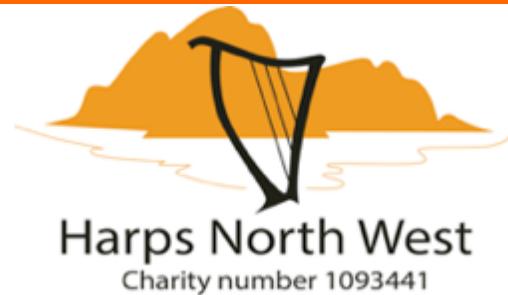


NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2020

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

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

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



A message from our convenor, Carol Coldwell

I hope everyone is keeping safe! This awful virus is spreading rapidly and none of us should feel complacent and take any risks! Sadly, our normal HNW activities are still curtailed, and our November and December Christmas activities will be on Zoom, as will be the committee meeting on November 8th. When lockdown is fully lifted, we will have a belated Christmas lunch and get together, probably in the New Year. We have an extensive list of workshops and activities planned for 2021, details of which you'll find below, but some with dates to be confirmed because of the uncertainty. Higham Hall is now cancelled due to Covid-19, although Shelley Fairplay had pulled out due to having Long Covid. We've had several hire harps returned recently, and my spare room looks like a harp store, but the good news is that several members have taken the plunge and bought their own harp! Keep harping and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. **Carol x**
From Carol: A link to some free harp music. Let us know what you think of it!
<https://www.canadianharpmusic.ca/>



Dates for the Diary 2020 – further details of events are in the main newsletter

All live events are dependent on government advice (national and local) and on local community hall risk assessment.

Sun 8 th November Free to members	Rehearsal for the Christmas Party Concert. Zoom event Led by Mary Dunsford. Playing 10:00 to 12:00 with a break. The Zoom link will be sent to all members so no need to sign up. Committee Meeting 13:00 -15:00. Zoom event	Zoom 09:45 to 12:00	
13 th - 15 th November	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. CANCELLED due to National Lockdown Tutors Jan Bennett & Mary Dunsford www.highamhall.com .	Higham Hall	CA13 9SH
Sun 22nd November Free to members	NEW EVENT - Playing session hosted by Susan Lambert. Zoom event. Favourite Christmas Carols and Songs. To sign up and/or offer to lead a Christmassy piece please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom 09:45 – 12:00	
Sat 5 th December Free to members	HNW Christmas Party. Zoom event. Master of Ceremonies - Mary Dunsford. See below for more details – we need ideas from you on ' How to party! ' The Zoom link will be sent to all members so no need to sign up.	Zoom 13:45 to 16:00	
1 st – 31 st January '21 Free to all	The HNW JaNEWary Challenge 2021 Mary Dunsford presents this annual challenge on behalf of Harps North West. Daily tutorials throughout the month. All members receive a daily email with links to the sheet music and a tutorial video.	Online	
Sat 16 th January '21 £5 minimum donation. Non- members, join HNW	Workshop with Shelley Fairplay. Zoom event. Details to follow To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org	Zoom 09:45 – 12:00	
Sun 21 st February '21 £5 minimum donation. Non- members, join HNW	Rachel Newton - Workshop. 10:00 to 12noon. Zoom event More details to follow. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom 09:45 – 12:00	

More dates for 2021: Sat 20th March; Sun 18th April

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS and other EVENTS for 2021. We'll keep you informed of dates when they are secured.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**HNW members attending 'live' events where legally acceptable,
please adhere to the following HNW protocols based on government guidance and law.**

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 and exit and use of toilets. If you would like to see a risk assessment that has been used by a playing group please contact Alison on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

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

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

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

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

HNW EVENTS COMING UP



Christmas Party rehearsal led by Mary Dunsford Sunday 8th November 09:45 to 12:00 on Zoom

It's time to rehearse the programme for the HNW Christmas Party.

The selected tunes are: Seal Lullaby, Carol of the Bells, Walking in the Air.

Contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you need the sheet music for any of these pieces.

The Zoom link will be sent to **all members** the day before the event. So no need to sign up this time.

NEW

Playing Session hosted by Susan Lambert Play favourite Carols and Christmas tunes together Sunday 22nd November 09:45 to 12:00 on Zoom

Please offer to lead the playing of your favourite carol or Christmas tune, making sure you have permission to share the arrangement with members.

All members will be sent the sheet music by email before the event.

To sign up for this event please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk and don't forget to offer to lead a carol or tune!



The Harps North West Christmas Party Saturday 5th December 13:45 to 16:00 on Zoom

All members will be sent the Zoom link the day before.

Master of Ceremonies - Mary Dunsford.

The HNW Christmas party will look a little different this year! Have a glass of your favourite tipple to hand! If you have any ideas for making this party really 'fizz', then let Gill or Mary know on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Suggested activities so far:

Play through of the Christmas programme: Seal Lullaby, Carol of the Bells, Walking in the Air.

A short Christmas Quiz!

Competition for the best-decorated harp and harpist!

Members are invited to perform solo items live on the day. Or, send in a video of a solo piece or group items to Mary using wetransfer.com



OTHER HARP EVENTS COMING UP

A live performance at Kendal Parish Church

ELIZABETH BASS (harp) and OLIVER ROBERTS (flute)

Wednesday 4th November 13:00 – Doors open 12:30

THIS WEEK AND GOING AHEAD! (Members will be informed if the situation changes.)

Tickets £10. Payable on the day in cash or cheque (payable to Kendal Midday Concert Club) in an envelope with your name and contact details

See the website for specific instructions relating Covid security. www.kendalmiddayconcertclub.org

NB Sadly Tier 3 residents will not be allowed to enter

We attended a live concert there last month and it was very well organised and we felt safe. (Gill)

Spanish Dance No. 5 'Andaluza', Granados. *Sonata in G 'Hamburger'*, CPE Bach. Romance for Flute Op. 37, Saint Saens. *Naiades Fantasy Sonata for Flute and Harp*, Alwyn. Flute and Harp Sonata, Andy Scott.



Sorry could not find a picture of Oliver!

TRANSPENNINE HARPS (online) FESTIVAL - 7th – 8th NOVEMBER 2020

Tutors: Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley

THIS IS ONE EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

A wide range of really interesting and engaging workshops, ranging from good old technique refreshing to creating a silent film score...

Further information can be found here: <https://transpennineharps.org/festival2020.html>

You will find the programme and how to book. We look forward very much to sharing our music and harps with fellow players from all around the world, so do please join us for this inaugural online weekend event - stretch your creative muscles and enjoy meeting like-minded people (there WILL be virtual tea and cake. Or real cake, but unfortunately you have to provide it yourself just this once...!). Please do not hesitate to contact TP Harps via their website if you have any questions.

<https://transpennineharps.org/>

Sessions will be recorded and available after the event.

(So don't let the clash with our Christmas rehearsal put you off. Gillx)



Information from the UK Harp Association

Online Concerts

- Every Friday at 6pm: Harpy Hour with Olivia Jageurs: [book a ticket](#)
- Every Friday at 7.30pm: Fiona Hosford live on Facebook: [Watch](#)
- Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm: Eleanor Turner and Tasha Burns livestream concert: [book a ticket](#)
- Sunday 8th November at 5pm: The Hermes Experiment perform with the Gesualdo Six: [Information](#)
- Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm: Elizabeth Bass performs an online recital for Radlett Music Club: [Information](#)
- Thursday 12th November at 1pm: Elizabeth Bass oboe and harp recital for the Leicester International Music Festival: [Information](#)
- Thursday 12th November at 1pm: Esther Beyer and Zsuzsanna Szilágyi perform a joint recital including two world premieres: [Information](#)
- Thursday 12th November at 6.30pm: Bianca Bing performs from the Royal Academy of Music: [Information](#)
- Sunday 15th November at 5pm: Hermes Experiment concert from Blackheath Halls: [Information](#)
- Sunday 22nd November at 3pm: Moonrakers online gig: [Watch](#)

Online Workshops

- Every Friday at 11am: A new video from Coffee Break Harp, Zuzanna Olbrys on a different aspect of learning the harp: [Watch](#)
- Every Friday at 2pm: Transcribe with Tara. Jazz workshop with Tara Minton: [Sign up](#)
- Sunday 1st November at 7.30pm: Zoom ceilidh hosted by Lauren Scott: [Email](#)
- Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November: Transpennine Harp Festival. A weekend of online workshops from Tamsin Dearnley and Lucy Nolan: [Information](#)
- Monday 9th November at 7pm: Retreat to the Harp workshop with Keziah Thomas: [Book](#)

Keziah Thomas

United Kingdom Harp Association

www.ukharp.net

HARPS NORTH WEST NEWS - reports on recent events

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER - 10:00 until 12:30 MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on ZOOM

A huge thank you to the 23 harpists who joined the session and donated. We welcomed harpists from across the nation, including friends from other harp groups. A relaxed fun morning was enjoyed and a terrific variety of tunes was shared. Thanks to those harpists who led their favourite tunes. Many, many thanks to the arrangers and composers, Wendy Stewart, Isobel Mieras, Ruth Flavin, Rachel Hair, Charlotte Petersen and Anna Crosby-Gaudet, who willingly allowed their music to be shared. Why not think about purchasing some of their music? (see below) We raised over £300 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The donations page remains open until January 2021. I like the suggestion from one member that this becomes an annual event! Gill <https://thyg.uk/BUU004397660>

Members' comments.

In this time of lockdown, I feel blessed to have been invited to connect with fellow harpists and, through joining in with HNW Zoom sessions, have been able to maintain interest in playing and feel I have been lucky, from the Isle of Arran, to have access to such a lovely, friendly group of people. It's been a real joy hearing other harps play and often, hearing how I should be playing!! I learn something valuable at each session. Today, we heard music from everywhere including France and Canada. I enjoyed it all and especially like that we have options to accommodate all skill levels. There was a terrific variety, so thanks to whoever arranged the set list. It was a most enjoyable coffee morning and for such a worthy cause. Many thanks to all involved in the arrangements. Already, I'm looking forward to the next time. **Elizabeth x**

Thank you for the music and, yes, the playing session was great fun, all for such a good cause too! **Kath W xx**

Thanks for this Gill - a great morning! **Lyn x**

A BIG THANK YOU to you for organising this morning! It was so MUCH better than an ordinary MacMillan coffee morning! **Judy T.**



SUPPORT OUR MUSICIANS

If you enjoyed the music we played during the MacMillan Coffee Morning, think about purchasing the musician's sheet music or books.

Wendy Stewart - <http://www.cairnwatermusic.com/>

Charlotte Petersen - <http://www.charlotteharp.co.uk/music/>

Rachel Hair - <https://www.rachelhair.com/harpathome/>

Ruth Flavin – Dunedin Music – rpfлавin@hotmail.com

Anne Crosby-Gaudet - <https://musicdiscoveries.shop/collections/harp-music>

PLAYING IN A SESSION WITH SUSAN LAMBERT - a Workshop on Zoom

Sunday 18th October 10:00 until 12:00

Seventeen members joined Susan's session. The comments given below say it all. Thank you Susan. We look forward to lots more sessions with you in the future! Susan will be sending out the notes from the workshop and links to the play along tracks on YouTube soon. **Gill**

Members' comments.

A wonderful Sunday morning! **Judy T.**

Susan did a grand job there and it was lovely to see everyone. **Alice P.**

I absolutely loved Susan's inspiring Zoom session with folk music this morning! I felt myself constantly grinning! Relearning theory of chord progressions to use in music which is absent of accompaniment, was presented in a fun way! Thank you, Susan. You have worked so hard, I'm sure, to compile your booklet! It is much appreciated! **Kath W.**

It was a really good tutorial, packed with useful fun information. Looking forward to receiving Susan's notes. **Elizabeth.**

Thanks for a great workshop. Susan is a first class tutor. Best wishes. **Eil Bentley**

I really enjoyed Susan's session and found it very useful, particularly as I belong to a little community folk group, playing with another instrument – good to know how to make the most of my harp in these sessions! I'll be looking out for more of Susan's sessions in the future. Best wishes. **Chris S.**

Have just finished the most stimulating Sunday Morning for a long time! Such fun and SO professionally presented! Thank you so much Susan. **Anon**



was delighted to be able to be part of the 18th October's workshop with Susan Lambert this morning. Her introduction about rhythms and chords on C, F, & G were sympathetically explained. Little did I realize at the time that it was the basis for the whole workshop. I loved the pieces which she chose for us to play from the Sessions selection & her whistle videos were brilliant. I was rather amazed at the speed of some of the pieces but know that session players can get carried away. I don't think I can manage to play all of the pieces at the fast tempo, but I'll try!! Remember that Harp players shouldn't really play a guitar, a ukulele (I know Mary does), or the other string instruments of the orchestra! One gets tracking lines on ones fingers!! Thank you Susan for a most enlightening workshop. With best wishes **Marie Carson.**

Wow, what a wonderful Sunday morning with Susan learning about many possibilities of playing in a session. I loved the ideas about looking for patterns in the music and tunes, thinking in numbers and the importance of counting! I wasn't very good at not panicking when I heard the speed of some of the tunes but loved Susan's encouraging messages and tips and I did manage to play a few bars /notes here and there.... but best of all it was great fun & hopefully we can do more. A big thank you to Susan. Best wishes **Annie Allison**

Members' comments cont. On Sunday 18th October we had a lovely workshop with Susan Lambert, teaching us her hints and wrinkles for us to join in and become seasoned session players. Accomplished sight readers are prone to panic attacks without the dots, forgetting that the nursery rhymes they know were all learnt by ear. Susan reminded us how to listen to find the key note and the tune, to number and play chords one to seven in the scale, how to find essential chord patterns and keep to simple or compound time. This was all clearly and simply explained. We had great fun playing along to her teaching tapes starting with Marie's Wedding, ending with Spootiskerry, by way of John Ryan's and Egan's Polka set, and the gentle South Wind. Zooming workshops are a new learning and teaching opportunity for all of us, but nothing beats playing together. It would be really good for us all to get these tunes under our fingers, with our own chord accompaniments so we can do just that when we can meet in the same room again. Thank you Susan for a great morning. **Jane Freshwater**

A bit more about Spootiskerry This is a modern Shetland Reel composed by Samuel Ian Rothmar Burns, Ian Burns circa 1980, fiddler, piper, accordionist. From The Session website, paraphrasing Nigel Gatherer, 'I have a copy of Ian Burns's tunebook, which is called "Spootiskerry". There's also a photo of the composer at Spootiskerry looking across to the town of Brae. In his introduction Burns says, "Spootiskerry - was the croft belonging to my late grand aunts, Bella and Joan Nicolson, situated between the village of Sullom, and the new town of Brae. Originally spelt Spootskerry, but as the years have passed, and "i" or an "a", and sometimes an "o" have been added... I have named my book Spootiskerry as that was the name I gave my first composition.' A skerry is a group of offshore rocks submerged at high tide. Spoots are razor clams, they spout, spout, when you walk above them, if you walk backwards on the shore you can quickly dig down with a long knife and harvest them or pour salt into the hole and they surface. Don't overcook, they go rubbery. In the Western Isles I bought some from the fish van in Castlebay, Barra, then scalded them for a minute. I then went upmarket and ate them with melted garlic butter. Lots of fancy recipes on the internet. **Jane Freshwater**

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

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



NEWS of OTHER RECENT EVENTS

Furness Tradition Zoom Concert with Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy



Friday 16th October was a first in many ways. It was the first in a series of online concerts put on by local folk organisation Furness Tradition. Their usual summer festival had successfully moved online for a series of short live concerts via Zoom, which had proved successful, and so it was only natural that their autumn series of concerts would do the same. In a bid to bring LIVE music to people these concerts are interactive as they take place via Zoom it means the artist has a real sense of the audience, even if it's in little boxes on a computer screen and actual applause can be seen and heard. The wonders of technology mean the sound can be monitored and, in some cases, mixed by a professional sound engineer not even at the same location as the artist! This also becomes an income stream for self-employed musicians and sound engineers whose income can be almost non-existent in these present times.

It was a first for Rachel and Ron as they hadn't done a live online gig before. They were a little apprehensive at first but having talked it through with FT's sound engineer, Pete Ord, with whom they had worked before, they felt reassured and raring to go. A first for many of the audience, as they didn't really know what to expect when they logged on with their concert link. You sit in a virtual waiting room until you are 'let in' by the host and when everyone is in the 'rules' of the game are made clear, all audience members are muted during performance, unmuted for applause and questions for Rachel and Ron can be sent via the chat box to the Host as there is to be a question and answer session after the interval. All these new terms to come to grips with!

What a treat was in store! Rachel and Ron settled down and looked as if they were having great fun and this was reflected in the music. They played us pieces from their new album 'Sparks' which covers traditional, self-penned and contemporary tunes. The sound was great, the audience were loving it and the time just flew. The 'Question and Answer' session brought a mixture of serious and amusing questions which were all answered in good spirit, a nice addition to the proceedings. On with the music and the second half was a continuation of the wonderful talent of Rachel and Ron. I for one then went on and bought their new CD, brilliant.

Thank you Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy for such a wonderful evening of harp and guitar music and thank you Furness Tradition for such a musical treat. Furness Tradition will be putting on more concerts via Zoom over the coming months details can be found at: furnesstradition.org.uk

Rachel's CD can be purchased direct from her website at: rachelhair.com. **Hazel Ord**

TIPS FOR HARPISTS

'Sit up straight with shoulders relaxed ...'
'Pull those fingers into the palm for a good sound ...'

'Thumbs up, fingers pointing down towards the sound board ...'
'Lift those elbows and let them lead as you move around the harp ...'

Just a few oft repeated phrases from my harp teacher, AnnaKate Pearson! **Gillx**

FOR SALE



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

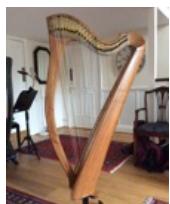


Pilgrim Ashdown – 34 strings

£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



Mark Norris 34 string harp

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

Contact Carol Coldwell on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

PLAYING GROUPS

Please contact group leaders to find out how each playing group is proceeding during these unusual times whilst we live with the Coronavirus

Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing. The following are contacts for the HNW open playing groups:

Harps Out West is based on the west coast, near Gosforth, usually meeting on the Thursday morning before the 3rd Friday of each month.
Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com

Harps South Lakes are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on hazeyhead49@gmail.com

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

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

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

The MANAGEMENT TEAM from September 2020

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