



NEWSLETTER

December 2022/January 2023

Website: <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/>
 Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

Editor: Frances Quinn,



events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Convenor's message

Hoping you are enjoying playing Christmas music. The harp is perfect for so much Christmas music and there are many arrangements to choose from. Do send us photos and a few words about your harping activities during this festive period.



I think that by the time you read this we'll have enjoyed the HNW Christmas Party and Concert and be looking forward to sharing Christmas Carols with Susan Lambert later in the month. It is a Zoom session so I hope we'll see many of you who don't manage to get to the live sessions.

The new year is just around the corner and with that comes the HNW JaNEWary Challenge. New tunes and golden nuggets of advice from Mary Dunsford will certainly fill the short days in JaNEWary. We'll be sharing exciting plans with you in the new year about the build up to how we shall celebrate HNW's 20th year of existence, 2024. In the meantime Rachel Hair will lead a workshop on Zoom in February 2023 and the next live session will be a full day event in March alongside an Absolute Beginners' Workshop.

There will be no newsletter in January but do please get your write-ups of your Christmas harping activities to Frances (newsletter editor) ready to publish in the February newsletter. Enjoy those festive tunes!
Gill



December and January Events

<p>Sat 17th December 15:00 - 1700</p>  <p>Donations welcome Ref: Carols+ your initials</p>	<p>Christmas Carol Play-along with Susan Lambert</p> <p>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!</p> <p>No need to sign up - all members will be sent a multitude of Christmas Carol lead sheets and the Zoom link before the event.</p>	<p>Zoom</p>
<p>January 2023</p>  <p>Free to all across the globe</p>	<p>And coming in January - the JaNEWary Challenge</p> <p>Mary Dunsford introduces us to new tunes with excellent guidance, given through daily short videos - NOT TO BE MISSED!</p> <p>Available on Facebook, or on request by email to events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p>	<p>Zoom</p>

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HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are GMT. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Sat 17th December 15:00 - 1700 Donations Ref: Carols+ your initials	Christmas Carol Play-along with Susan Lambert No need to sign up - all members will be sent a multitude of Christmas Carol lead sheets and the Zoom link before the event.	Zoom
January 2023 Free to all across the globe	*New* And coming in January - the JaNEWary Challenge Mary Dunsford introduces us to new tunes with excellent guidance, given through daily short videos - NOT TO BE MISSED Available on Facebook, or on request by email to events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Zoom
Sunday 12th February - time to be confirmed Fee £10	*New* A workshop on zoom, Tutor: Rachel Hair To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Whether a recording of the session will be available has yet to be decided.	Zoom
Sunday 12th March Tuning 10:00. 10:30-12:30 Workshop 12:30 Shared lunch 13:30-15:30 playing session Donations welcomed.	*New* FULL DAY LIVE SESSION - Extension to the JaNEWary Challenge. Mary Dunsford teaches 'Stargazing' - Gill Lowden's new tune. Afternoon playing session led by members - preparation for HNW CD recording and 2024 concerts. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Mary will lead a Zoom session later in March to teach Stargazing to an even wider audience. Date to be confirmed. Donations welcomed.	Ambleside Parish Centre, Vicarage Road. Ambleside LA22 9DH
Sunday 12th March Tuning 13:15. Workshop 13:30-16:00. Fee £25	*New* Absolute Beginners' Workshop - Tutor: Mary Dunsford No music experience is necessary. Harps and music stands are provided Harps will be available for hire following the session. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Ambleside Parish Centre, Vicarage Road. Ambleside LA22 9DH

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. (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.

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

Saturday 7th January 13:00	Get Ready for Burns, online workshop day with Karen Marshalsay For elementary to intermediate level clarsach/lever harp players with gut or nylon/carbon fibre etc strings. On zoom, with recordings available as on demand viewing for 6 months afterwards and sheet music sent out in advance. There are three tune workshops, a presentation on Burns and a concert. There's also an optional add on second zoom workshop the following week to consolidate and ask any questions! Information and booking https://www.karenmarshalsay.com/burns See further information and flyer later in the newsletter
Friday 27th to Sunday 29th January 2023	Winter Harp Festival - on line. Tutors: Nadia Birkenstock, Harriet Earis, Kevin le Penne, Una in Flannagain https://www.winterharpfestival.com/?fbclid=IwAR12Fqli29OCHWfRA11kAs-Z99w6lua2E01tFNXOTpoP3RogctGTa2MumnE A few days left of the Early Bird price reduction!
Various dates in December and February	Chris Newman and Máire Ní Chathasaigh This celebrated partnership of "one of the UK's most staggering and influential acoustic guitarists" (fRoots) with "the doyenne of Irish harpers" https://www.ents24.com/uk/tour-dates/maire-ni-chathasaigh-and-chris-newman see flyer at end of newsletter
See also UKHA	UK Harp Association - events list at end of newsletter

NEWS of Recent HNW Events

Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp with tutors Rachel Newton and Shelley Fairplay, 11th to 13th November

Fifteen keen harpists had a fabulous weekend at Higham Hall with Rachel Newton and Shelley Fairplay; even the sun shone. Rachel and Shelley have very different but complementary styles and there was a lovely relaxed, convivial feeling to the course.



In Rachel's classes we were introduced to two of her compositions, which were inspired by tales from a Scottish archive. 'Eggshell Brewery' was a story of how to tell if your baby was a fairy Changeling. If the test that Changelings 'eat a lot and cry a lot' did not distinguish them from normal babies you should distill water elaborately from one eggshell to another. Apparently a Changeling would be so amazed by the process that they would turn immediately into a little old man with a wispy beard and disappear up the chimney! The tunes created a soulful atmosphere and were taught by ear with plenty of encouragement for improvisation (we did also have the dots on a page for those of us who are wedded to reading the music...)

Shelley introduced us to some tuneful sounding warm ups including extracts of the tricky bits from the pieces we were tackling. 'At Kincombe' was inspired by a happy family day out, 'Still Share the Sun' by a mash-up of several pop songs including 'Let it Be' by Paul McCartney. All introduced with energy and brio. The piece written when the course needed to be cancelled in a previous year, 'Come Hale or Higham Water', was played rousing by the whole group with accompaniment from Shelley on her golden electric harp and looper.



The Saturday night Ceilidh was great fun with poems and stories as well as harp playing. The evening ended with Shelley playing two harps at once, plus a backing loop on her electric harp and everyone enthusiastically singing along to 'La Bamba' and foot tapping their way to the bar afterwards.

From **Ann Woolley**

Fifteen of us & two tutors gathered at Higham Hall on a miserable Friday evening in November. Once safely inside all misery disappeared as we were treated to an inspirational, fun, sociable and generally lovely weekend of harp playing. We self divided into two groups - Steady & Superstars (or something like that?!). The small groups meant we all had personal interaction and attention from the tutors and could progress at our own pace.

We had a break on a beautiful Saturday afternoon during which nearly everyone got out to enjoy our stunning surroundings in glorious autumn sunshine with walks, relaxation & at least one person even had a swim in the lake.

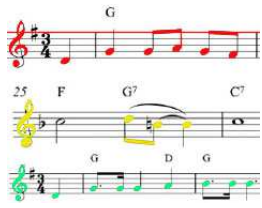
The Saturday evening 'session' when everyone was invited to 'perform', but with no pressure, added to the fun; as did the Sunday lunchtime get together, when each group could hear what the others had been up to, tucked away in their different rooms.

When you add in lots of tasty and plentiful food, non-stop chat and opportunities to make new friends and renew old friendships, it all results in a totally memorable & enjoyable couple of days.

Many thanks to the organisers, tutors and Higham Hall staff for a super time. From **Ruth Wooles**



Christmas Party Practice - tutor: Mary Dunsford, 12th November



Thanks Nicola for this feedback on the Christmas Party Practice - it obviously went well from the great reports from the party in the next section!
"Skelton Village Hall rang to the tunes of our Christmas pieces as we practised diligently. Sounding so lovely in harmony made a great antidote to the November rain outside, and eating a tasty shared lunch together felt just like old times. The afternoon playing session went with a swing after we'd all raised a glass of fizz to Susan, bride to be, and we even managed not to panic when the Absolute Beginners Session people came through to listen to our rendition of Autumn Leaves. A good harping day and a nice warm-up for the Christmas concert. Thank you to Mary for her excellent coaching as always", Nicola H.

Christmas Party - tutor: Mary Dunsford, 3rd December



'Didn't we had a wonderful day of harp yesterday. Twenty two harpists rehearsed for the Christmas concert in the morning and performed to a live audience of 15, plus a Zoom audience of seven, in the afternoon. We were very well fed by the many tasty contributions to the shared lunch.' Gill Salter-Smith



I had a real treat on Saturday, in the audience for the Christmas party in Leasgill. Considering that the venue was changed at the last minute due to heating problems, the organisers did exceptionally well - the venue was cheery, warm(!), and very Christmasy. Harpists came from far and wide, one from Edinburgh, and even further viewed on zoom.

It was fabulous to see so many harps, 23 in all, after a valiant and welcome zoom version in 2020 and last year's restricted and cautious numbers in Braithwaite - both very enjoyable events.

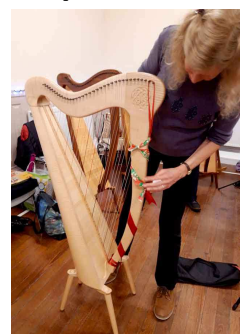


The group pieces included 'In The Snow Where the Deers Are' by Wendy Stewart, 'Down by the Walnut Tree' by Shelley Fairplay, and 'Pachelbel's Kite' by Gill Lowden. There were two Christmas tunes, the arrangement of 'I saw Three Ships' by Susan Lambert and the Ukrainian carol 'Carol of the Bells', (which was definitely better the second time at the faster speed - well done all those flying fingers!). My favourite however, was 'Pachelbel's Kite', a very witty and lively interpretation of the famous canon - now embedded in my brain after all the practices for the video and live event lead by Mary during the epidemic. Thank you Gill!

Red Rose Harps performed 'Kling Glöckchen' a 19th Century German tune, a mixed group played 'The Grenadier and the Lady' a very sweet tune. Very bravely Gill Salter-Smith played 'The Water is Wide' - well done, it sounded lovely. Harps South Lakes played 'Goose Creek' and the very 'Cumbria Deliciosa'.

Clara did a brilliant performance of a Welsh tune on her very sparkly pedal harp, 'The Minstrel's Adieu to his Native Land' with dozens of spectacular harmonics - stunning. Mary explained how this was suggestive of the original Welsh triple harp used by the composer John Thomas.

The prize for best decorated harp was won by Marion Beagan - the photo shows how she worked out how to wind ribbon on the front of the harp without it slipping by hooking it on to the tuning pins - simple and decoratively effective. The prize was presented to Marian by Ian Ludlaw and Lesley a former convenor, also congratulated the group on the progress in the last 20 years.



I have included a photo of the harpy robins - perhaps next year we need a runner up prize? and a prize for best decorated head???? See below!

A great event, let's hope for even more harpists next year. **Thank you Mary and HNW.** Frances



"Such a bright and really put me in the Nicola Hartley



cheerful gathering, the joy of playing together in harmony Christmas spirit"



News from members

Red Rose Harps at Craig Manor Hotel



Not content with just one Christmas party over the weekend. HNW were invited to play for a Christmas dinner hosted by the Phoenix Centre at Craig Manor Hotel on Sunday 4th December. The dinner was enjoyed by around sixty of the residents of almshouses and others who had received meals in the community throughout the pandemic.

Judy, Carol, Kaye, Carolyn and Ann from Red Rose Harps, and honorary Rose, Linda played a selection of carols and Christmas music while coffee was being served at the end of the meal to an appreciative audience. I even got my angel wings out for the occasion!

And a lovely thank you from Simone - *"Thank you for making our lunch special. Absolutely magical"*.

Ann Woolley

More information on other harp activities and a new ensemble

Cheshire Harps - Lauren Scott's New Harp Ensemble in Cheshire

Lauren Scott is starting a new harp ensemble based in Sandbach, Cheshire. Her aim is to 'create a regular meeting place in the Cheshire region for any harpist to play together once a month - for any age of player, standard from grade 2 upwards (or a couple of years playing experience).

More information from <https://www.cheshireharps.com/>

Lauren has also shared a video of the piece she wrote for Susan and Mike's wedding gift from HNW.

View on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9maRh25VfA>

A New Book of Carols from Tamsin Dearnley



Some of you may know that Tamsin has produced a book of Christmas music called The Holly and the Harp. It is a collection of some beautiful carols, with three levels of arrangements. It costs £14 per copy plus £3.50 P&P.

Available from

<https://music.tamsindearnley.co.uk/sheetmusic/?id=holly-and-the-harp-digital-download>



Get Ready for Burns - 7th January

Saturday 7th January 2023
 An online workshop day with leading Scottish harper
KAREN MARSHALSAY

- Initial welcome session
- 3 tune workshops
- Presentation on Robert Burns
- Concert
- All recorded to watch on demand
- Optional follow-up Zoom on 15th January



Get Ready for Burns



- For Elementary / Intermediate lever harp players
- Sheet music PDFs in advance
- Taught by ear
- Recordings available for 6 months

Starts 1pm UK time

Info & booking: www.karenmarshalsay.com/burns

I've just announced an online harp day Get Ready for Burns on Saturday 7th January starting at 1pm and would love it if you could share this with your members or in your newsletter.

It's designed for elementary to intermediate level clarsach/lever harp players with gut or nylon/carbonfibre etc strings.

It's all on zoom, with recordings available as on demand viewing for 6 months afterwards and sheet music sent out in advance. There's three tune workshops, a presentation on Burns and a concert. There's also an optional add on second zoom workshop the following week to consolidate and ask any questions!

All the info and booking is on my website

<https://www.karenmarshalsay.com/burns>.

Best wishes

Karen

CHRIS NEWMAN & MÁIRE NÍ CHATHASAIGH
AUTUMN TOUR 2022 & FEBRUARY 2023 PREVIEW



*** THE IRISH TIMES *** SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY *** THE TIMES *** THE GUARDIAN
 "Brilliant, innovative harping and guitar-playing of astonishing virtuosity and versatility" *** SONGLINES

SEPTEMBER (UK & IRELAND)
 Fri 23 Bridlington, East Yorkshire - Hall at North Bridlington Library
 Sat 24 Withernsea, East Yorkshire - Methodist Church
 Fri 30 Cork Folk Festival - Triskel Christchurch

OCTOBER (USA & UK)
 Thu 13 BOSTON, MA - Boston College
 Fri 14 BREWER, ME - Next Generation Theatre
 Sat 15 CUMBERLAND, RI - Blackstone River Theatre
 Fri 21 - Sun 23 KERHONKSON, NY - Folk Music Society of New York Fall Weekend
 Sat 29 London - Return to London Town Festival

NOVEMBER (UK)
 Sun 6 Grantham, Lincolnshire - Barrowby Memorial Hall
 Fri 11 Winterton, North Lincolnshire - All Saints Church
 Sat 12 Gainsborough, Lincolnshire - Kirton in Lindsey Town Hall
 Sun 13 Brigg, North Lincolnshire - Worlaby Village Hall
 Fri 18 Preston, Lancashire - Garstang Library
 Sat 19 Camforth, Lancashire - Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall
 Sun 20 Leyland, Lancashire - Croston Old School
 Tue 22 Dronfield, Derbyshire - Dronfield Hall Barn

CELTIC CHRISTMAS STRINGS annual tour
 Sun 27 Lancaster - Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells (Low Gill)

DECEMBER (UK)
 Fri 2 Peterborough, Cambridgeshire - Whittlesey Library
 Tue 6 Dartford, Kent - Dartford Folk Club
 Thu 8 Ulverston, Cumbria - Gleaston Village Hall
 Fri 9 Maryport, Cumbria - The Settlement
 Sat 10 Cleator, Cumbria - The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge
 Sun 11 Millom, Cumbria - Kirksanton Village Hall
 Mon 12 Colchester, Essex - Colchester Arts Centre
 Tue 13 St Ives, Cambridgeshire - St Ives Library
 Thu 15 Morpeth, Northumberland - Middleton & Todridge Village Hall
 Fri 16 Morpeth, Northumberland - Felton Village Hall
 Sat 17 Levens, Cumbria - Village Hall
 Sun 18 Alnwick, Northumberland - Whittingham Memorial Institute
 Tue 20 Tumfiff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland - Forglan Hall
 Thu 22 York - Black Swan Folk Club

FEBRUARY 2023
 Wed 8 Nottingham - Bonington Theatre, Arnold
 Thu 16 Blyth, Northumberland - The Lightship
 Sat 25 South Petherton, Somerset - The David Hall
 Sun 26 Plymouth, Devon - Folk on the Moor



Chris' new solo album *Breaking Bach!*
 Old Bridge Music OBMC023

FOLK WALES ***
 THE SCOTSMAN ***
 RNR MAGAZINE ***

For full details, visit
www.maireandchris.com



UKHA events -December Concerts

- 8th at 7.30pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert: New Forest: Info
- 8th at 7.45pm: Alina Bzhezinska, Hip Harp Collective in Warwick: Info
- 9th at 6.30pm: Britten COC with Anne Denholm in London: Info
- 9th at 7.30pm: Furrow Collective with Rachel Newton in Oxford: Info
- 9th at 7.30pm: Ruth Wall and Graham Fitkin in Truro: Info
- 10th at 5pm: Britten COC, Brenda Dor-Groot: London: Info
- 10th at 7.30pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert, Malmesbury:: Info
- 11th at 4pm: Alex Rider with the Corelli Ensemble in Seaford: Info
- 11th at 5.30pm: Britten COC with Sue Rothstein in St Brides, London: Info
- 11th at 7.30pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert, Devon: Info
- 14th at 1pm: Lise Vandermissen recital in Corsham: Info
- 14th at 6.30pm: Britten COC, Keziah Thomas, London: Info
- 14th at 7.30pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert: Stockbridge: Info
- 14th at 7.45: Eleanor Turner and Claire O'Connell, Letchworth: Info :
- 15th at 7.30pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert, Otley: Info
- 15th at 7.30pm: Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman (Irish Harp & Guitar), Middleton: Info
- 16th at 7pm: Britten COC, Imogen Barford in London: Info
- 16th at 7.30pm Harriet Adie Christmastide concert, Peterborough: Info
- 17th at 2pm: Britten COC with Thea Maund in Lincoln: Info
- 17th at 4pm: Deian Rowlands with the Dionysus Ensemble in Bath: Info
- 18th at 11am: Karen Marshalsay wire and Celtic Harp concert, Edinburgh : Info
- 18th at 2pm: Pippa Reid-Foster concert in Stirling: Info
- 18th at 6pm: Harriet Adie Christmastide concert: London: Info
- 21st at 4pm: Britten COC with Anne Denholm. Winchester: Info

Workshops and courses

- 12th at 7pm: Virtual meet & retreat with Elisabeth Plank: Info
- 15th Jan at 7pm: Burns Night music online workshop with Karen Marshalsay:

For Sale

HARP FOR SALE

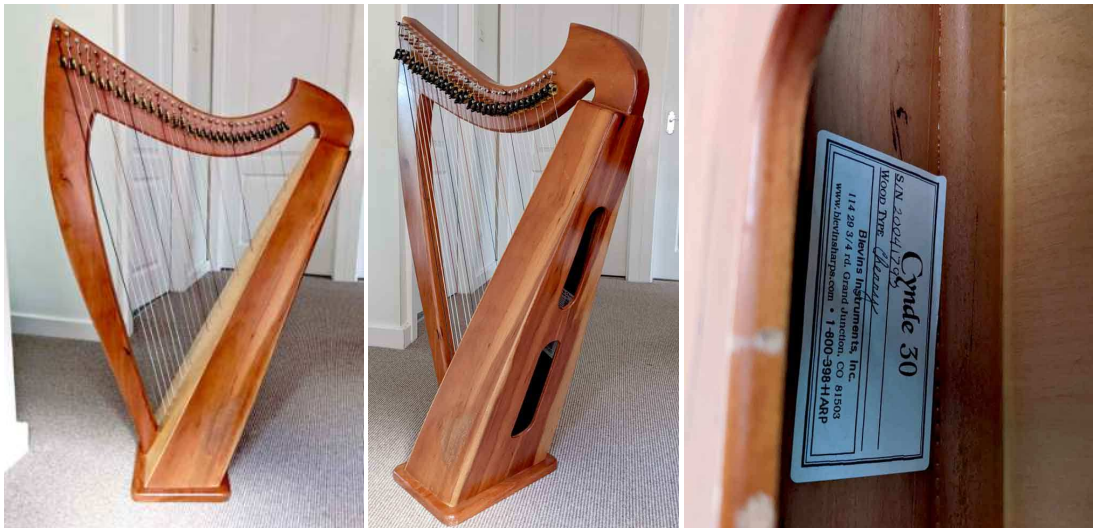
Ruth Wooles is selling a BLEVINS CYNDE 30 harp in cherry, fully levered, 30 strings.

Includes a tuning lever, soft padded case, stand & spare string set. Excellent "first" harp.
£1000

Harp is in Cheshire.

email me on : ruthwooles@hotmail.com

PS I also have a beautiful viola for sale. Ask for details if interested



Harps North West Information

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 Frances on francesmquinn@btinternet.com.

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

The Management Team from 11thSept 2022 – Sept 2023

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	
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Carol Coldwell		
Cathrine Livesey		
Chris Pollington	Venue bookings	
Frances Quinn	Newsletter editor	events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk
Linda Taylor		
Alison Stobbs	HNW Administrator from Jan 2020 Treasurer 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.

Payment - Bank details for use when paying donations for HNW workshops.

★ HNW Bank details ★

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 change the 'paying an invoice or business' option to the 'paying family or friends'.

Cheques and cash transactions are also now charged so we appreciate your payments being made by direct bank transfer. Thank you.