

NEWSLETTER

October 2023



Website: <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>
 Editor: Frances Quinn, events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

Convenor's message



The leaves are turning and beginning to fall. At this time of year I love to play Ailie Robertson's arrangement of 'Falling Leaves' and Anne Crosby Gaudet's 'Equal Night'. Both are beautiful pieces and available to purchase on their respective websites.

The introduction to the HNW Christmas Party tunes held at The Athenaeum was well attended. Mary Dunsford's superb teaching led us through Susan Lambert's wonderful Christmas Mash Up, definitely one that I need to practice. The AGM attracted a good number of members and interesting proposals. One suggestion was to establish a Zoom Playing Group. If anyone wishes to take this idea further please let me know.

A member urged us all to look out for those who may need support when moving harps in and out of venues. Harps are big and often heavy and we do not want members to miss out on playing live

with others. We also wish to encourage the sharing of lifts to events.

Later in the month Luke Webb, on Zoom, enthusiastically led us through two Irish tunes, Raglan Road and a jig, An Lurgadan, having challenged our fingers with increasing complex warm ups. We look forward to working and playing with Luke and Eira Lynn Jones next month at Higham Hall.

October brings us a live workshop at The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge, on 'Playing Harp and Accompanying Singing' led by visiting Scottish harpist and singer **Chloe Matharu**. The night before, **Sat 14th October, Chloe and The HNW Performance Group are giving a concert** at the same venue. The pie n peas supper at 6pm is not to be missed. ... oh and BBC Radio Cumbria's Helen Millican will interview Chloe and members of the Performance Group on Friday afternoon, 13th Oct at 2.30pm.

This busy weekend is followed by a chance to get more **practice of the Christmas tunes with Mary Dunsford on Zoom on Monday evening 16th October.**

Happy harping, Gill

October

Saturday 14th October
19:00



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.

Book tickets £15 <https://www.greatartists-smallvenue.com/whats-on>

Pie and peas from 18:00 £5

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

Workshop: Accompanying singing

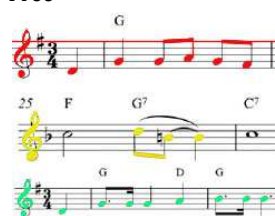
Tutor: Chloe Matharu (<https://chloematharu.co.uk/>)

(You don't have to be a singer to enjoy this workshop)

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



Christmas Party practice with Mary Dunsford

Free to members, no need to sign up.

All members will be sent the sheet music and the Zoom meeting link.

HNW Xmas Party Tunes

Christmas Mash Up - arranged by Susan Lambert

Stargazing - Gill Lowden

Out Walking with a Butterfly - Kath Wilson in A major (gentle version is available)

Both Sides Now - Joni Mitchell. Arranged by Lauren Scott

We Wish You a Merry Christmas - from a lead sheet with chords.

Please contact Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk if you need any of this sheet music

Zoom



Harps for Harmony update: Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, was taught by Mary Dunsford in the **2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge**

The live version was recorded on 23rd October 2021 in St Bees Priory-
Musical Director: Mary Dunsford. Recording manager: Jon Borgia.

Full video with the live recording session now available - Thank you Mary and Jon!

Link to the full video

https://youtu.be/Z_YEAakcfOQ

HNW Dates for the Diary

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

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Saturday 14th October 19:00	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. Book tickets https://www.greatartists-smallvenue.com/whats-on 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, bring your own or eat in the cafe 13:30 to 15:30 workshop Fee to members £35 Non-members £45	Workshop: Accompanying singing Tutor: Chloe Matharu (https://chloematharu.co.uk/) (You don't have to be a singer to enjoy this workshop) 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@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge, CA23 3AR
Monday 16th October 19:30 to 21:00 Free	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 Free to members	Christmas Party practice - !live! with Mary Dunsford Practice in the morning No need to sign up but please let us know you are coming by contacting Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Shap Memorial Hall CA10 3NR
Sunday 19th November 13:30-15:00 Free to members	* New * Technical Wizardry to Improve our Playing! Led by Susan Lambert In the afternoon, Susan Lambert leads a relaxed workshop – Members share experiences of using digital music, using amplification and a loop. Please sign up by contacting Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Shap Memorial Hall CA10 3NR
Sunday 19th November Arrive 13:30 Workshop 13.45-16.15 Fee £25	Absolute Beginners Workshop Tutor: Mary Dunsford Harps and music stands are provided No prior experience is required. There will be a chance to hire a harp following the session. £80 per 3 months. £50 deposit. Membership of HNW is required for insurance purposes. To sign up contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk The Post Beginner Personal Best Package , a series of recorded sessions led by Mary Dunsford, helping you through the next steps on your harp journey. This will be available to attendees of the Absolute Beginner Workshops at a special rate.	Shap Memorial Hall CA10 3NR
Saturday 2nd December	HNW Christmas Party Practice in the morning, A concert for family and friends in the afternoon	Quaker Meeting House, Penrith CA11 7TR
Sunday 17th December	Carols with Susan Lambert on Zoom	Zoom

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](#).

Any Budding Editors Interested in producing the HNW Newsletter?

Dear HNW members: due to other commitments, I can no longer compile the HNW newsletter. It has been really lovely and I have enjoyed it. You get to know what is being planned really early! It also is an opportunity to engage with the harp community, keeping people informed and it has the potential to expand further.
If anyone is interested, please contact Gill or myself at events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

HNW Upcoming Events and Activities



Harps North West 20th Anniversary Book of Celebration



Harps North West
20th Anniversary
Book of Celebration

Hi members,

It is not too long until we can start to celebrate 20 years since the establishment of Harps North West. Way back in 2004 a small group of committed harpists, based mainly in Cumbria, set up this independent charity. We have grown from a small organisation to a charity with over 120 members that are based not only in the North West but across the UK and the world.

We are planning lots of ways to celebrate this anniversary and we'd like members to be as much part of the celebrations as possible. Keep your eye on the website and the newsletter over the next few months.

One way you may like to contribute is by helping us to **compile a book of Harps North West memories that bring together all that this wonderful organisation has achieved over these 20 years.** Any HNW experience of interest, uniqueness, nostalgia, sentiment or humour will be welcome.

We are looking for:

- **short descriptions of meaningful events**
- **lots of photos**
- **pieces of harp music that are/were meaningful to you and a short description of why** (Please make sure that you have the composer's / arranger's permission for us to publish any sheet music that you would like to see included.)

Events of note could include, though I am sure there are many more:

- The establishment of Harps North West
- The Festivals: 2022 & 2019 (Ambleside); 2017 & 2015 Newton Rigg; Casterton School; Sedbergh School?
- Higham Hall courses - many over the years
- The Playing Groups - each one is so different.
- Visiting harp tutor Workshops
- The HNW Christmas Parties
- Memorable performance gigs
- The launch and on-going of the JaNEWary Challenge
- Concert at the Award Ceremony at the Sage in Gateshead (for the establishment of The JaNEWary Challenge)
- Composer in Residence - Karen Marshalsay - The Lay of the Land 2015
- Composer in Residence - Lauren Scott 2020-21
- Harps for Harmony -Pachelbel's Cannon 2020-21
- The Composition Competition during Lockdown 2021
- The establishment of Zoom sessions
- Lockdown
- The Bursary Awards to young harpists
- Joint Playing Sessions with Dumfries and Galloway
- Gill Lowden's compositions
- What has being a member of HNW meant to you?
- What is your harp journey?

We would particularly like to hear from our founder members and all the convenors who have served in those 20 years. However we welcome contributions from any member or former member.

The timetable for contributions through to publication are:

- Invitation to contribute - October (please let Gill know that you would like to contribute asap)
- Submission of contributions - deadline - by end of December
- Compilation and editing - deadline - end of March - Susan Lambert has kindly offered to compile the book which will be on similar lines to the Composition Book.
- Printing - by end of April (probably by Milners in Barrow in Furness)
- Distribution in time for its launch at the 20th Anniversary Summer Celebration in May, and for distribution at the 20th Anniversary Concerts and the 20th Anniversary Festival at Higham Hall in July.

Please let me know if you would like to contribute by contacting me, Gill (current convenor), on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Gill

Convenor - Harps North West

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 17th October



Egremont Farmers Market

Harp Out West play for this market most months of the year, coming up: 20th October at 11:00
<https://www.facebook.com/egremontmarket/>

NEWS of Recent HNW Events



Luke Webb Workshop on zoom: 23rd September

Thank you for Luke's great workshop. Sorry to have missed the ZOOM as I had to take husband for COVID/flu jab, but very glad to be able to pick up the recording. What a lovely way to spend a morning. Luke's relaxed easy going style made the Irish whizzy fingers music so accessible. Great brain exercises too.
Eil Bentley

"Thank you Luke - superb morning", JT

"Thanks Luke, It has been a lovely morning. I shall enjoy playing these tunes", AW

Dalton Castle Concert 9th Sep - HNW Performance Group

Well done everyone. It was a real treat being in the audience and hearing you play with such energy and joy. The programme worked really well with variety and interest in all the sets, and you embraced the 'fun tune' at the end of each set, leading naturally into the spontaneous audience applause. Yes, as Gill says, you all cracked the intros and the timings, moving seamlessly between the pieces. There was so much going on with the different harmonies and ornamentation and dynamics and you managed to achieve a very pleasing balanced whole. A great afternoon, see you soon,
Mary Adams

NEWS from Members



The 2023 Transpennine Online Harp Festival is a month away. 4th to 5th November - Plenty of time to book!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Info here: <https://transpennineharps.org/festival2023.html>

Bookings here: <https://zestival.co/app/book?e=tph-festival-2023> - please share, share, share!!!

AMAZING Artwork by Joan Dearnley

Online Celtic Harp Workshops



Please consider joining us for these online workshops that I'm running with a friend on the 15th of October.

This event is in honour of Ireland's annual 'lá n'a cruite' (harp day), and I'll be running an hour and a half's workshop on some new arrangements of Cornish tunes, and then my colleague Fearghal will be teaching some Irish tunes in the second half of the morning.

Full information (including signing up!) can be found here:
<https://book.benefacthq.com/?id=harp-day-2023>

There will be a series of events around Chambéry that weekend just /in case/ anyone happens to be out that way, but I realise it's a bit far...!

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
Veronica Wilkie		
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.