

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



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

Jan1st – 31 st 2020 Free to all.	The 2020 JaNEWary Challenge. Learn new tunes on-line throughout January with Mary Dunsford		
Sat 18 Jan '20 No need to book Free to members	Session Tunes. How to join in a 'session' Workshop led by Susan Lambert. 10:00 for a 10:30 start, until 12:30 Committee Meeting 13:00 – NB a new date	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sun 16 Feb '20 No need to book Free to members	Playing Session 10:00 for a 10:30 start, until 12:30 What did you play on Valentine's Day? Bring your favourite piece including romantic tunes.	Newbiggin Hall Near Penrith	CA11 0HT
Wed 11 th March Free to members	New Playing Group. 6.30pm - Tuning up and a cuppa 7pm to 8.30pm - Playing time. See below for more info.	Braithwaite Institute, Keswick	CA12 5RY
Sat 14 March '20 No need to book Free to members	Skills Session - Fingering and Placing Tutor: Mary Dunsford. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30 Committee Meeting 13:30 – NB a new date & time	Shap Memorial Hall	CA10 3NL
Sat 14 March '20	Absolute Beginners Workshop Tutor: Mary Dunsford. Arrive. 13:15 Playing 13:30 to 16:30. To book contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	Shap Memorial Hall	CA10 3NL
Sun 19 April '20	Full Day Workshop with Manchester-based harpist Rachel Gladwin. More details to come.	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Fri 8 th to Sun 10 th May	'Harps 'n Flutes' weekend with Anna Christensen. Supported by the UK Harp Association Contact Higham Hall directly. www.highamhall.com	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 16 May '20	Ensemble Workshop with Lauren Scott. More details to come. Committee Meeting 13:00 TBC	Threlkeld Village Hall	CA12 4RX
Sun 14 June '20 No need to book Free to members	Workshop. Kulning. Tutor: Mary Dunsford. More details to come.	Greenodd	LA12 7RD
Sat 11 July '20 No need to book Free to members	Workshop. Cumbrian Tunes for all levels. Tutor: Jean Altshuler. Committee Meeting 13:00	Braithwaite Institute, Keswick	CA12 5RY

Sun 13 th Sept '20	Playing Session & AGM	Over Kellet	LA6 1DN
Sat 10 th Oct '20	am Tutor Workshop. pm Absolute Beginners' Workshop.	Grizebeck,	LA17 7XH
Sun 8 th Nov '20	am Christmas party rehearsal pm Committee Meeting.	Braithwaite Inst.	CA12 5RY
13 th -15 th Nov '20	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp Tutors Jan Bennett & A. N. Other TBC	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 5 th Dec '20	HNW Xmas party and shared lunch. am Rehearsal. pm Christmas Concert	Newbiggin Hall nr Penrith	CA11 0HT

NEWS & EVENTS COMING UP

Welcome to Alison Stobbs our NEW Harps North West Administrator

We are delighted to welcome Alison to Harps North West. Alison will be attending and taking the minutes at most committee meetings. She has taken on administration of the membership and harp hire, part of the treasurer's role, hall bookings and publicity where it is needed. She will be supporting the festival-planning group once it is fully established.

We know that you will give Alison a warm welcome!



The Harps North West 2020 JaNEWary Challenge Now in full swing

Learn new music in January

Hope you are enjoying Mary Dunsford's superb on-line tuition of new tunes for players of all levels. So far over 100 people from across the world have subscribed to the U-tube videos. There are three new features in this year's challenge. Can you spot them?

Free to all harpists



Saturday 18th January

Session Tunes. How to join in a 'session'

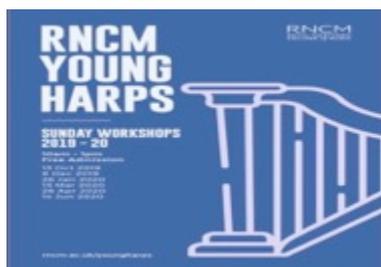
Workshop led by **Susan Lambert.**

10:00 for a 10:30 start, until 12:30

Burton in Kendal Village Hall, LA6 1NA

Susan produced a book of tunes to play in a 'session' for the HNW summer festival. Susan will take us through some of these tunes and will encourage harpists of all abilities to contribute to the playing.

No need to book. Free to members



Royal Northern College of Music Sunday Workshops 2019-20 for YOUNG HARPISTS 26 Jan; 15 March; 26 April; 14 June 2020

These workshops for young harpists are highly recommended by Mary Dunsford

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/engage/young-projects/rncm-young-harps/>

There are lots of great photos on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/593784634096670/photos/a.595160853959048/1488043671337424/?type=3&theater>



Edinburgh International Harp Festival 2020

January - brochure published & box office open (exact date not yet known!)

3 - 8th April the 39th Edinburgh International Harp Festival

A NEW Evening Time Playing Group, Braithwaite near Keswick

HNW are supporting the establishment of new evening-time Playing Group in the north of Cumbria. Hopefully this will enable harpists who are not available during the daytime to play together with others. Everyone, whatever their experience and playing ability, will be welcome.

The group will meet initially on the second Wednesday of the month (mostly) at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick from 6.30pm until 9pm, (playing from 7pm) from March 2020. Some HNW committee members will attend the initial sessions to ensure a welcome for everyone.

Dates: Weds 11th March, 15th April, 13th May, 10th June.

Revising the pieces from the 2020 HNW JaNEWary Challenge might be a good place to start!

After these initial sessions, which will be funded by HNW, the harpists can decide how they want to proceed. So far there are around 5 or 6 harpists expressing interest.

If you would like to be part of this group, please let Gill Salter-Smith know on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



This year, in an effort to engage with the wider harp community, Harps North West have taken out membership with the **United Kingdom Harp Association (UKHA)**. Check out their website www.ukharp.net

- The UKHA exists to bring together all those interested in the harp, in all its forms, including amateur and professional players, teachers, and businesses providing services for the harp. It is run by unpaid volunteers.
- The UKHA publishes 'HARP' magazine: The twice-yearly members magazine keeps members informed of all the news in the harp world; reviews of new music, recordings, concerts and courses; features relevant and interesting articles on harp topics; provides advertising space for harp-related events and products and much more.
- They hold exciting harp events!
- The bursary scheme is open to all members. They also host performance opportunities to prize winners of the North London/Camac Harp Competition as well as performance/lecture opportunities prior to their AGM in London.
- They run an active website, where you can find up-to-date information, a useful members' area, and a rolling diary of harp events across the UK on the website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

We are looking for a volunteer to take responsibility for informing UKHA of our events.

If you can help please contact Carol on convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk

The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021

After the success of the 2019 HNW Festival in Ambleside, it is time to start planning the next Festival!!

Thank you to those who have come forward to offer help. A Festival Planning Team will be meeting very soon.

Please think about helping out. You do not need to be on the HNW Committee. If you can offer help or would like to join the Festival Planning Team please contact our convenor, Carol, on convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk

Absolute Beginners Workshop

Tutor: Mary Dunsford.
Saturday 14th March 2020, 13:15
Shap Memorial Hall, CA10 3NL

Arrive. 13:15 Playing 13:30 to 16:30

Cost £25. Harps are provided

Encourage your friends and family to have a go!

To book contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



HNW NEWS of RECENT EVENTS

A CHRISTMAS FEAST OF HARPS

A very grey morning greeted us on December 7th as we got the four harps and all of us into the silver bus and set off. This is the third time we have been to the Community Hall, Grizebeck, and it looked very festive. Soon it was full of 32 harps, quite a spectacle. We tuned up and Mary led us through a quick practice and run through so we all knew where our 'party pieces' fitted in. Next was a delicious lunch to which all had brought something. Just what was needed as it gave us a chance to catch up with friends we had not seen since the summer gathering at Charlotte Mason's in Ambleside. An audience of family and friends were gathering so we got ready to play.

Here are a few highlights of the very enjoyable afternoon that followed:

- The two young harpists who came and played with us - such a confident pair and Clara Hepworth, who played Greensleeves (with the key changes!) with such aplomb, gave our group something to aspire to.
- Gill Lowden's lovely lullaby that she had written herself.
- Mary's very moving piece that she had composed with a lady at the hospice.
- And Harper Four plus Sue Millard's hilarious rendition of 'I took my harp to the party.'

It was a day full of music, friendship and good food. Where we all realised, listening to the different groups, the scope and range of the harp from being accompanied by cowbells to some really challenging and difficult pieces. Well done to everyone. We packed our harps back into the silver bus and journeyed home full of Christmas cheer. Thanks to the committee and Mary for all their organisation behind the scenes that made this event go so smoothly.

Jill Korwen-Granford, Harps Out West



The Cumbrian Duo, Allan Bank, Grasmere

What a fabulous way to spend a wet Sunday afternoon in December! Relax in front of a log fire, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and listen to the beautiful arrangements of Cumbria tunes for guitar and harp by Ed Heslam. Jean Altshuler's fingers worked their magic with the harp and evoked so many different pictures and emotions. Jean and Ed played in perfect synchronisation to produce captivating tunes with great stories behind them. The red squirrels playing outside the window were a bonus! Good see so many fellow harpists there enjoying the music.

Gill Salter-Smith



Ruth Brown – Harpist, playing in Embleton Church

In typical fashion you wait all year for a Christmas concert to come along and then they all come at once. On the same afternoon as our own Jean Altshuler was playing Allan Bank in Grasmere – along with Ed Heslam, together comprising the Cumbrian Duo – Embleton Church was hosting a delightful celebration of Christmas Music Through the Centuries.

On Sunday 8 December, members of Ensemble provided a cappella voices for a selection of festive songs from sacred to secular. They were joined by guest musician Ruth Brown on her small 27-string lever harp which she made sing as she played a small selection of seasonal music. She further delighted the appreciative audience with vocal accompaniment on Wassail the Silver Apple (traditional) and Graeme Miles' When the Snows of Winter Falls. Ruth transitioned to harp from piano only two years ago, but brought a grace to the instrument usually only seen in more mature players. She is originally from Cockermouth, but is now based in Edinburgh. But watch for the name of Ruth Brown next time she plays locally – and don't miss her Lesley Park

Debbie King (Rath)

Sadly we tell you of the passing away of one of our members **Debbie King (Rath)** on 31st Dec 2019 after along period of illness. Her husband, Philip, gave us this sad news and talked of how much Debbie loved to play her harp and how frustrated she was when she could no longer play as much as she would like to. Harp music will, very fittingly, be part of her funeral ceremony.

FEATURES



A Message from Gill Lowden (HNW member)

Just to say that I took a cheque for £400, from the sale of **Outside of Time**, to the Furness Branch of the MS Society on Monday (in Dec). They were delighted with the donation and will spend it on the needs of local people living with MS.

Please could I take this opportunity to thank all HNW members, via the newsletter, for all their support and encouragement, as well as for purchasing this book. It has meant a lot to me and my sister.

(Gill Lowden's published book, *Outside of Time*, contains a number of beautiful tunes that she has composed and they can be played solo or as duets.)



PLAYING GROUPS

Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing the harp and can broaden your playing experience in so many ways. 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 Margaret on tandmlyman@btinternet.com

Red Rose Harps are based near Over Kellet, usually meeting on a Wednesday evening once a month. Contact Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

A NEW evening playing group in the **North Lakes** is being formed starting from March and will be held at Braithwaite Hall to start with on Wednesday evenings. For more detail see above or contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

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

WANTED

A Cardboard Harp suitable for a six year old

Please contact Gill Salter-Smith on saltersmith@btinternet.com or 07711 264387

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOU THE MEMBERS

We love to hear from the members. Please let us know about:

- information on harp-related events coming up
- reports on recent harp-related activities
- harp items you wish to sell.
- any questions about HNW or other harping matters.

Please email items to Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The COMMITTEE from September 2019

Carol Coldwell	Convenor & harp hire	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Event bookings	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Nicola Hartley	Venue Bookings	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	
Cathrine Livesey		
Alice Pell		
Gill Salter-Smith	Membership Secretary News & Update Higham Hall Link	membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Lind		
Ann Woolley	Treasurer	treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Alison Stobbs – Not committee	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Special offers on new harps are available to HNW members

Pilgrim, Teifi Harps and the Early Music Shop, Saltaire (Camac harps) have offers or discount for HNW members. Please contact the companies directly.

Interest Free Loans

The "Take it Away" scheme can help all age groups to purchase musical instruments. For more information see <https://takeitaway.org.uk/about-take-it-away/>