

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020



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

Sun 16 Feb No need to book Free to members	Playing Session. 10:00 for a 10:30 start, until 12:30 Bring your favourite piece including romantic tunes. Also a chance to play through Pachelbel's Canon	Newbiggin Hall Near Penrith	CA11 OHT
Wed 11 th March Free to members	New Playing Group. 6.30pm - Tuning and a cuppa. 7pm to 8.30pm - Playing time. More info below.	Braithwaite Institute, Keswick	CA12 5RY
Sat 14 March No need to book Free to members	Rehearsal of Pachelbel's Canon. 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	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
NEW Sat 28 th March Free to members	*HARPS FOR HARMONY* – A Global Collaboration. LIVE recording session of Pachelbel's Canon – all HNW members welcome. To get involved please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk	St Bees Priory	CA27 OHB
Sun 19 April	Full Day Workshop with Manchester-based harpist Rachel Gladwin. More details to come.	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Fri 8 th - 10 th May	Higham Hall – 'Harps 'n Flutes' weekend with Anna Christensen. Contact directly. www.highamhall.com	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 16 May	Ensemble Workshop with Lauren Scott. More details to come. Committee Meeting 13:00	Threlkeld Village Hall	CA12 4RX
Sun 14 June No need to book	Workshop. Kulning. Tutor: Mary Dunsford More details to come. Free to members	Greenodd	LA12 7RD
Sat 11 July No need to book	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 & Shelley Fairplay. www.highamhall.com	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 OHT

NEWS & EVENTS COMING UP

HNW announce a very special ALL inclusive and world-wide collaborative project for 2020

Harps for Harmony

A Global Collaboration

Harps
North
West



Harps for Harmony is a Global Collaborative project open to all harp players, no matter where you are in the world, and no matter what size or style of harp you play!

We will all be playing Sylvia Wood's arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon and are delighted to say that Sylvia herself was the first to commit to be part of Harps for Harmony from her home in Hawaii.

We would love you to join us; all you have to do is record yourself or your group playing an extract of the piece. We will then work our magic to combine all the submissions from across the world into one glorious global performance for everyone to enjoy.

Harps for Harmony

A Global
Collaboration

Essentials and tips for taking part

- * Anything goes - solo player, duo or even a small group of players.
- * You can film in your living room at home or take your harp somewhere fancy! We aim to use all footage.
- * Mobile phone footage is fine but please shoot your video in landscape.
 - * The harp player(s) must be in the shot.
- * Choose a short extract of the piece, 8 bars is ideal.
 - * Practice it to tempo ♩ = 64 bpm.
 - * Ensure your harp is tuned to A=440Hz .
- * Submissions must be received by 1st May 2020.
 - * For more details please go to :

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

***** PLUS HNW HARPISTS will perform and record PACHELBEL's CANON live ***
at St Bees Priory on Saturday 28th March, arrive 10am, prompt start at 10:30 until 17:00, with breaks**

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

**Meanwhile there is a REHEARSAL of Pachelbel's Canon WITH MARY DUNSFORD
on Saturday 14th March at Shap Memorial Hall. 10am for a 10.30am start, until 12.30pm.**

Both events are free to members and all members are welcome. Just let us know that you coming.

If you would like to be involved in the recording and/or rehearsal please contact Mandy on

events@harpnorthwest.org.uk



The Harps North West 2020 JaNEWary Challenge

Hope you enjoyed Mary Dunsford's superb on-line tuition.

Please take the time to complete the on-line survey. It won't take long.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G2T28HF>

Sunday 16th February

Playing Session – Romance is in the air!

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

Newbiggin Hall Near Penrith. CA11 0HT



Bring along your favourite tunes and share them with others. What **Romantic Tunes** did you play on Valentines Day? ... and a chance to play through **Pachelbel's Canon**.

Harpists of all levels of experience are welcome.

No need to book. Free to members.



**On the same day – Rachel Newton, Scottish harpist, is performing live in Ambleside at The Parish Centre
7.30pm**

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 plays fiddle and viola in addition to harp and works across a range of performance platforms including theatre and storytelling. A skilled collaborator, Rachel's fourth solo album West was released in 2018. Her previous releases are The Shadow Side (2012), Changeling (2014) and Here's My Heart Come Take It (2016).

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/ambleside/ambleside-parish-centre/rachel-newton-live-at-ambleside-parish-centre/e-drvpmg>



Josie Duncan - Kirkgate Arts Centre, Cockermouth Fri 28th Feb

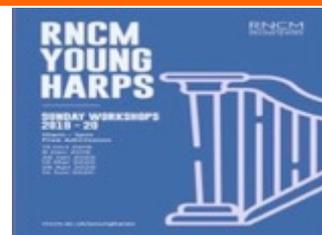
Josie Duncan is an award-winning singer, harpist and songwriter from the Outer Hebrides. Steeped in Gaelic tradition from a young age and deeply immersed in the vibrant Glasgow music scene, Josie's singing is phosphorescent, effortlessly bridging the gap between Scotland's traditional music and adventurous tastes. Josie's solo show encompasses all her influences and distils them into a captivating mixture of loops, ethereal airs and original songs. <https://www.kirkgatearts.org.uk/>

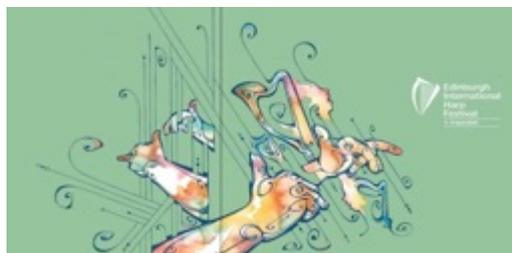
Royal Northern College of Music

Sunday Workshops 2019-20 for YOUNG HAPISTS - 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/>





Edinburgh International Harp Festival 2020

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

The programme is published & bookings are being taken

harpfestival.co.uk

A NEW Evening Time Playing Group, Braithwaite near Keswick – First session 11th March

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 to ensure a warm welcome.

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

Revising pieces from the 2020 HNW JaNEWary Challenge might be a good place to start! Pachelbel's Canon?

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 contact Gill Salter-Smith on events@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





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 <http://ukharp.net/>

The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021

It's 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

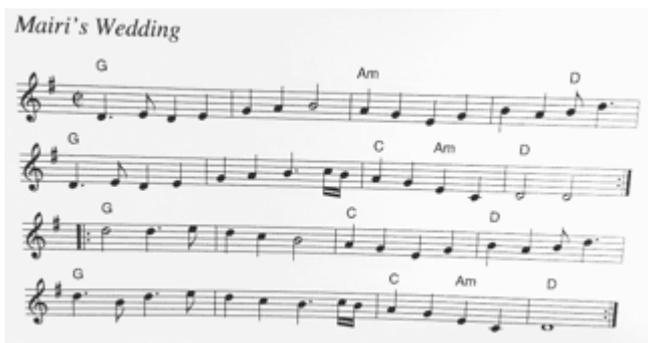
HNW NEWS of RECENT EVENTS

“How to join in a Session”

A Workshop led by Susan Lambert, Sat 18th January, Burton-in-Kendal

Twelve of us had a lovely morning with Susan Lambert, learning how to play session tunes. Whether you want to join in a pub session but aren't confident, or go to a session at e.g. Edinburgh festival, this was the session for you.

Susan concentrated on 2 well-known tunes, Mairi's wedding (in G) and John Ryan's Polka (in D). The tunes were learnt first from memory and then with notes, and then Susan bombarded everyone (very nicely!) with lots of advice on what to do with the left hand. She ran through typical chord progressions and how to use them in any key. Everyone came away having learnt lots of new things, and hopefully gained the confidence to join in a session. Carol Coldwell



FEATURES

Caedmon's Feast Day - 11th February.

This is a beautiful tune enjoyed by many members and has often been shared at playing sessions. So I was fascinated to find this short piece in our local parish magazine.

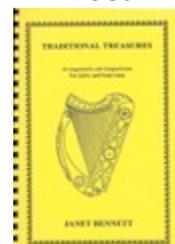
Caedmon – Early Christian Poet

According to Bede, Caedmon was an illiterate cow-herder employed by Whitby monastery and who, miraculously was able to recite a Christian song of creation in Old English Verse. This happened after he left a feast where a harp was being passed around for all to sing a song. He felt ashamed at this. Later in a dream he said a man appeared and asked him to sing, but he responded he couldn't. The man told him he could and asked him to sing about creation. He sang verses and words he had never heard before. Reporting this first to steward and then Abbess Hilda, scholars evaluated his gift and sent him home to turn more divine doctoring into song. Hilda encouraged him to become a monk. He learned Christian history and created songs from biblical stories. He wanted his songs to turn men from love of sin to a love of good deeds. After receiving the Eucharist, to ensure he was at peace with his fellow men, he died peacefully in his sleep.

Gill Salter-Smith

Let's all play this tune,
on 11th Feb!!

Caedmon The Harper
Poet



www.janetbennett.co.uk

TIPS for HARPISTS

1. Use coloured dot stickers or loon bands to mark the C and F pegs to help identify the pegs for tuning.
2. Battery operated LED strip lights stuck on to the underside of the harp neck with double-sided sticky tape really help you to see the strings. And they look great!

PLAYING GROUPS

Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing s. 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

The COMMITTEE 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	News & Update Higham Hall Link	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Ann Woolley	Treasurer - overview	
Alison Stobbs – Not committee	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer Harp Hire Membership	administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk treasurer@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/>

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOU, OUR MEMBERS

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

- information on harp-related events coming up; reports on your playing group activities
- harp items you wish to sell; any questions about harping matters.

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