS IS A MATTER OF URGENCY! Gill**



October Events

Friday 14th October 19:30 Tickets 310 Under 16s free	<p>Karen Marshalsay in concert at The Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green.</p> <p>This event is a new venture for HNW in collaboration with a local community arts group and pub. Please try and come along and make this a worthwhile venture that could maybe repeated in the future. Early Bird special meals will be available if booked in the Stable Bar before the performance. To book: https://lakedistrictfarmersarms.com/whats-on/harps-north-west/</p>	The Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green LA12 8DT
Saturday 15th October Tuning from 10:00. Workshop 10:30 - 12:30 please bring a shared lunch Workshop 13:30 - 15:30 Fee £35 Ref: KarenM+your initials	<p>Full day live workshop - Tutor: Karen Marshalsay</p> <p>Come and learn some of Karen's favourite tunes that she's written for harp. There's a wide range here - some have a Latin flavour, some are from 'The Lay of the Land' suite from her time as composer in residence with Harps North West, and there may be some surprises too! Catering for mixed abilities apart from complete beginners and taught by ear as well as with music given out, this will be a relaxed but challenging day.</p> <p>To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</p>	Shap Memorial Hall, CA10 3NL
Wednesday 19th October 20:00 to 21:30 Free to members. No need to sign up. 	<p>Christmas Party rehearsal on Zoom with Mary Dunsford</p> <p>The Zoom link will be sent to all members. The sheet music has been sent to all members. If you are missing any pieces please contact Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</p> <p>Programme</p> <p>Carol of the Bells arranged by Susan Lambert Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden In the Snow where the Deers Are - Wendy Stewart Under the Walnut Tree - Shelley Fairplay I Saw Three Ships - arranged by Susan Lambert</p>	Zoom

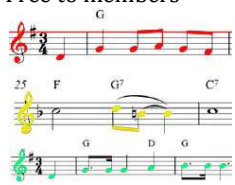
WANTED! Your Harp Society Needs You!

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 need a **TREASURER**★. 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. If you think you could help with any of the roles above, please contact Alison on administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk
 The Treasurer does not have to be a member of HNW.

HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are BST/UTC+1 to end of October. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Tuesday 11th October 19:30	Committee meeting	Zoom
Friday 14th October 19:30	Karen Marshalsay in concert at The Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green. This will be the night before her full day workshop to be held on Sat 15th Oct at a venue in the north of the county. Hoping you will be able to support this event. Tickets £10, accompanied under 16s attend free of charge if accompanied by an adult. To book: https://lakedistrictfarmersarms.com/whats-on/harps-north-west/	The Farmers' Arms, Lowick Green LA12 8DT
Saturday 15th October Tuning from 10:00. Workshop 10:30 - 12:30 Shared lunch Workshop 13:30 - 15:30 Fee £35 Ref: KarenM+your initials	Full day LIVE workshop - Tutor: Karen Marshalsay Come and learn some of Karen's favourite tunes that she's written for harp. There's a wide range here - some have a Latin flavour, some are from 'The Lay of the Land' suite from her time as composer in residence with Harps North West, and there may be some surprises too! Catering for mixed abilities apart from complete beginners and taught by ear as well as with music given out, this will be a relaxed but challenging day. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Shap Memorial Hall, CA10 3NL
Wednesday 19th October 20:00 - 21:30 Free to members 	*NEW* Christmas Party Practice - tutor: Mary Dunsford The Zoom link will be sent to all members. The sheet music has been sent to all members. If you are missing any pieces, please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Programme Carol of the Bells arranged by Susan Lambert Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden In the Snow where the Deers Are - Wendy Stewart Under the Walnut Tree - Shelley Fairplay I Saw Three Ships - arranged by Susan Lambert	Zoom
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th 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	*NEW* 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/Seasonal Tunes No need to sign up	Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall CA11 9TE
Sunday 20th November Arrive 13:15. Workshop 13:30 to 16:00.	*NEW* Absolute Beginners Session Harps and music stands are provided. No previous music experience is needed. Harps will be available to hire after the event.	Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall CA11 9TE
Saturday 3 rd December Free to members	Christmas Party - tutor: Mary Dunsford Morning - rehearsal Shared Lunch Afternoon - HNW Christmas Party - live and on zoom No need to sign up	Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall, LA6 1NA
Sat 17th December 15:00	Christmas Carol Play-along with Susan Lambert	Zoom

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

12 th to 15 th October Apply now! for course in October	Ardival Harps Makers of Historical Harps - Wire strung players course: details at https://www.ardival.com/ English Schools Orchestra - 2022 course and concert - age 13-18, Grade 8 level or above Applications are now open for the course in October half-term week. https://www.englishschoolsorchestra.org/courses/2022.php
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Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

22nd-23rd October



The THIRD annual Transpennine Harps Online Festival weekend!

There will be a wide variety of workshops for players of all abilities, as well as an informal tea concert live-streamed by the wonderfully talented Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley.

<https://transpennineharps.org/festival2022>

28th Oct. to 1st Nov.

Harp on Wight festival, details <https://www.harponwight.co.uk/>

30th October

14:00 - 15:30

Shambellie House,
New Abbey,
Dumfries. DG2 8HQ

Chloe Matharu, Small Voyages Concert

Chloe Matharu shares songs from her debut album, Small Voyages, along with arrangements of Scottish traditional songs for voice and harp. Many of her songs are inspired by her time at sea as a Navigational Officer in the Merchant Navy.

<https://www.shambelliehouse.org/product/chloe-matharu-small-voyages-concert/>

Sunday 6th November

14:00

CatStrand

Castle Douglas, DG7 3RN

High Tea Tunes special : Esther Swift

High Tea Tunes is a series of short concerts by well known local artists followed by tea and scones.

Tickets £12 To book:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/castle-douglas/catstrand>

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

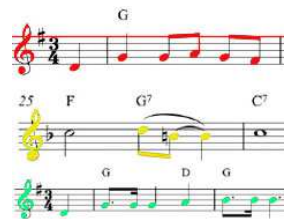
Celtic Christmas Strings

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/>

NEWS of Recent HNW Events



Introduction to the Christmas Party music - Tutor: Mary Dunsford

In preparation for the Christmas Party on the 3rd of December, Mary introduced the music

Pachelbel's Kite - Gill Lowden

In the Snow where the Deers Are - Wendy Stewart

Under the Walnut Tree - Shelley Fairplay

I Saw Three Ships - arranged by Susan Lambert

Play Mediaeval Music - Tutor: Wendy Stewart



On a bright sunny Saturday morning in late September about a dozen of us closed the curtains and made ready for Wendy's Play Medieval Music zoom workshop.

I had approached it with a little trepidation. Firstly because it was only my second time on zoom, and using a phone and 4g might prove problematic (it was fine!). Secondly because the workshop was "for all levels apart from complete beginner". What class of beginner was I now? I had been dabbling around with a 2-octave harp for over a year, and had recently become the proud owner of a 27-string Camac harp, but ownership doesn't make you any less of a beginner! When the sheet music arrived I relaxed a little - nothing too scary there, 4 pieces, easy keys ... it will probably be OK. I deliberately didn't try out any of the pieces as I wanted to experience learning it by ear.

The workshop started with St. Magnus Hymn, stately, most of the action in the right hand, and nicely repetitive for more easily learning by ear.

The second piece was Wendy's arrangement of La Rotta, again some nice repetitions and nifty finger work required (note to self, more technique practice required). After a short break the last two pieces were "Woe Betide thy Wearie Bodie" and "I will not go to my bed till I suld die", these offered a bit more scope for the more advanced players as there were options to use different left hand accompaniments.

All too soon it was time to open the curtains and say goodbye. I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, and I think it had plenty of interest for all levels - I was glad the mute button as some of our run-throughs started to speed up, and I would lose my place! Throughout the session Wendy would add in items of interest about the spread of the tunes across countries, how early music was written down differently, the use of the Bray harp, and how early harps leant against the left shoulder rather than the right. It's obviously an area of music that would be fascinating to research. Thanks for a great session, Wendy! from Mo Jefferies

"Just like to say how much I enjoyed Wendy's workshop of medieval music.

We had a great day of playing with music from fast and jiggy to soulful." Eil Bentley

NEWS of Recent HNW Events(continued)

Ragtime on Harp! - Tutor: Lily Neil



From Eil Bentley:

"Lily's workshop on Sunday was quite a stretch. From right handed lever changes (I had rib cramps) to mentally keeping up with lever slides, lots more lever changes and skittering fingers. Even slowly I will need some time before I get beyond a few bars. But it was great. Felt like a marathon workout (At nearly 80, I have an excuse for breathlessness). The first two exercises were to prepare us for 'Great Scott Rag' a four page romp. If I ever manage to play this I'll be so proud of myself. I'll be buffed up if I manage some proficiency with the exercises. A tough one, but I was buzzing for the rest of the day. Thank you Lily for an exciting whizz."

Lots of lovely comments in the zoom chat!

Gina Marie: *Challenging, but great! It will take a bit of time, but it is a good study to acquire the skill - it really helps to hear it. You are making the choreography clear. I have spent many happy hours playing ragtime on piano: how wonderful to bring it to the harp, I appreciate the balance of exercise and review of tune. Thank you, Lily! Marvellous "Master Class!"*

Annie: *Very different reaching over for the levers!*

Gill: *- Start very slowly and build up!, It's brilliant, with lots of information as well as exercises and music, I recommend it.*

Kath: *tricky, but a great challenge! Sadly, I have to leave! Hopefully I'll be able to catch up with Susan and use a lesson time together to enjoy this exciting material. Thank you Lily, Kath W xx*

Annie: *Can thoroughly recommend Harp Quarterly*

Susan: *Fabulous workshop Lily, thank you!*

Lorraine: *a great workshop, thanks Lily*

HNW Composition Book Launch.



You may remember in March 2021, in the middle of all the chaos of a global pandemic and second lockdown, we held a composition month. The project involved daily bite size exercises, online workshops and an invitation to submit pieces into a competition to be judged by our composer in residence Lauren Scott and the lovely Shelley Fairplay. We had lots of beautiful pieces submitted to the competition (I have no idea how the judges were able to choose!) and even more gorgeous pieces submitted to add to the collection.

We are delighted to announce the launch of our very own book of compositions!

We now have printed copies of this wonderful collection of music composed by our very own Harps North West members. Inside you will find 17 gorgeous and individual pieces along with the beautiful pictures and words that inspired them. Also, look out for the badges on the winning pieces of the composition competition!

If you would like to purchase a copy they will be available at our live gatherings, or you can buy online by emailing me (Susan) at online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk. We are selling them for £10 each, (plus postage if applicable) AND there is a composers discount. All the composers featured in the book can purchase their first copy for £5. You can also purchase the PDF of the book for £5.

Treat yourself to some beautiful new music to learn this Autumn/Winter, (and dare I say it, it'll make the perfect stocking filler for your musical friends and family! Ho ho) you can even play along with the recordings of the pieces which you will find on our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFDkYQ4vEsWae2O4hFp7WE4owzmML-vF9>

This book is a wonderful reminder of how we came together to get creative to help each other get through such an odd and often difficult time in our lives. It certainly helped me having a focus and an outlet, and the good company! and I hope it helped you too. The bitesize daily videos are available on our website:

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/composition/bite-size-composition.html>

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the project. I look forward to seeing what we can create next!

Susan

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	
Looking for volunteers	Treasurer - overview	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Carol Coldwell		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington		
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Alison Stobbs – Not a committee member	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer - admin & support Harp Hire - admin & support Membership - admin & support	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



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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.