

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith: events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

The online concert by professional harpist **Ruth Wall** and composer husband **Graham Fitkin** is on the 4th September, but if you're not available on the day, it will be available to listen to for a week. Ruth taught me to play harp when I lived in Cornwall (they live near Lands End) and they are good friends and lovely people. It would be great if some of us could support this concert, as, like all musicians, the bottom dropped out of their performing world back in March.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of you on the 13th for our morning playing session and then the AGM. We hope to have Christmas music available by then for you to practice.

A lovely poem about the harp by Robert Graves was discovered by one of our members, Nicola Hartley, in Hutton in the Forest. It is included below. Happy September!



Dates for the Diary 2020 – further details of events given below

All live events are dependent on government advice and on local community halls opening up. We will try to have a **Zoom link** to HNW events but cannot guarantee this yet as we are all still learning!!!

WORKSHOPS POSTPONED until 2021. 1. Cumbrian Tunes. Tutor: Jean Altshuler. **2. Kulning.** Tutor: Mary Dunsford. June 2021

Sun 13 th Sept. 10:00 to 13:30 Free to members	Playing Session – preparation for the Christmas concert. Live and Zoom. Led by Mary Dunsford. Music will be sent out to members in advance. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Zoom link planned for members who cannot attend. Lunch - 12:30 to 13:30. Bring your own refreshments and utensils. Contact Mandy/Gill if you wish attend 'live' - events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Over Kellet Village Hall	LA6 1DN
Sun 13 th Sept. From 13:30 Free to members	HNW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Live and Zoom. All members welcome. We are planning a Zoom link for members who cannot attend live. Bring your own refreshments and utensils. Contact Mandy/Gill if you wish attend 'live' - events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Over Kellet Village Hall	LA6 1DN
Sat 26 th Sept. 10:00 to 16:00 £20 - live event	Live Joint Playing Session - with Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Group. Tutors: Mary Dunsford and Wendy Stewart. The Live event is limited to 17 harpists. Possible Zoom link for others – at a reduced cost. See below for more details. Contact Lyn Walby on lyn.walby@uwclub.net	Stormont Hall, Gretna	DG16 5DZ
Sat 3 rd Oct. 10:00 to 12:30 Free to members	Zoom MacMillan Coffee Morning – Playing Session. An excuse to play favourite pieces and donate to Macmillan Cancer Support. Plenty of chance to chat over coffee and cake. To take part contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk . Or click on https://thyg.uk/BUU004397660 The Zoom link and music will be sent to ALL members before the event.	Zoom	
Sat 10 th Oct. 13:15 to 16:30 Fee £25	Absolute Beginners' Workshop. Arrive: 13:15. Workshop 13:30 to 16:30. Live event. Tutor: Mary Dunsford. Harps provided for the session. Some instruments may be available for hire after the event. Bring your own refreshments and utensils. Open to all. More details below. Contact Mandy/Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Grizebeck Community Hall	LA17 7XH
Sun 11 th Oct. 10:00 to 16:00 Adults £35. Youth £20. Non-members £40	Full Day Workshop with Rachael Gladwin. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 16:00 with breaks. Bring your own refreshments and utensils. There will be no access to kitchen facilities. More details below. Contact Mandy/Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sun 8 th Nov. 10:00 to 12:30 Free to members	Rehearsal for the Christmas Party Concert Committee Meeting 13:00 -15:00	Braithwaite Inst. Keswick	CA12 5RY
13 th - 15 th Nov.	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. Tutors Jan Bennett & Shelley Fairplay. Sponsored by HNW. www.highamhall.com . Course now full.	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
DATES FOR DIARY CONTINUED OVERLEAF			

Sat 5 th Dec. 10:00 to 16:00 Free to members	Christmas Party Concert Arrive:10:00. Rehearsal 10:30 -12:30 Lunch 12:30 to 14:00. Bring your own lunch and utensils. 14:00 on. Afternoon performance.	Newbiggin Hall, Penrith	CA11 0HT
2021. Sat 16 th January; Sun 21 st February; Sat 20 th March; Sun 18 th April		HNW sessions TBA	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All being well, HNW is planning on holding more 'live' events over the coming months.

Playing groups may well wish to resume their 'live' meetings.

Please adhere to these protocols based on government guidance and law.

HARPS NORTH WEST

COVID 19 PROTOCOLS FOR ATTENDING LIVE EVENT IN COVID-SECURE SETTINGS

1. Please do not attend a live session if you are feeling unwell, have a temperature, headache or have recently lost your sense of taste or smell. Or if anyone in your household is similarly unwell.
2. Undertake your own risk assessment and only attend if you are happy to accept the risks. Take particular account of your personal health and situation and those of others in your household or of those who visit you often.
3. Where possible, avoid car sharing with those not in your household. Follow government guidance where car sharing is necessary.
4. Maintain at least 2m social distancing at all times.
5. Wear a face mask/covering at all times.
6. Bring hand sanitiser and antiseptic cleaning wipes.
7. Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens will not be available.
8. Print your own copies of the music to be played in advance.
9. Avoid touching other people's property. Wash your hands often.
10. Be familiar with the risk assessment and the specific requirements for each venue you visit. E.g. One way systems, use of toilets.
11. **Respect the decisions of others but do not be afraid to ask others to adhere to the protocols if you feel you are at risk.**

Nominated organisers of HNW events should follow the risk assessments for the particular venue.

We understand and respect that there will be some members who prefer not to attend live events. With this in mind we are working on ways to ensure that all members can be included through the use of online **Zoom** contact.

A sample risk assessment that has already been used by a playing group is available. If you would like to see it please contact Alison on administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk

For government advice on the use of community facilities and meeting people outside your household see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Be aware that government guidelines can change with little notice!

And now for more cheery harps in action!

EVENTS COMING UP

Ruth Wall Concert – 7 PM FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

This summer Ruth was due to perform live in beautiful Glasbury near Hay-on-Wye. Sadly the concert has had to be postponed. But the good news is that in the interim we are putting on a short online concert. The concert will be recorded at Ruth's home in Cornwall, featuring composer Graham Fitkin, and she will play three gloriously different harps – the Wire harp, Bray harp and more familiar Concert harp.

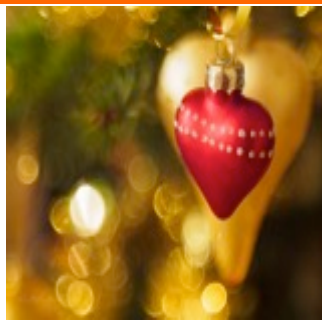
The programme includes music by Satie, Piazzolla, Cage and Machaut. There will be a Graham Fitkin world premiere and a little Steve Reich.

We all work with assumptions and within frameworks of unspoken rules, life trotting on happily until these 'norms' are challenged in small or big ways. Each of these composers has contravened the norms of their time and cultural expectations in their music. Music develops throughout history via these sorts of interventions, so come and have a listen.

This concert has been organised by Hay Music in collaboration with Glasbury Arts Harp Summer School. Hay Music Trust started life in 2011 with the aim of bringing high quality chamber music to Hay-on-Wye. You can find out more about the work they do at haymusic.org. The link to the concert will be available for a week after the event.



<http://fitkin.com/product/ruth-wall-online-concert-unspoken-rules/>



LIVE PLAYING SESSION - Led by Mary Dunsford

Preparation for the Christmas concert

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Venue: Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DN. Free to members

Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. Lunch 12:30.

Christmas music will be sent to members in advance of the session. Please print your own copies.

Bring your own refreshments and utensils. The kitchen will not be available.

Please let us know of your intention to attend the live session as numbers may be restricted.

Contact Mandy/Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

A link to Zoom will be sent to all members, for those not able to attend live.

Members are advised of the actions to be taken to avoid risks – see above for HNW Protocols.

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

13:30

HARPS NORTH WEST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DN

Bring your own refreshments and utensils. The kitchen will not be available.

A Zoom link will be sent out in advance of the AGM to all members for those not able to attend in person.

Please let us know of your intention to attend the live AGM as numbers may be restricted.

Contact Mandy/Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

Members are advised of the actions to be taken to avoid risks – see above for HNW Protocols.



SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

Joint PLAYING SESSION

Hosted by the Dumfries & Galloway Branch of The Clarsach Society

Tutors: Wendy Stewart and Mary Dunsford

Stormont Hall, Gretna, DG16 5DZ



There will be a limit of 17 people for the live event plus the two tutors, to keep to social distancing requirements. (We need 17 to make it viable financially) If there are more than 17 wishing to take part we will try to have a Zoom version (at a reduced cost tbc!) as well. If there are fewer than 17 it'll become a Zoom event only for the afternoon

Cost: £20 payable preferably by BACS to D&G branch Clarsach Society account number 74386481 sort code 09-01-34

OR by cheque to D&G branch Clarsach Society.



Members have been sent an application form as an attachment to the newsletter email.

Send your application form to Lyn Walby Secretary D&G branch Clarsach Society 37 Boreland Road KIRKCUDBRIGHT DG6 4JB

OR email the form to Lyn on lyn.walby@uwclub.net.

Please do not send any payment until the live event is confirmed.

IMPORTANT: CLOSING DATE Saturday 19 September 2020

Members are advised of the actions to be taken to avoid risks – see above for HNW Protocols.

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER - 10:00 until 12:30

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on ZOOM

An excuse to play our favourite pieces and, if you wish to, donate to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Offer to lead your favourite piece or just join in.

Music will be shared with members in advance on the understanding that rules of copyright are observed.

Plenty of chance to chat over coffee and cake. (11:00 – 11:30)

A Zoom link will be sent by email to ALL members the day before.

To donate to Macmillan Cancer Support please use the link below

You can use the link to say you want to join the event or you can contact

Gill on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

<https://thyg.uk/BUU004397660>





**SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP
Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH**

13:15 for a 13:30 start until 16:30

Tutor: Mary Dunsford

Cost £25. Lever harps, music and music stands are provided.

Encourage your friends and family to learn to play. There will be harps available for hire following this session.

Encourage your friends and family to learn to play the harp.

If you would like to attend please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The event is dependent on Community Halls being open and government guidance on Covid-19.

**RACHAEL GLADWIN – Full Day Workshop SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER
Venue: Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall**

Arrive 10:00. Workshop from 10:30 to 16:00 with breaks.

This promises to be a really fun day. Working mainly without music (but available to take away).

Rachel's description of her workshop

'I'd like to focus on rhythm: starting with body percussion, rhythm games and then using harps, exploring some Cuban and African grooves. Creating tunes together from the bass line up, writing rhythmic chord sequences and adding improvisation over the top. Depending on how confident your group is with improvisation we can either start with the basics or try something a little more complicated. I'd like to break into smaller groups to create new mini-pieces together using the ideas we've learned about. And finish up with learning a simple jazz tune, throwing in all of our best improvisation ideas and harp percussion.'

Cost: Adults £35. Youth members £20. Non-members £40.

To take part contact Mandy/Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk.



AN EVENT FOR THE FUTURE – all being well

The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 – Fingers crossed that this will go ahead but who knows

Venue: The University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus.

Dates: 23-25 July 2021

If you can offer help or would like to join the Festival Planning Team please contact our convenor, Carol, on convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

NEWS from HARPS NORTH WEST

HNW event on Zoom - Lauren Scott Workshop – Sat 22nd Aug . Across the Universe

*'What a very interesting two hour workshop we had with Lauren Scott. This was a second workshop from Lauren, and again it was very professional, very interesting, and entertaining too. Lauren 'set the scene' with footage from the early days of the Beatles, out in India with their 'Guru' who was quoted as saying his best customers were intelligent, talented, and wealthy! This was where they wrote, amongst many other songs, 'Nothing's Going to Change my World', which Lauren has arranged for lever harp, and which we were going to work on. A fascinating morning followed where she went through all the parts, and then showed us possible embellishments and variations. We learnt lots of new, different techniques and she left us at the end of the morning with plenty to work on. I think lots has 'changed our world' just lately, but this workshop was a very positive, welcome and fascinating change! **Judy Taylor**



*'Thanks for Lauren's really interesting workshop about turning a simple melody into something quite intricate while holding on to the relaxing theme.' **Eileen Bentley**

*'Thank you so much! It was a great session to be part of! Love the build up of 'layered effects' Can't wait to try and improve my playing and hopefully play half as nicely as Lauren! It was lovely meeting new people too.' **Kath Wilson**



*'Just a quick note to say yesterday was a good experience all round. Zoom tuition is the future! Thanks for introducing me to it. Enjoyed it and gave me lots to think about.' **Elizabeth Wilkinson**



Harp Building Course – 10th – 14th August 2020

What an amazing week four members of HNW had in the depths of countryside of Dumfries and Galloway. As we awaited in the sunny garden of the Craigdarroch Hotel in Moniaive for the course to start, I was amazed to find not only Linda Taylor but also Susan Lambert and Catherine Livesey all keen to start on building a 26 string Bohemian harp or Reiseharfe (travel harp). We almost had a quorum for the HNW committee! The workroom was airy and spacious enough for the seven course members. We ate outdoors in glorious weather in the well organised gardens with not a midge to be seen. Christoph, our master craftsman, worked us hard, but by the end of the week we each had built a fabulous sounding small harp. Along the way there was much harp playing, often with Wendy Stewart, swimming in the local river and plenty of fun and laughter. What a way to celebrate release from Lockdown! **Gill Salter-Smith**

Harps Up North

I attach a picture of Harps Up North (The HUNnies), on 3rd September at Watermillock, at our first in-person playing session since lockdown. Both hall doors are wide open and we have our masks on, including some musical ones made by Liz Fowler (furthest away, centre) to raise funds for the group. It was a pleasure to hear ALL the lines of music again, instead of just one as we have had in our Zoom sessions.



Harps for Harmony 2020

HNW's very special inclusive and worldwide collaborative project

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html>

The Project

Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, was taught by Mary Dunsford in the 2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge.

28th March '20, live performance and recording postponed

1st May '20, deadline for harpists' video submissions.

19th June Launch Day

<https://youtu.be/Yyv1JTuu17o>

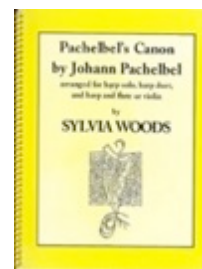
196 video clips. 109 harpists from across the globe. 19 young persons (youngest age 5)

Well done and thank you to all who have taken part!

Please keep on sharing with your friends, family and contacts.

... and the project is not over yet!

HNW plans to hold a **live recording** of the piece **performed by HNW members in St Bees Priory**, as originally planned before lockdown, **probably during spring 2021**. Still time to get practising and involved.



New music from Ruth Flavin

The choice for September comes from Catherine, Gill, Linda and Susan who all met Ruth Flavin on the harp building course in Moniaive, Dumfries & Galloway.

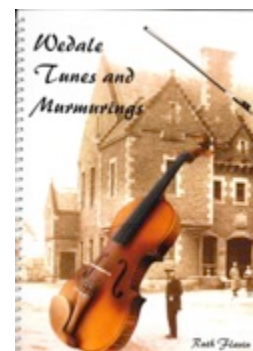
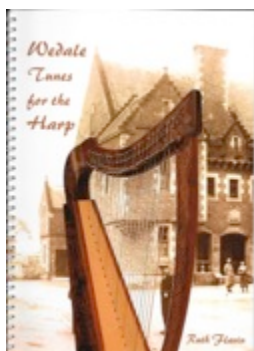
Wedale Tunes for the Harp – elementary & intermediate solo parts plus accompaniment or counter melodies

Wedale Tunes and Murmurings – same tunes for violin and violincello parts

Ruth wrote the tunes during Lockdown. Wedale is a valley in the Border Country.

'Haste Away the Winter' is a particularly lovely tune.

For copies, contact Ruth Flavin on rpflavin@hotmail.com



HNW WEBSITE NEWS – Update from Susan Lambert

HNW Online Learning

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>

HNW SESSION TUNE BOOKLET, compiled by Susan Lambert, now available on the HNW website

The HNW Session Tunes booklet has been uploaded onto the HNW website for you to use as you wish!

An on-going compilation of folk songs for us to play together in any setting for fun. Feel free to download, print and use however you wish.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. John Ryan's Polka | 6. O'Carolan's Dream | 11. Morpeth Rant |
| 2. Egan's Polka | 7. South Wind | 12. Soldier's Joy |
| 3. Sootiskerry | 8. The Butterfly | 13. Cumberland Reel |
| 4. The Fairy Dance | 9. March of the King of Laois | 14. The Mucking of Geordie's Byre |
| 5. Athol Highlanders | 10. Marie's Wedding. | 15. The Blarney Pilgrim |
| | | 16. The Dusty Windowsill |



You will find videos and links to online workshops and tuition from outside of Harps North West on the online Learning page.



CHALLENGE MONTHS

2015 NEWvember

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 JaNEwary

CHALLENGES

Five challenges are currently available on the HNW website.

Enjoy excellent tuition from Mary Dunsford

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>



The Hazel Grove

To be well loved
Is it not to dare all,
Is it not to do all,
Is it not to know all,
To be deep in love

A tall red sally
Had stood for seventy Years by the pool
(And that was plenty)
Before I could shape
My harp from her poll

Now seven hundred
Years will be numbered
In our hazel grove
Before this vibrant
Harp fall silent - For lack of strings,
Not for lack of love.
Robert Graves

Not too sure what it means, but lovely to see a poem featuring a harp! It was in the walled garden at Hutton in the Forest.
Nicola Hartley

TIPS FOR HARPISTS

Challenges for the Aging Musician
by **Janet Horvath** November 23rd, 2019

A very interesting article, relevant to many of us!! Thank you Mary Dunsford for the recommendation.

https://interlude.hk/challenges-for-the-aging-musician/?fbclid=IwAR2sgss0aoyL8jwFV0Kq_jdvPVnRJsTSr8m--TZu9U_6cn7jVH-PIgGIdtA

FOR SALE

32 String Lever Harp

32 string harp from low C to F above the stave. Made (and signed by) by Merlin Maddock in 1985. All new strings and renovated pins. Simple hook levers.

This harp is easy to carry as it is light in weight and slim. Nice sound and a rare find. Cost £750.

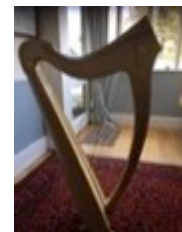
Contact Ruth Wall on ruth@ruthwall.co.uk.



Pilgrim Ashdown – 34 strings

£1900 with upholstered stool

Contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com



Elysian Therapy 19 string lever harp by Morley Harps

From 2nd octave E to 4th octave G (G below middle C)

Nylon strings. With harp bag, tuning key, detachable knee bar and detachable guitar strap
£275

Contact Gill on 07711 264387 or email saltersmith@btinternet.com
Grizebeck, South Cumbria. Will deliver if not too far away or we happen to be nearby.

PLAYING GROUPS

**See above for guidance on using community facilities
and HNW COVID-19 protocols for playing together 'live' in COVID secure venues**

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 before the 3rd Friday of each month.
Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com

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 hazeyhead49@gmail.com

Harps Up North are based in Watermillock, usually meeting the first Thursday morning of the month. Contact Sue on sue@dawbank.co.uk 01539 624636.

Red Rose Harps are based near Over Kellet, usually meeting once a month; day may vary. Contact Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

A NEW evening playing group in the **North Lakes**, playing 7pm until 8.45pm at Braithwaite Hall near Keswick on the second Wednesday evening of each summer month, will re-start in April 2021, all being well. If you are interested please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk.

The Management Team from September 2019

Carol Coldwell	Convenor	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Event bookings	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	
Cathrine Livesey		
Alice Pell		
Gill Salter-Smith	Newsletter editor Membership secretary - overview Vice Convenor Higham Hall Link	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Alison Stobbs – Not a committee member	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer admin & support Harp Hire Secretary Membership admin	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk