

# NEWSLETTER - MAY 2020

Website:

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

Facebook:

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

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith

[events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)



## A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

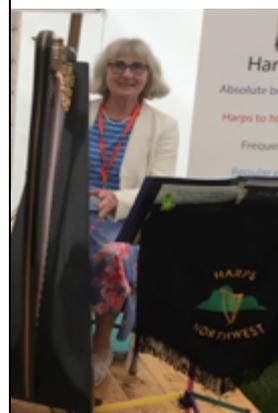
Hope you're all keeping safe and well, and not going too stir crazy! Fortunately the weather has been sunny, if a bit windy, so I've been making the most of it, in the garden or dog walking. Lots of lovely bluebells out.

Hope you enjoyed playing and filming Pachelbel's Canon. As soon as it's safe, we'll be arranging to go to St Bees Priory to finish our H4H recording and hopefully have a HNW get together (hurray!)

If you're bored with the music you're playing, there are some free downloads from Edinburgh Festival, and other online resources. Kaye Hodgson reports that she attended and enjoyed a Shelley Fairplay online workshop with about 100 other people!

We've just had sad news from Lauren Scott about our May workshop. We were hoping to run it online as planned, but Lauren's father has just died from Covid19, so we will be delaying it.

Hope you're all managing to keep in touch with each other, and looking forward to our return to normal. Carol.



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

The events in GREY are postponed.

?? Whether these events will go ahead is dependent on government advice. We'll update you in each newsletter.

Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Lauren Scott Ensemble Workshop– could become an online event <b>Committee Meeting 13:00 – This could become a Virtual Meeting.</b>		
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> June Free to members <b>No need to book</b>	?? Workshop. Kulning. Tutor: Mary Dunsford Arrive 10:00. Workshop 10:30 to 12:30. Free to members	Greenodd	LA12 7RD
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June	?? Making Music Day	TBC	
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> June	?? Silverdale Art Trail	TBC	
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> July Free to members <b>No need to book</b>	?? Workshop. Cumbrian Tunes for all levels. Tutor: Jean Altshuler. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30. <b>Committee Meeting 13:00</b>	Braithwaite Inst., Keswick	CA12 5RY
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	?? Playing Session. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 to 12:30 Shared lunch – 12:30 to 13:30. <b>HNW AGM – 13:30</b>	Over Kellet	LA6 1DN
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	?? Joint Playing Session with Dumfries & Galloway Clarsach Group	Gretna	
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	?? Absolute Beginners' Workshop 13:15 for a 13:30 start until 16:30	Grizebeck Community Hall	LA17 7XH
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct Adults £35 Youth £20 Non-members £40	?? Full Day Workshop with Rachel Gladwin. Arrive 10:00. Playing 10:30 until 16:00. More details below. To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Burton-in-Kendal Memorial Hall	LA6 1NA
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	?? Christmas party rehearsal <b>Committee Meeting 13:00</b>	Braithwaite Inst. Keswick	CA12 5RY
13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	?? Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. Tutors Jan Bennett & Shelley Fairplay. <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a>	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	?? Xmas party & concert and shared lunch.	Newbiggin	CA11 0HT
HNW sessions 2021	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan, Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb, Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> March, Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April	TBA	

# NEWS from HARPS NORTH WEST

## Harps for Harmony 2020

HNW's very special inclusive and worldwide collaborative project

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

# Harps for Harmony

## A Global Collaboration

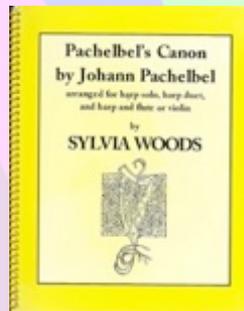
Harps  
North  
West



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.



### A MESSAGE FROM MARY DUNSFORD

We now have **108 different contributors** to our video! (WOWEEE – we did it!!! –from the editor)

Our plan then is to create the virtual ensemble video (which will take up to two weeks, could be sooner but don't want to promise that) and share that widely - people will be itching to see the final production! I'm hoping within it that we use [at least some of] the audio from our March rehearsal day.

And then later in the year, [fingers crossed] when we get to record our full group playing of it too, we can add that in and re-release the video again, getting a double whammy from it! This will also be special then as our video will be unusual for having a group join it, and how poignant it will feel to play with our lockdown selves!

So there you have it!

It is extremely exciting, and we have an absolute wealth of talent shared in these videos, of all levels.

**Well done to all who have taken part!**

## HNW Membership fees are increasing from July 2020

Fees have not increased since the founding of Harps North West almost 20 years ago.

From July 2020 the new membership fees are:

**Adults £20. Youth Membership £10. Family membership £25.**

If you pay by Standing Order you will need to adjust the amount before the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The increase in fees will help HNW to continue to provide a wide range of events which we hope you enjoy.

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## SUPPORT OUR PROFESSIONAL HARPISTS

**Mary Dunsford, Jean Altshuler, Susan Lambert, AnnaKate Pearson, Alice Pell, Wendy Stewart, Rachel Howard, Jan Bennett, Ailie Robertson, Shelley Fairplay, Rachel Hair, Rachel Newton, Karen Marshalsay, Charlotte Petersen, Robin Huw-Bowen and many others**

1. Buy lots of new harp sheet music to learn and play. Buy a professional harpist's CD or download their music.
2. Book an on-line individual or group lessons using Skype, Zoom, Face-time, FaceBook Messenger.
3. Commission the composition of a piece for a special occasion.
4. Commission a harpist to play a favourite piece to be sent across the air waves to loved ones – "Harpograms" – a term created by Susan Lambert.
5. Share your favourite pieces. Suggest a piece and how to buy the publication. See below for Gill's suggestion.  
**Please send details for sharing in the next newsletter to Gill - [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)**

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## Suggestions for good music to play

**Please send your favourite pieces and where to buy them to Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)**

Thank you to Linda Taylor (HOW) for telling me about this beautiful piece by **Isobel Mieras**. It suits the harp so well and is not too tricky to play. There are also many other beautiful pieces in this book.

**Harp Song by Isobel Mieras in A Harpers' Pleasure**, Swanston Music.  
'This is a simple piece, requiring good legato playing and phrasing.' Isobel Mieras

<http://www.isobelmieras.co.uk/products/a-harper-s-pleasure.html>

From Gill, the editor.



## IDEAS TO KEEP US HAPPY AND BUSY



### CHALLENGE MONTHS

2015 NEWvember

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 JaNEWary

Five challenges are currently available on the HNW website.

Enjoy excellent tuition from Mary Dunsford.



2020 - Day 1 - Warm up exercise

Day 2 - The Seal Lullaby, arr. Lauren Scott

Day 12 - Chopiene, Doug Thomas

Day 24 - Pachelbel's Canon, arr. Sylvia Woods

2018 - Day 1 - Rock to Joy, arr. Mary Dunsford.

Day 7 - Armenian Duduk Melody, arr. Wendy Stuart

Day 17 - Row Row Rondo, arr. Mary Dunsford

Day 22 - Funky Blues, Ben Creighton Griffiths

2019 - Day 1 - Pure Imagination, arr. Lauren Scott

Day 7 - Pure Imagination, arr. Lauren Scott (advanced)

Day 14 - Ruff Reggae, Ben Creighton-Griffiths

Day 22 - The Good Boy's Lunch, Mary Dunsford. (lap harp)

2017 - Day 1 - Music from Skye, arr. Karen Marshalsay

Day 11 - The Wolves, Stephen Dunstone

Day 21 - Cumbrian Music, arr. Mary Dunsford

2015 - Day 1 - Tracey's Wiggly Jig, Karen Marshalsay

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### CLAP and PLAY for the NHS

We hope you are enjoying playing for the NHS and Key Workers on Thursday evening at 8pm

HNW has commissioned Susan Lambert to produce arrangements to suit all playing levels of:

Over the Rainbow

You'll Never Walk Alone

Happy Birthday

Watch out for more tunes arriving by email! 'We'll Meet Again'?... for VE day

**A note re copyright.** These arrangements can be used by HNW members, if performed only to ourselves and not in a public concert or where we make money. Playing these arrangements from your front doorstep to friends and neighbours is not in breach of copyright.

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### A new piece from Gill Lowden

#### Walking in the Rain

A little present for HNW members.

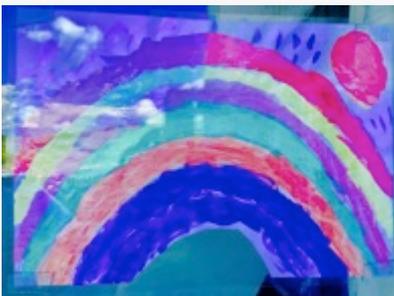
It's a piece I wrote after a walk in the park with my little grandson. It's just a bit of fun and intended to portray the feeling you have on a carefree afternoon with someone small and uncomplicated.

I hope you all enjoy it.

With all good wishes

Gill Lowden

We shall send out the piece to all members via the HNW events email shortly.



## HNW WEBSITE NEWS – Update from Susan Lambert: Online Learning

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

On the ONLINE LEARNING page you will find an index and links to all previous years 'Challenge' videos, with a plethora of tunes to learn with Mary's expert guidance.



# Harps North West

HOME

HARPS FOR HARMONY

ONLINE LEARNING ▶

WHAT'S ON ▶

JOIN HNW

HIRE A HARP

MORE ▶

## JaNEWary challenge & Online Learning



JaNEWary Challenge 2020



JaNEWary Challenge 2019

H

< Ready to learn some new tunes? or looking for a challenge for

Keep scrolling down the page and you will also find videos and links to online workshops and tuition from outside of Harps North West, including Edinburgh Virtual Harp Festival, Ailie Robertson's Facebook live Tune lessons, Rachel Hair's weekly tune lessons, Shelly Fairplay's online courses and much more. Lots to do and learn from the comfort of your own home.

**Harp at Home - Rachel Hair Tune Workshops**  
[www.rachelhair.com/harpathome](http://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome)



**Edinburgh International Virtual Harp Festival**  
[www.harpfestival.co.uk](http://www.harpfestival.co.uk)



**Ailie Robertson - Facebook Live Lessons**  
[Ailie Robertson Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AilieRobertson)

EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
4PM GMT

**LIVE HARP LESSONS**

Streaming live on Facebook



**Shelley Fairplay - Online Courses**  
[www.startharp.com](http://www.startharp.com)



Keep an eye out for The HNW Session tunes booklet which will be uploaded soon for you to use as you wish!  
If you have anything you would like to see or add to the website please contact Susan Lambert on [s.e.lambert@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:s.e.lambert@hotmail.co.uk)  
<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/online-learning-links-/index.html>

**POSTPONED - LAUREN SCOTT – HARPS ACROSS THE NORTH**

**We are hoping that this workshop will go ahead as an online event in June. We are not sure when. Lauren has very recently suffered a family bereavement. We shall keep you informed**



**Half -day Workshop.**

**What a privilege for HNW to be involved in this special project! HNW is one of three harp groups across the north chosen especially for this project.**

**Harp across the North** is a new 15 minute multi-level harp ensemble piece in three movements composed by Lauren Scott for mixed ability harp groups and is written for three separate harp groups across the North of England. **This workshop is for a new ensemble piece written for Harps North West.**

Based on the Rain Stone poem by Simon Armitage, **Freshwater Tears** is written in four parts and uses various extended techniques to create the effect of raindrops including xylophonics, percussive tapping on the harps and a special tremelo xylophonic glissando technique which Lauren has developed. This piece is inspired by the joy of rain which is so beautifully demonstrated in the poem.

**This piece has been especially composed with the HNW members in mind.** The four parts are written, but the idea is that each part will be easy to learn within the workshop session and will be taught by ear. The main emphasis is on having an enjoyable workshop session playing through some new music written especially for the group!

**Cost: Adults £20. Youth members £10. Non-members £25**

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**RACHEL GLADWIN – Full Day Workshop Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Venue: TBC**

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

This promises to be a really fun day. Working mainly without music (although Rachel will provide sheets 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**

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**The Harps North West Festival Summer 2021 – Fingers crossed that this will go ahead**

**Venue: The University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus.**

**Dates TBC late July, early August**

**If you can offer help or would like to join the Festival Planning Team please contact our convenor, Carol, on**

[convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

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**Pilgrim Harps. Covid-19 update**

First of all, I would like to send our thoughts and best wishes to all of customers and hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well. During this challenging time, we know how important it is to be able to do something you enjoy and for all of us, playing the harp is such a big part of our lives. It’s frustrating at any time when a string goes, however in lockdown hearing that twang when you’re not even playing it and don’t have a replacement is even worse,

We wanted to be able to still offer a service to you all while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of you and our colleagues. So, we have one person in the office 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday to be able to process all online and telephone orders. So if you need anything then please don’t hesitate to call us. **Stay Safe and Happy Harping**



Call us on 01342 893242 or email us at

[info@pilgrimharps.co.uk](mailto:info@pilgrimharps.co.uk)

<http://www.pilgrimharps.co.uk/s>

## MEMBERS JOTTINGS – a new feature. A fantastic response! Thank you

### Lyn Walby

So what have I been doing with all this time?

When I crossed everything off the calendar for March and April I thought I'd be able to "break eggs with a stick" (my mum's expression for getting lots done). Because all the days are the same I have kept a diary note of each day's "achievements" mundane though they may have been. They've mostly been outside in the sunshine, on my knees – discovering there's no way I could have a vocation as a nun in the course of it. And because of the sunshine, it was the usual last minute before the deadline recording the Pachelbel. Well, the first achievement there was putting the metronome app on my phone, but playing along with it was disconcerting, sort of hypnotic and distracting. I've never been keen on performance and even the 8 bars of Pachelbel, filmed, was stressful. But made me even more in awe of Mary's Newvember/Janewary challenge videos – she was so composed and so amazingly ahead in the virtual learning. Totally awesome.

I did get into the VEIHF and enjoyed the workshops and concerts and it's good they're still on Youtube. (And I was so proud to see how many of the "stars" were people HNW has had in our Festivals too!) I've started Rachel Hair's Harp @ Home course ~ I love her teaching style and bubbly personality. But, fundamentally, it's not the same as meeting with friends (and cake) to play together. And how our choirs are going to sing together again is beyond imagining and makes me sad.

MEE



Bluebells – photo from Carol Coldwell

### Judy Taylor

#### LOCKDOWN

Two thousand and twenty, in March it came,  
The Covid Virus, or some such name,  
We all were told to stay at home,  
And had to communicate by phone ....  
On internet, or What's App, even Skype too,  
It really was a hullabaloo.

Our food supplies, they took some sorting,  
Supermarket slots were just aborting,  
Then David at our village shop  
Got organised and brought the lot,  
For weeks...and weeks...and weeks.

Our meat it came from Staveley way,  
Weekly deliveries here to stay,  
And Milk came with our friendly Neil,  
Along with eggs and cream, what a deal,  
As and when we wanted it.

Our lovely neighbours down the road,  
Had volunteered to help us loads,  
With post, prescriptions and much more,  
Such back up we've not had before  
A great big THANK YOU to Roger and Shirley

All that was left was to take a walk,  
And keep that distance if you talk,  
Two metres and no nearer please,  
We zig-zagged past each other like bees  
In wonderful sunshine for weeks.

Each morning the dawn chorus sang,  
The thrush was magical when it began  
and sang for hours...and hours...and hours,  
Joined by the donkey, Patrick by name,  
While flowers bloomed and sticky buds came  
and SPRING HAD SPRUNG!!  
Each Thursday night, at eight p.m.  
The pots and pans all clanged and then...  
Harps North West, and Luke, all played,  
With Sarah and Anna, what a sound we made,  
'Over the Rainbow' for the NHS.

### Kaye Hodgson

I've attended the first 2 of the Shelley Fairplay's sessions and very much enjoyed them. Shelley has incredible energy, particularly when it's considered that she has a baby of 1 and a toddler of 3!

The music is offered at various levels but is very straightforward so that everyone can be involved. I've found it really interesting trying to play in perfect unison with someone on a video.

### Jean Altshuler

I've found being at home so much has changed how I practice. With lots of time, I don't just play through one piece after another. I can work on difficult spots and try to improve them, or play them as well as I would wish. I have a chance to notice helpful things like four bars that are a palindrome, making the passage easier to remember, or coming up with a new fingering which is much better. I can take a risk not looking at the music in a section where I want to watch the strings, just to see if it works. Knowing I can continue the next day is an incentive to try to emulate Heidi Lehwalder, who said playing should be effortless.

### Eileen Bentley. What I Did In The Plague

Yes, I did have a go at the Canon. A lovely piece and I really tried and I'm very glad I did. This has improved my playing and session stamina. Then came the shooting. Oh Dear!... when I did a test recording... not good... my face... Glad to see that so many others are having a go and I'm looking forward to seeing the end result. On to other harpy bits - I've been enthused, by Shelley's workshop, to have a go at technology. I've got a looper. Great piece of equipment if you play alone, or even with a group. Loops of rhythms, bass lines etc can be recorded, then played back to accompany your harping. I've also got myself an electronic page turner, very useful if you have more than your stand can hold. They are used with an app such as Piascore or Score Wizard with sheet music on a tablet. Saves a lot of scrabbling with paper. Must now get round to learning how to use all of these.

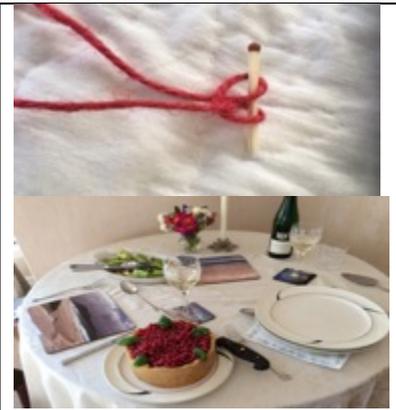
I have had a look at some of the fantastic harpers on line. One such, Turkish player is Cagatay Akyol. His Hitit Suite is stunning. And you must have a look at Hitit Lirlerli. He plays the most amazing ancient harp, 'V' shaped.... quite difficult to describe.

## MEMBERS' JOTTINGS – page 2

### Nicola Hartley

One of my "Lockdown Resolutions" (having already forgotten what my New Year's Resolutions were!) was to learn to tie the knot necessary for replacing a harp string. My rock climber son tells me it is called a clove hitch, I hope that is correct. So every day before I start my harp practice, I tie the knot once, using a matchstick and a piece of string, figuring that if I repeat it often enough, it might enter my muscle memory! They say a watched pot never boils, and of course now I haven't had a single broken string for weeks, so I haven't had chance to "tie the knot" for real, but I will keep practising.

I am finding playing my harp a good stress-buster during this time, and I've got the family organised so that we each cook one night in five, so I use my non-cooking nights for some tea-time harp practise after my day working from home. I have enjoyed learning Somewhere Over the Rainbow and submitted it to a work group which was asking for positive snippets of news. I have also sent a video of Pachelbel to Mary which wasn't as scary as I thought it would be!  
Sending best wishes to all, keep strung, and strong! Nicola



### Val Gill

In between making, and then deleting harp videos, so far all rejected, we have like everyone else been desperately trying to keep contact with our family. One event we had was a family "dinner party". We all made and photographed food, got dressed up and took photos of ourselves, then shared them online with other family members, and it was a great day which brought us closer. One highlight was seeing our two year old grandson in his first shirt and tie. Photos attached, my husband, Bob, busy in the kitchen, and the finished result. Best wishes, keep safe, Val



### Judith Jones

When I had my last face time lesson with Alice she suggested that I might write a little piece about how our dog Tara, a flat coated retriever, will often come and sit by me when I'm harping – in fact on that occasion she was crying at the door as I'd shut her out – so I thought a photograph would be a good idea, but of course she usually comes to sit by me when she chooses so we had to resort to the bribe of food – you might notice there is a biscuit in my hand!!

Tara has been listening to the harp for some time now – in fact ever since I was playing a little piece entitled "Lullaby for Violet" - who is a puppy! She's clever but.....And it didn't send her to sleep!! Usually she likes to lie beside me on the floor for a while and then move onto "her" settee – yes, she's the spoiled only child of older parents.

Then off for a walk and at the current time she has a BIG problem – in common with most flat coated retrievers – she does not do social distancing – the concept is completely beyond her so aren't we fortunate in having very quiet footpaths nearby, and, in common with many HNW members – beautiful countryside and views of the fells that restore the soul.

Keep safe everyone and keep harping – till we can meet again. Judith Jones



### Sue Millard

Has lock down made any difference to me? In my daily life, not an awful lot. There's a reason we moved to the far end of nowhere back in 1983 and why we are still here. Social distancing is actually a relief most of the time.

I miss Harps Up North, and choir rehearsals and concerts. But online, I've "visited" the Edinburgh Harp Festival for the first time, watched a workshop by Eira Lynn Jones, and took part in two lessons and a home concert given by Ailie Robertson. I've bought harp music from both. I've also watched Ben Creighton Jones and, separately, parts of the day-long virtual "Folk on Foot Front Room Festival" which included a harp performance by Rachel Newton (like the other material, you can still find it online).

I've recorded myself singing silly songs to cheer up friends who've been ill, I've played Over the Rainbow and Ode to Joy, even though we have no neighbours to hear me, and I've videoed myself playing... Oh dear, lots of editing needed. I have experimented with putting the big harp in different positions till I found one that hid the clutter of the office! Now I am trying to address the faults of technique that have been revealed - I must try to place more, close my fingers more as I play, and practise more slowly, so that I can play smoothly without hesitations. In between times, though, I've listened to the birds singing and pinched some of their phrases to make some new harp music, and written poetry, and edited the music and the poetry together into a video on my Facebook page and YouTube. I've tried using Zoom for meetings and will probably have to use Skype next week. There is amazing art of all types being performed and broadcast - and all this is more than I can deal with, really! Definitely not bored! Love to all of you who are having to shield vulnerable relatives, or home school children! See you on the other side.

**Keith Triplett.** Perhaps like others, I am really sad as I can't visit my friend and harp teacher but I do manage to speak to her most weeks. She reminded me again recently to keep watching Heidi Le Walder and Ray Pool on YouTube, great Harp lessons. Perhaps some members would like to watch Jodi Ann Tolman on her website, also on YouTube. I downloaded her O Holy Night just before Christmas and am still working on it, also Over The Rainbow. At the same time she (AT) composed a piece called Resilience for her daughter who is challenged day to day. Perhaps we all need a little Resilience and the piece I think is helpful but I have to say Jean has shown me a great fingering for the left hand. From a very sad Windermere at the moment.

### Ruth Lee

Saw this and was inspired!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=e74Jul5K2pl&feature=share>

I will send more Pachelbel recordings for you tomorrow... even just the ground bass. (but if anyone is a bit shy of playing 'cos they are beginners like me) there are plenty on this video playing just right hand... still sounds amazing.. except for the phone ringing near the end. Up early tomorrow to practice and record.

## MEMBERS' JOTTINGS – page 3

Please send your 'Jottings' in to Gill on events@ harps northwest.org.uk

What have you been getting up to in these very strange times? How did recording for the Pachelbel go? Tell us whether you are playing for the NHS and Key Workers. Or just what is life like for you just now? The quirkier the better!



### Jane Fox

My teacher Maxine Molin threw down the challenge of playing over the rainbow on a Thursday night – we are having my lesson online with zoom/skype these days which is working well – doesn't beat face-to-face but its great having the lesson all the same. So over the 3 days I had before the first music Thursday I practiced three times a day and then braved it on my drive in the cul-de-sac of 8 houses setting up just before 8pm. I actually don't like performing in front of people, never have since childhood but I thought this was a good cause. So I recorded me playing and we had half the houses out clapping. Afterwards the neighbours were amazed and really enjoyed it. I posted my video up on FB and it went crazy on my page. I can hear the wrong notes but it wasn't bad for 3 days practice. So since then I've carried on and the neighbours look forward to it and are asking for encores – I haven't as yet but you never know. So last week I played Matadors lament for a change and then when I finished looked up and every family was outside all the houses – full cul-de-sac, I nearly died, I'd not noticed with concentrating so hard and we are at the U end of the cul-de-sac, but the delight on the faces and they were all standing chatting about it – was worth the effort and it looks like it's become a highlight of the week for my neighbours.

Our estate has a FB page now so I posted on there for musicians to join in – have one who plays a trumpet now entertaining their street, so its catching on slowly.

The Edinburgh festival was great – I had intended on going for the first time... virtual was great. I joined in when I could have saved the music and videos to have ago as and when I can.

Harps South Lakes  
enjoying their first  
Zoom tutorial with  
Mary on Wednesday  
29<sup>th</sup> April



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## TIPS FOR HARPISTS

### Replacing a harp string:

During this time whilst harp students are unable to see their teachers face-to-face on a regular basis if a string breaks here are some options you could try?

Search on YouTube for 'how to tie a harp string' there are lots of self help videos on there.

Or visit harp maker websites and search for their own videos on how to replace a string.

Harp companies are mostly working from home now and some will only be contactable via social media and email addresses.

See above for the message from Pilgrim.

Alice Pell

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### New Album by Karen Marshalsay The Road to Kennacraig

The CD can be downloaded from iTunes, Google Play Music and Amazon (UK)

It can be streamed on Spotify and Apple Music

Sales of CDs from Karen's website have been temporarily suspended until the Coronavirus crisis is over

## 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](mailto:ruth@ruthwall.co.uk)

### Pilgrim Ashdown

£1900 with upholstered stool

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



**PLAYING GROUPS – face-to-face group playing is suspended for now**  
**Why not set up a chat with your group members on the days you would normally be meeting! Zoom works well for a chat and for a playing session.**

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 [hazyhead49@gmail.com](mailto:hazyhead49@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 and will be held at Braithwaite Hall on the second Wednesday evening of the month (mostly). For more detail see above or contact Gill on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

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## The COMMITTEE from September 2019

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