

# NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2021



**Harps North West**  
Charity number 1093441

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

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

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## A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

Hello everyone,

The days are getting slightly longer and the snowdrops and hellebores starting to flower. Still in lockdown, but I think we're all getting more used to keeping in touch by Zoom if our attendances and membership are anything to go by! We now have several international members, all of whom we welcome, and made possible by our online events. Another JanNEWary Challenge including naming Eira Lynn-Jone's gorgeous piece, a Shelley Fairplay workshop, and a composition workshop, all in one month! I confess my composing is a bit stop start - I keep having ideas just before going to sleep, which I can't remember the next day! I hope your regional groups are keeping in contact too - we at Red Rose Harps are 'meeting' every couple of weeks and it's proving a really nice way to keep in touch. Hope to see you all soon, if only on Zoom! **Carol**



## HNW Dates for the Diary 2021 – all times are GMT/UTC

- No live events currently, all events are on Zoom. Non-members who wish to join a session, please join Harps North West. (Currently £10 per adult, now until the end of June). This will cover the first session and entitles you to join all sessions thereafter as a member of HNW. The membership form is found on the HNW website. Please follow the instructions.
- Details of how to pay into the HNW bank account are set out towards the end of this newsletter. Please only use PayPal if you live outside the UK.

Now and until 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>The HNW Composition Competition – Deadline for entries 31<sup>st</sup> March.</b> See below for details.	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> February Free to members. No need to sign up. Non-members please join HNW.	<b>NEW EVENT - Playing Session on Valentine's Day</b> A chance to play your favourite tunes, maybe a romantic tune or a love song. Members volunteer to lead their favourite tunes. Music will be shared beforehand with all members. See below for more details.	Zoom 15:00 – 17:00
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> February Members: £5 minimum voluntary donation. Non-members please join HNW.	<b>Rachel Newton - Workshop</b> Rachel will teach one of her own compositions and make sure that you are reminded of technique and learn new skills. To sign up please contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Zoom 09:45 - 12:00
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	Zoom 13:00 - 14:30
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> or Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> February TBC	<b>NEW EVENT. Lauren Scott – HNW Composer in Residence 2021</b> <b>Preliminary workshop for the first piece of three.</b> More details to follow	Zoom
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March Free to members. No need to sign up. Non-members please join HNW.	<b>NEW EVENT - Playing Session – Irish Tunes to celebrate St Patrick's Day</b> A chance to play your favourite Irish tunes. Members lead their favourite tune. Music will be shared beforehand with all members.	Zoom 15:00 – 17:00
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp</b> <b>Tutors: Jan Bennett and Mary Dunsford</b> <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a>	Live at Higham Hall, Cumbria CA13 9SH

**More dates for 2021 TBC:** Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March; Sun 18<sup>th</sup> April.

HNW holds a workshop, skills session or playing session at least once per month. Recently these have been held on Zoom rather than live. This will continue until the pandemic ceases to be a concern. We try to hold an additional Zoom session each month. We are moving some of these to the afternoons (GMT/UTC) in order to give more opportunity to our international members to join in.

**PROPOSED WORKSHOPS, (postponed due to the pandemic).** We'll keep you informed of dates when they are secured.

- Full day: **Harps for Harmony Project** live recording of Pachelbel's Cannon in St Bees Priory. Director: **Mary Dunsford**
- Half day live workshop: **Cumbrian Tunes** Tutor: **Jean Altshuler**
- Full day live workshop: Tutor: **Rachael Gladwin**
- Live play through: **Freshwater Tears** Tutor: **Lauren Scott.**
- Half day workshop: **Kulning** Tutor: **Mary Dunsford** - June 2021
- Beginners Workshop: Tutor: **Mary Dunsford**

## Other Dates for a Harpist's Diary 2021 (Times are GMT/UTC)

First Tuesday of each month 20:00 – 21:30	<b>Shelley Fairplay's Dynamic Harps Virtual Ensemble</b> A free offering to all harpists around the globe to come together in friendship, peace and harmony to enjoy our wonderful instrument and distract ourselves from COVID-19. Shelley also offers many other online courses. <a href="https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/">https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/</a>
Mon Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks 19:00	<b>Rachel Hair's Harp at Home</b> Series 3 (8 weeks) began on Monday the 18th January 2021, and like before, will "go live" at 7pm. If you don't catch it live at 7pm, don't worry, you'll be able to watch it in your own time, as the workshops will remain online for the foreseeable future. As well as learning a tune, the HARP at HOME series gives extra insight in the tradition and culture surrounding Scottish music <a href="https://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome/">https://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome/</a>
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 10:00 – 12:30	<b>Virtual Harp Workshop with tutors Irene Watt and guest tutor Gwenan Gibbard</b> (An old friend of HNW). The NE of Scotland branch of the Clarsach Society is hosting this event. Harpists of all ages and abilities are welcome and you need not be a member of the Clarsach Society to participate. To book your place, please visit: <a href="https://forms.gle/SAVtJrv59oW125vKA">https://forms.gle/SAVtJrv59oW125vKA</a> . Tickets are £15 - payment can be made instantly through <a href="https://www.paypal.com/US/merchstore">PayPal.me/NESClarsachPaypal</a>
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 19:00 0 20:00	<b>Karen Marshalsay's February Harp Hang</b> One of Scotland's leading harpists, Karen Marshalsay plays some of her favourite tunes from her kitchen for her February Harp Hang. <a href="http://www.karenmarshalsay.com/">http://www.karenmarshalsay.com/</a>
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Transpennine Harps - a branch of the Clarsach Society. Online Harp Festival</b> Tutors: <b>Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley</b> <a href="https://transpennineharps.org/index.html">https://transpennineharps.org/index.html</a> - No details on the website yet
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	<b>Fortieth Edinburgh International Harp Festival</b> The EIHf 2021 box office is now open <a href="http://www.harpfestival.co.uk">www.harpfestival.co.uk</a>

## HNW EVENTS COMING UP

### The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition

#### Brief

To help get you started we have some guidelines:

- We would like you to compose a piece of music inspired by a favourite photo/image or feel free to use this image.
- It must feature the harp, but there is no limitation on how many instruments can be included.

We can't wait to hear your ideas, and have a go ourselves.

Happy harping! From the HNW Management Team

#### How to enter

Your composition can be submitted as a recording (mp3 or equiv) and/or a score (pdf) along with the image that inspired you. If you'd like help with either the recording or the notation, please feel free to work together with others and combine skill sets.

You can also find a lot of information online and on YouTube. Just ask Google! (Other search engines are available)

#### Deadline for submissions – 31<sup>st</sup> March

We would love as many as possible of you to give it a go, even if you have never composed anything before or feel that you would not know where to start. What better way to learn more about the instrument?

**Winning entries will be selected by a friendly, independent panel from outside HNW.**

**Prizes for the winning composers will include:**

Free membership to HNW for 2021/22. Vouchers for music suppliers. An opportunity for their piece to be played at a future workshop/event.

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### Valentine's Day HNW Playing Session - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 15:00 – 17:00 on Zoom

A chance to play your favourite tune, maybe a romantic tune or a love song. Members who volunteer to do so will lead their chosen piece whilst other harpists play along with them. All sheet music will be shared with members before the event. A Zoom link will be sent out to members the day before the event, so no need to sign up. Non-members who would like to join in, please join HNW.

Members who are prepared to lead a piece, please let Gill know what you would like to play and include a copy of the sheet music by emailing Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

**Please try to get the permission of the arranger/composer to share the music with HNW members. If you do not have this permission then we ask members NOT TO SHARE THE SHEET MUSIC any further and not to use the pieces for any performance. Even better, members can support our musicians by buying the music.**





## Rachel Newton Workshop Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 10:00 – 12:00 on Zoom

Singer and harpist Rachel Newton specialises in interpreting traditional folk songs in both English and Gaelic as well as writing and arranging her own music. Rachel will teach one of her own compositions, incorporating advice on improving technique and ideas for making your own harp arrangements along the way. Find out more about Rachel on her website: [RachelNewtonmusic.com](http://RachelNewtonmusic.com)

To sign up for this workshop please contact Mandy on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)  
Suggested minimum donation of £5. Non-members, please join HNW.

### A message from Rose Roberts, HNW member.

I saw Rachel Newton in concert at Ambleside last year - she was great! I have a spare (new, unused) copy of her latest CD 'To The Awe'. My partner and I both ordered it for each other for Christmas! My copy is signed so we are keeping that one but wonder if anyone is interested in the spare? For a £10 donation to HNW I will get it to them. Regards, **Rose Roberts**. Please reply to Rose using [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

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## A NEW PROJECT for HNW!

### Composer in Residence for 2021

**Initial workshop on the first piece - on Zoom Sat 27<sup>th</sup> or Sun 28<sup>th</sup> February - TBC**  
**Lauren Scott** will be our **Composer in Residence** for the year 2021, funded by the **Arts Council**.



Lauren will be writing three pieces especially for us, and into which we will have input. The pieces will all be for mixed-ability ensemble and all suggestions of themes/styles/ideas will be welcomed. The first piece will be produced in February/ March, with an informal online workshop in February, followed by completion in March and rehearsal and play through by the end of March. The second and third pieces will follow in June/July and October/November and hopefully we will be able to have a live performance after that. This is a great honour for HNW and we hope that all members will be able to be part of it. **We'll keep you informed of how it will work and how to get involved.**

### A message from Lauren.

I've started 2021 by immersing myself in composing as part of my year-long development in conjunction with being Composer in Residence with Harps North West. So far I have been studying modal scales and am currently part way through going through all the modal scales possible on lever harp. I've also been doing lots and lots of listening; there are so many amazing harpists and fantastic harp music to listen to! I wrote a new solo lever harp piece last week, and this week I've started sketching ideas for HNW's first ensemble piece. I'm attending the online Winter Harp festival this weekend, and am looking forward to learning and hopefully I'll see some of you there. I'm extremely grateful to all of you at HNW for this opportunity and to the Arts Council England for supporting me. Like every other musician, with all my usual gigs on hold having this composing focus has been a huge boost for my emotional and mental health. Take care everyone and keep on harping! Lauren

**Got 15 minutes?** Take a break and watch **Lauren Scott** performing 4 original compositions including her exciting new duet 'Sea of Stars' with Eleanor Turner in a live session <https://youtu.be/ZdE5ndmNt4I>

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## HARPS FOR HARMONY 2020-21

HNW plans to hold a live recording of the piece performed by HNW members in St Bees Priory, West Cumbria, asap



### THIS EVENT WILL HAPPEN – JUST NOT SURE WHEN!

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

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

**Still time to practise and get involved.**

## The Project

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

<https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/janewary-challenge-2020.html>

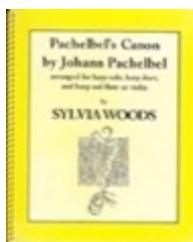
**28<sup>th</sup> March '20**, live recording postponed.

**1<sup>st</sup> May '20**, deadline for harpists' video submissions.

**19<sup>th</sup> June Launch Day**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyv1JTuuI7o&feature=youtu.be>

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





The Live Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 is postponed due to the pandemic.  
Watch this space for further festival news

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## HARPS NORTH WEST NEWS - reports on recent events



### The 2021 Harps North West JaNEWary Challenge

A huge thank you to Mary for her superb supportive teaching. Thank you to the three composers, Eira Lynn Jones, Kristine Warmhold and Paul Lewis for their beautiful compositions. Here are the thoughts of some members.

#### Heaps of harping!

Thank you, Mary so much for another brilliant JanNEWary Challenge! One thing about lockdown, for those of us who don't have to work, is that there seems to be more time available, even though I've managed to have something on the calendar for every day. I've even had a clash of Zoom meetings! Whatever, all good for harping and singing! For the first time I am managing to keep up with the fabulous JanNEWary Challenge, lovely tunes, with interesting tricky bits (for me), marvellously taught by Mary. And thank you to Eira for her lovely piece that started off the New Year so beautifully, and so many, many thanks for taking my suggestion, 'Clouds in a Sunlit Sky' as its title. I'm so honoured and thrilled, and amazed. And the video was perfect for the announcement! So now I really have to practise those rolled chords so they're perfect! We are so lucky to be members of Harps North West! Thank you to all the organisers! **Lyn Walby**

**Congratulations to Lyn!** Lyn, you must be so pleased that Eira Lynn Jones selected your title for her piece. 'Clouds in a Sunlit Sky'. I do think it is a perfect title and now every time I play it I have a wonderful image of fluffy white clouds dancing across the blue sky. **Gill** – editor

For the first time, I've followed Mary's daily JaNEWary Challenge and am loving it! I can't wait to start off my day, learning a new bite-size of music to play on the harp! The chosen pieces are so pretty and uplifting! Thank you, Mary, for the work you put in to this! It is fully appreciated! **Kath Wilson**

2021 is my first JaNEWary challenge and it's such a wonderful positive daily treat as we continue in lockdown. Learning in 'little chunks' is great for me with lots of really helpful tips and guidance from Mary. It's lovely to hear the pieces played at various speeds and to experience how different a they can sound. I really appreciate that the play along videos have a slow pace which I can play along with ....well just about!

I love both the Eira Lynn Jones piece and Kristine Warmhold's "Solace" & am so looking forward to listening to Mary playing the third piece arranged by Paul Lewis tomorrow.

Thank you Mary and best wishes to everyone. **Annie Allison**

For the first time I have managed to work through a whole piece of the JaNEWary Challenge! It's the one by Eira Lynn Jones. I didn't start until the 5th of January and I am a very slow learner when it comes to music! It is very much still a work in progress but I have managed to keep coming back so that is an achievement! I hope to look at the other pieces over the coming weeks. **Rose Roberts**

#### A Challenging Experience

Despite being new to the harp, heading rapidly over, or even down, the hill, with absolutely minimal musical background and a less than perfect ability to count, I nevertheless decided that this year I would try the JaNEWary Challenge. A sort of New Year Resolution, and we all know what often happens to them. However, it all seemed to start off quite well. Really slow suits me fine. Mary said to play at the speed to suit ability and that first day was not at all intimidating. As time went on, however, and the number of notes increased time needed to slow down so that I could get them all in. The trouble is that it does not, so now I start even more slowly, but then Shelley in her workshop did say that 'slow is fast'. Then I arrived at all those rolled chords, very pleasing when played properly, but getting from one to the next, whilst playing the left hand needs considerably more practice.

I'm loving my third JaNEWary challenge with Mary. With my business being closed it's been a great help during lockdown for my sanity. I've loved the Eira Lynn Jones piece which I bravely recorded myself playing and have shared in my newsletter to my customers. Some replied back that they found it so calming, peaceful and uplifting to listen to. I also support a lady who plays the flute (as do I) and she has Down's Syndrome and learning difficulties, I have introduced her to the piece, teaching it to her so that she can play along with my harp. It's giving a different slant to our playing and she is thrilled by it. They sound lovely together.

**Jane Fox**

I've been tackling the JanNEWary Challenge. This year is the first time I've actually kept going with it. Thankfully this and all previous year's challenges are on the HNW website so that I can revisit anytime. Lockdown would be very boring without it. The, as yet unnamed, piece by Eira Lynn Jones is a wonderful way of getting through a cold, dark, wet January afternoon. The second piece, Kristine Warmhold's 'Solace', for lap harp, can be lively, or quiet and dreamy if you want to play more sedately. Rocking hand to hand, it is easy to get into the flow. I've just started Paul Lewis' 'Autumn is Nigh'. This is faster and longer, so may take me a while to get there, but it is another enjoyable romp. Thank you all. **Eil Bentley**

Secondly came Solace. Well I tried and am still trying to get my fingers nicely up and down those flourishes, to say nothing of positioning on the notes efficiently in the first place. On top of that my poor brain is having a decided workout with all those triads in contrary motion, but apparently it is good for me. Fingers and brain do not seem to want to come together, though playing hands separately seems so easy. In fact I have now just managed to co-ordinate the fingers, but I can't say that the end result is particularly fluid or even rhythmically correct and in order to get the fingers co-ordinating I seem to have to close my eyes! This is to say nothing of exercising the facial muscles in fantastic grimaces in sympathy with the attempt to play in the strings in the correct order. Then I reach the end of the bar and have to reposition, another hiatus to overcome.

At present piece number three is largely in abeyance, though I have noted that my brain and fingers have to turn themselves upside down, back to front or something as the faster triads now start in the left hand. More facial contortions to come, I guess.

However, a big thanks to Mary and I have enjoyed the parts of the challenge I have tried to date, even though I know it is all far from perfect.

**Chris Pollington**

**Tip from the editor.**

I have discovered that one can slow down YouTube videos! A great help to me in the JaNEWary Challenge.

Click on the three white buttons on the YouTube screen, top right. Click on Playback speed. Select by how much you wish to slow down or speed up! Mary does sound a little strange! ... and remember to go back to normal speed, otherwise everything you play on YouTube will at the speed that you selected!

Five previous challenges are currently available on the HNW website. 2015 NEWvember, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Enjoy excellent tuition from **Mary Dunsford**

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

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## **Shelley Fairplay Workshop on Zoom. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January** **You CAN do it – the art of breaking it down**

Thank you Shelley for another inspiring workshop! Since the workshop lots of members refer to your tips when we are playing together on Zoom! I think the favourite so far is 'Slow is Fast'!

**Gill** - editor



Ah! Another wonderful ZOOM harp workshop, where I could have a go without fearing that I was interrupting others' playing.

This morning it was 'You CAN Do It! The Art of Breaking it Down'. Shelley gave us so many tips and exercises for deconstructing and making playing easy of even the most dotty-full piece. (A reference to an old member who would shudder at 'too many dots per inch'). Using snippets of familiar pieces she guided us through finger patterns, some new, others often shared by many different compositions. I was also very pleased to hear that I'm not the only one who has bar line hesitation, fingers fighting to go in the wrong direction, memory blanks when faced with moving to the next stave, rhythm blunders and, my own speciality, confusing my right and left hands. Tips for good posture, technique and sound evaluation were also included. There was certainly a lot of information to absorb. Thankfully, Shelley also provided many downloadable pages of prompts, reassurances and ideas to help. She has also recorded the session so that those of us who've signed up, are able to access it and could have another go at refreshing our repertoire of ideas.

Thank you so much for putting together such an interesting workshop. **Eil Bentley**

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## **Basics of Composition Workshop - Led by Susan Lambert** **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 15:00 (GMT/UTC) on Zoom**

Thank you Susan for a most enjoyable, informative and encouraging workshop that attracted 30 members from far and wide, including from Scotland, South Wales, Canada, USA and The Netherlands. The chat and contributions from members during the course of the afternoon was also most informative.

**One of Susan's parting suggestions was to compose something every day, no matter how minimal! Now how about that for a HNW FEBruary Challenge!!** **Gill** - editor

The materials used for the session plus a recording of the creative section of the workshop will be made available to all members.



Thank you Susan, for a really enjoyable workshop. Although I haven't had any formal musical training, (I think that shows!!), helped by this workshop I have come to understand that composing isn't just talent. It is more the realisation of the importance of modes and rhythms. These aren't some musical secret, but an appreciation of the relationships between tones, notes, sounds and their action upon each other. More mathematical than mystical. Imagination aided by childhood chants, beats and repeats; road and rail rhythms whilst travelling (some of the great Rock/R&B/Jazz pieces are based on these); natural sounds of movement, water, wind etc; rumbling of machinery, even visual movements such as clouds, rippling vegetation and firelight, music is everywhere. Except when I sit down at my harp. Then I go blank. It's just getting it down on paper that takes the concentrated focus and effort.

Susan's workshop has helped me see through the sensory overload and has given me simple tools, such as using wavy lines, to sketch out the flow of notes, enabling me to follow the progression of my lifts and dips. They make me ask questions. Where do I start, how do I want the music to make me feel? Where do I want to place the next note and how fast do I feel it should follow? Do the notes follow a story? Where is the tension/relaxation? Too much of either makes for boredom. Unfortunately, I was rather porridge brained after a while (I'd just had my first jab) and left before the end. (I still haven't found out how to text apologies so that I don't interrupt.) So I'm very pleased that written notes are going to be sent out. I do need the prompts. Thanks again, Susan. Another great workshop. All the best, **Eil Bentley**

Hi all, so nice to join you from near Toronto, Canada. Unfortunately, I'll have to depart early, but thanks for having me. I only recently joined HNW. **Phyllis Duxbury**

Really great overview and reminders, from a different perspective. So much to play with! Thank you! **Rebecca** - Canada

I had never had someone explain how to add flats and sharps in the circle of 5ths - very helpful! Thank you for a wonderful workshop! It was

wonderful to connect with everyone :) **Janet Engle** – Ohio, USA

Thanks Susan. Lots of inspiration. Bye. **David Bolster**. Thank you Susan, this afternoon has been great. **Val Gill**

Thanks Susan that was great - looking forward to working through the handouts ...wonderful to see everyone too. **Annie**

Thank you Susan, very useful! **Nicola Hartley**. Thanks for a great workshop! **Hilary**. Thanks Susan that was great, plenty to work on. **Gill L.**

Thank you Susan, I enjoyed very much this nice summary for the harp. **Joke Verdoold** - Netherlands

Great to have a process to try and follow it breaks it down and makes it feel less overwhelming. Thanks Susan. **Ann Woolley**

Thanks Susan, very interesting, great to see how you can build something from a set of simple steps. **Frances Quinn**

Its been great fun and took me back to grade 5 theory on piano in my teens, with all the terminology. I didn't enjoy it very much back then but its been fun dragging it back out today with you. Inspiring to have a go and compose. Thank you. **Jane Fox**

Such a stimulating afternoon! I've never ever wanted to compose ...but I think I've been converted ...can't wait to get those notes and, to coin a phrase, 'Have a Go!' **Judy Taylor**

Terrific workshop Susan! Thank you so much! So many useful tips! Keen to make a start on a daily challenge of my own to compose! **Kath W. X**

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### Harps in Scotland - 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January

Having read these reviews I shall definitely sign up for this event in the future, it sounds amazing! **Gill** - editor

**Harps in Scotland**, brilliantly organised by Corinna Hewat proved to be the next best thing to an actual mini Harp Festival. Unable to hold the Cromarty Village Harp Festival in 2020, this event was designed to cheer harpers of all abilities in January. Four teachers, four ability levels, eight tunes, one concert, one session and a little bit of chat made a stimulating brew.

Opening on Friday evening with a general introduction to how things would work, chat room gossip was followed by a foot-tapping concert from all four tutors, Corinna, Wendy Stewart, Cheyenne Brown and Isbel Pendleberry. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons and early evenings we got our heads down to work, following a strict timetable with short breaks. Each tune had a slot and each tutor took one of the ability groups, rotating through during each day. Saturday night was session night with us playing along to a variety of cheery tunes. By Sunday evening we were tired but exhilarated by the experience and gave very positive feedback. It worked so well because of meticulous preparation, pdf music and mp3 audio sent out ahead, including session tunes if wanted, so although mostly aurally taught everyone had access to sheet music. Corinna's husband, the brilliant jazz pianist David Milligan provided excellent technical support, and all the lessons are recorded and will soon be available to all participants, as are all four harp parts for each piece via a Dropbox link.

It was the most intellectually satisfying thing I have been involved with for a long time, and an object lesson in how to do virtual workshops with a really sharp focus and not too much waffle. I think it was excellent value for money and I have new enjoyable and substantial pieces to work on. Best wishes. **Jane Freshwater**

This fabulous Zoom weekend of harping, organised by Corinna Hewat, began on the Friday night with a tutor concert, followed by four hour-long workshops on the Saturday and Sunday. Everyone learned the same eight pieces during the weekend, each one having been arranged for players from elementary through to advanced levels of experience. We were taught in four breakout rooms and came back together towards the end of the hour so that we could play the piece as a group, led by the tutor who had arranged it. This certainly added to the experience. Our tutors were Corinna, Wendy Stewart, Cheyenne Brown and Isbel Pendlebury, all with their own teaching styles and all wonderfully encouraging, teaching a mixture of their own compositions and arrangements of traditional and more contemporary music. Saturday evening we came 'together apart' for a traditional session which was fast and fun - one day I'll be able to keep up! All the session music was sent out to us in advance of the weekend.

An immense amount of work went into such a smooth-running and well-balanced course - Corinna's husband was on standby all weekend to sort any Zoom issues. Participants have since, generously, been sent all the music, and recordings of every workshop (32 in all) so we can not only revisit our own workshops but work our way up the levels too if we started at the lower end. That should keep us going awhile!

All in all, great value for money and as much fun as one can have 'home alone' with a harp and a Zoom connection. I'm already looking forward to the next Harp in Scotland weekend which hopefully will be sometime later this year. Highly recommended. **Felicity Collins**



Corinna Hewat



Wendy Stewart



Cheyenne Brown



Isbel Pendlebury

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### Support our Musicians

**Memories and Melodies Music Book** - A message from harpist **Ruth Corry**.

Hello, I hope this finds you well. I just wanted to email to let you know I have just published my first music book for harp, **Memories and Melodies**. There are ten pieces in the book and the arrangements are suitable for intermediate players. Six of the pieces are on my album, 'Memories and Melodies'.

They are available on my website [www.ruthcorryharpist.co.uk/shop](http://www.ruthcorryharpist.co.uk/shop) and you can also download the book as a pdf! Thank you very much. Kindest regards, Ruth.

Email: [ruth@ruthcorryharpist.co.uk](mailto:ruth@ruthcorryharpist.co.uk)

## FOR SALE

A message from Keith Triplett, a HNW member based in the South Lakes. Email: [k.triplett1946@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:k.triplett1946@pobroadband.co.uk) Phone: +441539455015

### Harp Strings - free

I have restrung my harp with gut strings so if anyone would like a full set of SAVAREZ ALLINCE Finest Quality Carbon Harp strings Medium Gauge please contact me. **Free to good home.**

**FOR SALE Unused Harp Stool** as seen on Teifi Harps and Starfish Harps website Design in Harmony. Its too small for me and I left it too long to ask to change it. Check out price new, purple heather tweed seat cover. A sensible offer only please.

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### Piano for sale

A friend is selling his piano. It is a Zender and was bought for the chap's wife at a cost of £2000. She died 2 years ago and he is moving house.

He has no idea what to ask for it but will consider any offer.

If anyone is interested for themselves or a friend, ask them to contact me and I will put them in touch.

Irene Mower - either by phone 015395 63522 or at [storthelkhounds@outlook.com](mailto:storthelkhounds@outlook.com)



### 32 String Lever Harp

32 string harp from low C to F above the stave. Made and signed 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](mailto:ruth@ruthwall.co.uk)

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### Pilgrim Ashdown – 34 strings

£1900 includes a cover and an upholstered stool

This harp is being sold on behalf of Betty Balmain, a founder member of HNW.

Please contact Carol Coldwell on [coldwellcarol@gmail.com](mailto:coldwellcarol@gmail.com)

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### Mark Norris 34 string harp

£1400, including stand and new case. Beautiful rosewood instrument.

Contact Carol Coldwell on [coldwellcarol@gmail.com](mailto:coldwellcarol@gmail.com)

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## PLAYING GROUPS

Please contact group leaders to find out how each playing group is proceeding during these unusual times.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month.

Contact Helen on [helenbrian@sky.com](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com)

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on [hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk) 01539 624636.

**Red Rose Harps** are based near Over Kellet, usually meeting on a Wednesday evening once a month. Contact Carol on [coldwellcarol@gmail.com](mailto: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 was started in 2019 just before Lockdown One. Members will be informed when this group can restart. If you are interested please contact Gill on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk).

## The MANAGEMENT TEAM from September 2020

Carol Coldwell	Convenor Harp Hire - overview	<a href="mailto:convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk">convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Mandy Bartlett	Events: members' bookings	<a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	<a href="mailto:online@harpnorthwest.org.uk">online@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Cathrine Livesey		
Gill Salter-Smith	Vice Convenor Newsletter editor Higham Hall Link Membership Secretary - overview	<a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:higham@harpnorthwest.org.uk">higham@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Linda Taylor		
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Alison Stobbs – Not a committee member	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer - admin & support Harp Hire - admin & support Membership - admin & support	<a href="mailto:administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk">administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:treasurer@harpnorthwest.org.uk">treasurer@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:harphire@harpnorthwest.org.uk">harphire@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk">membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>

Bank details for use when paying voluntary donations for HNW workshops.

**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 [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**HNW members attending 'live' events if legally acceptable, none just now! Please adhere to these HNW protocols based on government guidance and law.**

**Be aware that national government and local guidelines can change with little notice!**

#### HNW PROTOCOLS FOR ATTENDING LIVE EVENTS IN COVID-SECURE SETTINGS

1. Please do not attend a live session if you are feeling unwell, have a temperature, a persistent cough 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.
4. Maintain at least 2m social distancing at all times.
5. Wear a face mask/covering at all times.
6. Bring and use 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.
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.** Ensure that a specific risk assessment has been carried out for each venue and the activities to be undertaken. Inform participants of its requirements, especially for registration, entrance, exit and use of toilets. A sample risk assessment is available, please contact the HNW administrator, Alison, on [administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

<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>