

NEWSLETTER – DEC. 2021

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

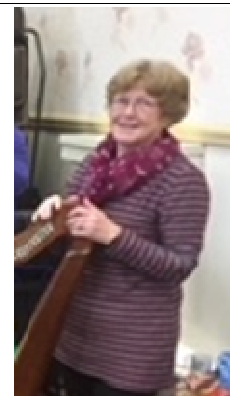
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

Editor: Frances Quinn, events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



A message from our Convenor

Christmas is nearly here! Hope you are enjoying preparing those carols and the HNW pieces for the Xmas party. Thank you to Susan for stepping in last minute to cover for Mary at the November Xmas party rehearsal at Orton. I really liked Susan Lambert's arrangement of 'We Three Ships'. The tune has a North Cumbrian connection and a dark tale behind it. Yet again the weekend at Higham Hall in November was a great experience with Wendy Stewart and Ailie Robertson providing us with expert tuition and beautiful tunes from many different countries. I loved the impromptu 'session' on the Saturday evening but still need to get more confident about joining in! December brings us to more Xmas fun. We look forward to seeing you at the live Xmas Party at the Braithwaite Institute near Keswick. For those of you who are unable to join us we hope to provide a recording of the session or a live connection by Zoom. We'll keep you informed. Plus we have a Zoom session later in the month when we can play our hearts out to carols with Susan Lambert. We look forward to 2022 when we hope to have lots of exciting harp events to enjoy. Have a good festive season. **Gill**



Correction! from the November newsletter:

Eira Lynn Jones' composition, River Daydreams, is in the book Summer Days not Songs of Hope.

Booking and Paying for an event. Harps North West (HNW) is committed to providing opportunities to play and appreciate the harp. To cover costs we ask members for a voluntary donation for many events (suggested minimum of £5) or we ask for a specific fee for workshops. Non-members are asked to join HNW and the cost of the first event is included in the membership fee. (See the HNW website for details on how to become a member.) Payments can be made by bank transfer or, from outside the UK, by Paypal - details at the end of the newsletter.

HNW Dates for the Diary

All times are GMT/UTC until the end of March

For latest road/travel information see <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and how to book	Event details	Venue
Saturday 11th December 2021 To book contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	HNW Christmas Party - Tutor: Mary Dunsford- LIVE EVENT Arrive 10:00. Rehearse 10:30 until 12:30 The concert/performance will be held from 13:45 to 15:00. Sadly this year we are not encouraging friends and family the live concert in order to maintain safety for players. We hope to set up a Zoom link for members on the day or a recording of the concert will be made available. We will keep you informed.	Braithwaite Inst. CA12 5RY Live event leader Chris Pollington
Sunday 19th December 2021 Donations welcome No need to book.	Play and accompany carols - Tutor: Susan Lambert -Time to be confirmed How to accompany tunes. Offers to lead a carol are welcomed. Contact Susan on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk All members will be sent the music and the Zoom link before the event.	ZOOM EVENT
1st to 31st January 2022 Open to all harpists across the globe	The 2022 JaNEWary Challenge - Tutor: Mary Dunsford Mary introduces us to exciting new tunes in bite-size portions each day, with plenty of hints on technique. A great way to learn.	FaceBook, YouTube HNW website
Saturday 12th February 2022 Fee £10 Ref: LUKE & your initials To book contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	An Introduction to Irish Traditional Music- Workshop - Tutor: Luke Webb 10:00 – 12 noon https://www.lukewebbharapist.com . There are lots of pieces on YouTube too. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ Those who have signed up will be sent the sheet music &a Zoom link before the event.	ZOOM EVENT
Sunday 27th March 2022 Fee: £10 Ref: EIRA & your initials To book contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	'From the First Note' - Workshop - Tutor: Eira Lynn Jones 10:00 to 12noon Eira Lynn Jones will direct a session on the six steps to follow when you start a new piece. She will guide you through her practice method - with technical hints and a tune or two. www.eiralynnjones.com Those who have signed up will be sent the sheet music &a Zoom link before the event.	ZOOM EVENT

Sunday 24th April 2022	Workshop. Third piece from our Composer in Residence - Lauren Scott Live: tuning from 1:30	Venue to be confirmed
Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July 2022 To register your interest, please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Harps North West Festival - Tutors: Jean Altshuler, Mary Dunsford and Lauren Scott. More tutors to be announced soon. Harp repair and servicing by Teifi. Alexander Technique and Positive Posture sessions. Exhibition of sheet music and possibly harps.	University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside.
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November 2022	Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp–Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
Saturday 19th to Monday 21st August 2023	Higham Hall – A summer Break with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Lucy Nolan, plus another to be confirmed	Higham Hall CA13 9SH

POSTPONED WORKSHOPS (due to the pandemic). We'll keep you informed of dates for these events once secured.

The following workshops will now be included in the **HNW Festival - 29th -31st July 2022**

- Kulning** workshop - Tutor: **Mary Dunsford**
- Cumbrian Tunes** workshop - Tutor: **Jean Altshuler**
- Freshwater Tears, Black Sheep & The Beatles Medley** - Tutor: **Lauren Scott**

Full-day live workshop yet to be arranged for 2022 -
Tutor: **Rachael Gladwin**

COVID-19 SECURITY

HNW ADVICE TO MEMBERS ATTENDING LIVE EVENTS – to help keep members safe

- Before attending a live event participants are advised to have had at least two vaccines and to have recorded a negative result from a Lateral Flow COVID test within the previous 24 hours.
- 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.
- 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.
- Come with plenty of warm clothing as venues are encouraging good airflow with doors and windows open.
- Maintain 2m social distancing, especially from over 70s and clinically highly vulnerable people.
- Wear a face mask/covering when less than 2m distant from those with whom you do not live.
- Bring and use hand sanitizer and antiseptic cleaning wipes. Take your own rubbish home with you.
- Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens may not be available.**
- Print your own copies of the music to be played in advance.
- Avoid touching and sharing other people's property. Wash your hands often.
- Be familiar with the risk assessment and the specific expectations for each venue you visit.
- Respect the decisions of others, but do not be afraid to ask others to adhere to the advice if you feel you are at risk.**

Nominated organisers of HNW events: Please ensure that a specific risk assessment for the venue and activity has been carried out and all participants have been informed of its expectations.

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2021

Free tutorial for Autumn Leaves – a jazz piece	Ailie Robertson is offering harpists a free video tutorial for her arrangement of the jazz piece, Autumn Leaves . The piece is suitable for early-intermediate players and harps with 25+ strings. Sheet music is available to purchase: https://www.aiilerobertson.com/harp-music-shop/the-autumn-leaves Free tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtciyj8i08s Video performance by Ailie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyQ3wYf0jVE
Online video course Discount for HNW - code HARPSOC25	Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott. This is a video course on the traditional hymn arranged by Lauren Scott. Covers topics such as Understanding Musical Form, Exercises for Independence of Fingers, a Healthy Practice Routine, Creating a Dynamic Range on Harp, Right Hand Harmonics and Creating Rich Voicings in your playing. Suitable for intermediate to advanced levels (Grade 4 to post Grade 8) www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision
5 th November onwards	Karen Marshalsay's new lever harp book announcement! A Harper's Yuletide has 20 old and new tunes for the season, arranged or composed by Karen Marshalsay , some with variations, and suitable for elementary to advanced level players. There are 13 sets, but the tunes can all be played as single pieces too. Pre-orders are now available for posting out on 5 November, and PDFs are available too. Marsharp Music will be posting out worldwide! Books £12 plus postage PDFs £10 http://www.marsharpmusic.com/aharpersyuletide.asp
Friday 14 th - Sunday 16 th January 2022	Winter Harp Festival 2022 - Online. Join acclaimed harp tutors Ailie Robertson (Scotland), Kim Robertson (USA), Park Stickney (USA/Switzerland), Marianne Gubri (France/Italy) for a weekend of workshops and concerts.
Fri 28 th Jan to Sun 30 th Jan 2022	Halsway Manor Harp Weekend - folk harp. Teaching by ear with music available at the end of the course. Quantock Hills, Somerset Friday 28 th Jan to Sun 30 th Jan 2022 Tutors: Steph West (Uk), Irene Watt (Scotland), Merit Zloch (Germany) https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/halsway-harp-weekend-2/

HNW EVENTS COMING UP SOON - more information



Saturday 11th December: The Harps North West Christmas Party
Tutor- Mary Dunsford. Time - tuning from 10am, concert/performance from 13:45 at the Braithwaite Institute, on the A66 near Keswick, CA12 5RY. We hope to have a zoom link to the performance for members unable to attend. More information will be sent by email.

Sadly this year we are not encouraging friends and family the live concert in order to maintain safety for players. We hope to set up a Zoom link for members on the day or a recording of the concert will be made available. We will keep you informed.

Please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk if you would like to attend or you would like a recording of the events - donations towards costs are always welcomed.

Remember to bring your own refreshments and utensils as the kitchen will not be available.

Sheet music:- Members were sent this in Sep. If you would like the music, please ask via events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Clouds in a Sunlit Sky - Eira Lyn Jones (2021 JaNEWary Challenge)

O Mio Babbino Caro - Puccini. Arranged by Lucy Nolan (May 2021 Zoom workshop)

Sunrise - Judy Sharps (First place in the HNW Composition Competition)

I Saw Three Ships - arranged by Susan Lambert

Plus a play-through of Pachelbel's Canon - arr. Sylvia Woods. You need your own copy of this or Mary's 'gentle' accompaniment.

Playing Groups - Seren Fach - Shelley Fairplay. You need your own copy of this if you do not play in a playing group.

There is lots to practise **but DON'T FORGET, HNW PLAYING GROUPS** - you are invited to play a piece of your choice at the Xmas party.



Sunday 19th December, ZOOM: Play and accompany carols - Tutor: Susan Lambert

Time to be confirmed, donations welcomed.

Susan will lead us through numerous carols guiding us in developing various accompaniments. To offer to lead a favourite carol, please contact Susan on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk, making sure you have the permission of the arranger to share the music. This session was great fun last year; have your mulled wine and mince pies to hand!

No need to sign up - all members will be sent a multitude of Christmas Carol lead sheets and the Zoom link before the event.



1st January 2022: JaNEWary Challenge 2022

Look out for emails from **Mary Dunsford**, from 1st January and continuing through the month.

You will receive a link to a tutorial video and the sheet music. Mary has some exciting new pieces for us to learn and build up gradually. What better way to spend the short days and long nights in January?

Five 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>



Spring 2022: Harps for Harmony 2020-21 - update

Background: Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, was taught by Mary Dunsford in the 2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge, Days 24 to 31.

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

The live version was recorded on 23rd October 2021 in St Bees Priory- Musical Director: Mary Dunsford.

Recording manager: Jon Borgia, see **Mary's vlog of the day!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DmTZrgf1Lc>

Next: A spring launch of the long awaited completed video.

NEWS of Recent HNW EVENTS

Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp 12-14th Nov. 2021. Tutors: Ailie Robertson and Wendy Stewart



What a stimulating challenging fun weekend. We played our harps until our fingers were sore! Two well contrasted tutors Allie and Wendy who complimented each other so well. We learned lots of lovely new pieces, enough to keep me busy practising for many weeks. I also really loved the impromptu tunes session on Saturday night.

As well as a fantastic musical experience we had the joy of staying at the beautiful Higham Hall, more food than we could eat and the stunning views from the house. And of course the enjoyable company of the other harpists in the bar!

The icing on the cake for me was three wonderful swims in Bassenthwaite Lake!

A great way to spend a November weekend!!

Judy Sharps

NEWS of Recent HNW EVENTS - cont'd



Rehearsal for HNW Christmas Party - Tutor: Susan Lambert (Mary was not available) Saturday 20th November. Orton Market Hall.

Eight members made it to Orton Market Hall for the Xmas Party rehearsal. Thank you to Susan Lambert for stepping in at the last minute to cover for Mary who unfortunately, for reasons beyond her control, had to pull out. Mary should be with us, all being well, for the HNW Xmas party on Sat 11th Dec at Braithwaite Institute, near Keswick.

Susan introduced us to the carol she has arranged for the HNW Xmas party, 'We Saw Three Ships'. It really does sound very good when played ensemble and hopefully there is a part for everyone to play. We made our way through the other pieces selected for the party and delighted in the variety of music that we were able to play live in a room

Look out for the recording of the session that will be sent out to members soon. together.

Gill Salter-Smith



Absolute Beginners' Workshop - Tutor: Susan Lambert Saturday 20th November. Orton Market Hall. CA10 3RU

Eight beginners joined this session at Orton Market Hall coming from as far away as Cheshire and Shrewsbury. It was good to welcome potential harpists and encourage them to enjoy playing the harp as much as we all do.



The committee held a meeting in the next room whilst the workshop was held and, towards the end of their session, they were treated to a short performance by the beginners. We enjoyed their rendition of 'The Bells', giving us a real flavour of the coming festive season. It was good that a number of them decided to hire out harps from HNW. Let's hope that they enjoy this magical instrument.

Gill Salter-Smith

The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition 2021

Winners were announced by the judges, Shelley Fairplay and Lauren Scott, on 19th June - <https://youtu.be/98CbB0kYzwY>

A message from Susan Lambert –Thank you so much to everyone who took part. Everyone who entered the competition will receive a gift from HNW of a manuscript book and pencils.

A pdf booklet of all the compositions was sent to all HNW on the 8th October.

A hard copy of the booklet will be available to purchase – more details to follow.

Don't forget, the links to the **Bitesize videos and pdfs** giving guidance on how to approach composition, will stay on our website so that you can access them any time. You can find them here: <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/composition-month/bite-size-composition.html>

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Books Available

The books listed below/pictured have been donated via Jean Altschuler and are available to any member for a donation to Harps North West. All are in good or new condition, although some contain pencilled notes.

They will be available on a first come first served basis at the Christmas Party on 11th December, but if anyone would like to reserve a title, please contact Chris Pollington on chrispollington@talktalk.net. Any left will be available after the party, again by contacting myself in the first instance to arrange delivery/collection.

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|-----------------------|---|
| Eric Taylor | The AB Guide to Music Theory. Part 1. 1989, reprint 2002 |
| Eric Taylor | Music Theory in Practice. ABRSM Grade 1 2008 |
| John Brimhall | John Brimhall's Theory Notebook. 1969 |
| ABRSM | Music Theory Practice Papers |
| ABRSM | Grade 2. One 2018, another 2019 |
| ABRSM | Harp Specimen Sight-Reading Tests. Grades 1 - 8. 2005, reprint 2018 |
| Katherine Thomas | Scales and Arpeggios for the Non-Pedal Harp for the |
| ABRSM. Grades 1 - 5 | |
| Bernard Andres | Aquatintes. Six pieces breves pour harpe ou harpe celtique |
| Jeanne-Marie Laruelle | Chancons et Dancieries pour harpe celtique |
| Ellis Schuman | The Minstrel Boy. An old Irish Air |



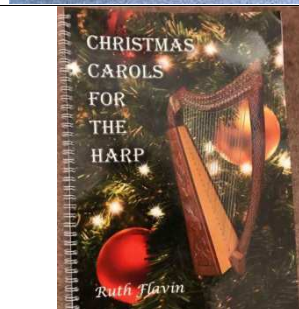


Cathryn Binns on Harp buttons

Thanks for the very informative newsletter. Just wanted to let you know that I received my harp string buttons this morning. They work brilliantly- so easy to use! I bought them from Morley's as per the link you put into the newsletter, and they arrived the next day. £12 for a packet of 12 plus £2.40 postage.

They made putting on a new string really easy in terms of the usual dreaded knot and the supporting spline heading west every time you let go of the knot. I wouldn't be without them now! Have you tried them?

Cathryn xx



New Christmas Carol Book

Ruth Flavin has a new book out of Christmas music, less familiar carols arranged for harp with counter melodies. It includes Noel Nouvelet, Gloucestershire Wassail, Gabriel's Message to name a few. They are selling for £12 each. They are available to order by contacting Ruth by email on pflavin@hotmail.com.

Ruth is a harpist and composer who lives in the borders in Scotland. A few members met her when building their Bohemian harps a couple of summers ago in Dumfriesshire. She has joined in with some HNW events.

HNW PLAYING GROUPS

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 once and sometimes twice each month. Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com. Tutor: Susan Lambert.

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 hazyhead49@gmail.com. Tutor: Mary Dunsford.

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 at Slyne Village Hall, North Lancashire. They meet on Tuesday afternoons twice per month. Contact Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com

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 2020 just before Lockdown One. Members will be informed when this group can restart, probably spring 2022. If you are interested, please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk.

The MANAGEMENT TEAM from 11thSept 2021 – Sept 2022

Gill Salter-Smith	Convenor Membership Secretary - overview Higham Hall Link	convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Mandy Bartlett	Vice Convenor Harp Hire Secretary - overview Events: members' bookings	harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Carol Coldwell		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington		
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
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 membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk



WANTED! Your Harp Society Still Needs You!

If you are a keen harpist committed to enjoying playing with others, we would be delighted to have you join the committee. We're a friendly bunch who just love playing the harp.

We still need a **TREASURER** and /or **TREASURER ELECT**, though Ann Woolley has agreed to stay in the role for now. Our administrator, Alison, deals with the day-to-day bank payments and writes up the cashbook spreadsheet. The Treasurer provides an overview, writing brief reports for committee meetings and pulling together the end of year accounts and claiming gift aid annually. The treasurer (or secretary) reports to the Charity Commission each year. If you think you could help with any of the roles above, please contact Alison on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Payment - Bank details for use when paying 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 <http://paypal.me/HarpsNorthWest>

When paying by PayPal please choose the pay 'friends and family' option where possible to avoid charges.

UK HARP ASSOCIATION PUBLISHED EVENTS for December - www.ukharp.net

- 8.12 at 1pm: 4 Girls 4 Harps at Riverhouse Barn, Surrey: [INFO](#)
 - 8.12 at 12.30pm: Lucy Nolan solo recital at Copt Heath Golf Club: [INFO](#)
 - 9.12 at 6pm: Anne Denholm with the Temple Church choir: [INFO](#)
 - 10.12 at 7.30pm: 4 Girls 4 Harps at Abbotshulme School: [INFO](#)
 - 10.10 at 7pm: Ruth Wall at Tremenhoe Sculpture Gardens: [INFO](#)
 - 11.12 at 5pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols at St Pauls Cathedral: [INFO](#)
 - 11.12 at 1pm: Gwen Mairi Christmas album concert at Wellington Church, Glasgow: [INFO](#)
 - 11.12 at 7.30pm: Latin and African Harp celebration at Violets in London: [INFO](#)
 - 11.12 at 7.30pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Elizabeth Bass) at Dorchester Abbey: [INFO](#)
 - 12.12 at 11.15am: Catrin Finch with Adderbury Ensemble at Holywell Music Room: [INFO](#)
 - 12.12 at 4.30pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Lucy Nolan) at All Hallows Church, Nottingham: [INFO](#)
 - 12.12 at 7.30pm: Forrow Collective (Rachel Newton) at Holywell Music Room: [INFO](#)
 - 15.12 at 6pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Keziah Thomas) at St Matthews Church, London: [INFO](#)
 - 18.12. at 7.30pm: Huw Boucher plays the Gliere Harp Concerto in Esher: [INFO](#)
 - 18.12 at 7pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Thea Maund) at Lincoln Cathedral: [INFO](#)
 - 18.12 at 7pm: Eleanor Turner and friends at Stamford Reform Church: [INFO](#)
 - 19.12 at 6pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Elizabeth Bass) at St Martin's in the Fields: [INFO](#)
 - 22.12 at 4pm: Britten Ceremony of Carols (Anne Denholm) at Winchester Cathedral: [INFO](#)

 - Every Friday at 6pm: Harpy Hour with Olivia Jageurs (some fun Christmas related concerts this month!): [INFO](#)
 - Every Friday at 7.30pm: Fiona Hosford live on facebook: [INFO](#)
- Workshops
- 13.12 at 7pm: Retreat to the Harp online Christmas workshop for adults with Gwen Mairi: [INFO](#)