

## NEWSLETTER – FEB. 2022

Website: <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>  
Editor: Frances Quinn, [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)



### A message from our Convenor

No doubt many of you have enjoyed Mary Dunsford's JaNEWary Challenge. It has provided brightness and challenge every day throughout what can be a dull month. What lovely tunes we have enjoyed this year. There have been many very positive comments posted on Facebook and YouTube. The steadier pace this year has clearly been appreciated, as have the two Zoom sessions. The joy of the Challenge is that if you didn't manage to get to the teaching videos, they are there for you on the HNW website at a time to suit you. You do not need to miss out on Mary's supportive teaching. Let's hope we can play these tunes together 'live' before too long. Perhaps at the live Playing Session in Windermere on Sunday 27th February? Before that we have a workshop with Luke Webb, a young Irish harpist, on Sat 12th February 10:00 on Zoom. I am looking forward to finding out more about traditional Irish tunes. As Covid restrictions are eased, HNW continue to advise caution, in line with government advice. **Gill Salter-Smith**



### February Events

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
10:00 – 12

Fee £10  
Ref: LUKE & your initials



#### An Introduction to Irish Traditional Music - Workshop - ZOOM

The Irish Traditional Music Archives (ITMA) in Dublin understands Irish traditional music as a broad term which encompasses oral-tradition song, instrumental music and dance of many kinds and periods. The Irish harping tradition has evolved over its thousand-year history and is experiencing a very exciting period of renaissance. In recent years both the instrument and its music have spread internationally with performers developing and evolving the harping repertoire. In the workshop we will:

- Briefly discuss the vast repertoire in the Irish Traditional Culture.
- Learn an exercise designed to separate and place equal importance on the hands
- Learn two traditional Irish Tunes
- Learn a basic accompaniment and explore the possibilities of maturing and expanding the accompaniments

The workshop is suitable for all levels, beginners, intermediate and advanced.

Tutor: Luke Webb <https://www.lukewebbharpist.com>

And on YouTube too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ>

Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event.

To book contact Mandy on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
10:00 - 12:00  
Tuning from 9:45

Free to members



#### Playing session - bring your favourite piece to play together

Ladyholme Centre, Windermere. LA23 2JA

Here at HNW we have a wealth of fabulous music available to share so here is a chance to come along and play your favourites. On the play list are the JaNEWary challenge pieces from this year and anything from previous years - to name just a few - 'Seal Lullaby', 'Solace', 'Funky Blues', 'Elterwater Hornpipe' anyone? Or perhaps you would fancy playing through some of the Composition Competition pieces? If you are feeling like matching the weather there is always Shelley Fairplay's, 'Come Hail or Higham Water', or Rachel Newton's 'First Hint of Spring'. Also shared free from the EIHf last year was 'Rory Dall's Port', which is great fun to play in parts.

The list could take us many months to play through but if there is anything else you would particularly like, the HNW photocopier will be available on the day. We just ask that you check the composer is happy for us to share the music during the session and we will collect in all parts at the end.

Please let Mandy know if you are planning on coming along on the [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk) address and what you would like to play together so we can send out a playlist nearer the time. Hope to see you there! Don't be put off, we will approach each piece very steadily and play them several times to build confidence. **Ann Woolley**

### Harps North West Festival 2022 - update



The venue and tutors are now confirmed for our Festival, running from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. At The University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside - as it says on their web '*Where Beauty inspires Brilliance*'. <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/student-life/locations/ambleside/>

Tutors: Charlotte Peterson, Lauren Scott, Mary Dunsford, Jean Altshuler.

**Key events:** A concert will be given by Festival tutors on Friday evening.

Absolute Beginners session Saturday am. Youth Workshop on Saturday pm.

Harp servicing by Mark of Teifi Harps will be available.

The programme will be published mid March. Bookings will be taken from mid March. Keep an eye on the website and your emails for updates.

## HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are GMT/UTC to end of March. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 10:00 – 12  Fee £10 Ref: LUKE & your initials	An Introduction to Irish Traditional Music- Workshop Tutor: Luke Webb <a href="https://www.lukewebbharpist.com">https://www.lukewebbharpist.com</a> . And on YouTube too. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ</a> Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event. To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	ZOOM
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 10:00 - 12:00, tuning from 9:30 Free to members	Playing session - bring your favourite piece to play together Session led by members, event leader Ann Woolley To sign up contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Ladyholme Centre, W'mere. LA23 2JA
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March Arrive 10:45, Play 11:00 – 13:00 *times changed Fee £10 ref 12Mar+initials	Skills Workshops - Tutors: Susan Lambert and Mary Dunsford Workshop 1 - Elementary Workshop 2 - Intermediate / Advanced To book contact Mandy <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> ,	Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March Arrive 13:45, Play 14:00-16:30 *times changed Fee £25 ref BEG+initials	Absolute Beginners Workshop - Tutor: Mary Dunsford To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 10:00 to 12  Fee: £10 EIRA +your initials	'From the First Note' - Workshop – Tutor: Eira Lynn Jones 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. <a href="http://www.eiralynnjones.com">www.eiralynnjones.com</a> Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event. To book email Mandy; <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	ZOOM
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April Arrive 13:30, Play 14:00-16:00 Free to members	Workshop. Third piece from our Composer in Residence - Lauren Scott tuning from 1:30 To sign up contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Threlkeld Village Hall CA12 4RY
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July *Save the date!	Harps North West Summer Festival More information soon, booking opening mid March	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
<b>Booking and Paying for an event.</b> 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. *See changes to bank details at the end of the newsletter*		
Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022		
Online video course Discount for HNW - code HARPSOC25	<b>Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott. This is a video course on the traditional hymn arranged by Lauren Scott.</b> 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) <a href="http://www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision">www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision</a>	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 15:30 - 16:30 *This weekend!	FREE WEBINAR with Harpist Shelley Fairplay "Modes Reloaded" Celebration including an Introduction to the 7 Modern Western Modes The JaNEWary Challenge piece, 'Down by the Walnut Tree' is from her 'Modes Reloaded' book, so this is an ideal follow-on.	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March  The Cumbrian Duo - concert at Threlkeld and new CD	<b>Ed Heslam and Jean Altshuler</b> will be playing a mix of old favourites and tunes from their new CD 'Bleckell Murry Neet' in Threlkeld village hall and will be limited to an audience of 60. Tickets available through eventbrite. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cumbrian-duo-tickets-226231814447?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&amp;utm-content=attendeeshare&amp;utm-medium=discovery&amp;utm-source=strongmail&amp;utm-term=listing">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cumbrian-duo-tickets-226231814447?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&amp;utm-content=attendeeshare&amp;utm-medium=discovery&amp;utm-source=strongmail&amp;utm-term=listing</a>  The Cumbrian Duo's new CD of Cumbrian music, Bleckell Murry Neet, can now be ordered on Willowhayne Records <a href="https://willowhaynerecords.com/Product/tabid/36/rvdsfpid/the-cumbrian-duo-bleckell-murry-neet-1759/Default.aspx">https://willowhaynerecords.com/Product/tabid/36/rvdsfpid/the-cumbrian-duo-bleckell-murry-neet-1759/Default.aspx</a>	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Edinburgh International Harp Festival <a href="https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/">https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/</a> *UPDATES: Announcements on artists and tutors begin now and the box office will open for booking all events on the 9 <sup>th</sup> February. This year the festival takes place in George Watson's College, Colington Road, Edinburgh,	
Tuesday April 12 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wales Harp Festival <a href="https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/">https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/</a>	
22 <sup>nd</sup> July to 28 <sup>th</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> World Harp Congress <a href="https://www.whc2022.wales/">https://www.whc2022.wales/</a>	
24 <sup>th</sup> August to 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Glasbury Harp Summer School - online <a href="https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101">https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101</a>	

## COVID-19 Guidance Changes

### HNW guidance to members attending live events:

To help keep members safe during LIVE events please consider the following.

- From 27th January you will not be required to wear a face covering by law. However, the government suggests you continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally met.
- In consideration of others participating in a live HNW event, we suggest you take an LFT test with a negative outcome before attending.
- Please do not attend a live session if you have symptoms or have been in recent contact with persons who have tested positive.

## NEWS of Recent HNW Events

### The JaNEWary Challenge



The major event in January, was, of course, the JaNEWary Challenge led by Mary Dunsford. This year we had two tunes, 'O'Carolans Dream' arranged by Janet Bennett and 'Down by the Walnut Tree' composed by Shelley Fairplay. Two innovations this year were review videos focussing on flow, and 'live' ZOOM sessions at the end of each piece.

As always, Mary's tutoring was excellent, explaining techniques and options for challenging sections. The zoom sessions were well attended and allowed people to ask detailed questions about bits they found tricky. This was clearly appreciated as shown by the comments on Facebook and YouTube, though at least one person seemed as interested in jumpers as in music!

*I can now almost (slowly) reach the 10th stretches, allowing my shoulder to move has been the final helpful tip.*

*One thing that I learned and am concentrating on is to focus on aiming the thumb when placing those large intervals.*

*I like the rest days, allowing me time to work on the flow of the piece and to solidify the previous days' learning.*

*I am absolutely LOVING this teaching! I look forward to it each day!! I have learned so much and a big thank you to Mary for her exceptional teaching style.*

*I have found this arrangement is one that I don't tire of practicing*

*This is not harp related, but I LOVE Mary's sweater combo in the Day 4-5 videos! Those colors look lovely together!*

Thanks for filling in the survey forms - feedback does help shape things for the future. And special thanks to Mary for so many great teaching videos, and to Janet and Shelley for the lovely music. **Frances**

## News from Members

### Sad news from Harps up North

We were all very saddened by the news that Margaret Lyman passed away early this week after a long, brave battle with cancer. She was surrounded at the end in the Carlisle hospice by her husband Tony and family and even her dog. Margaret used to visit that hospice with Pat Willis to entertain people on respite care by playing the harp, so it will have been very familiar to her.

Margaret was a staunch supporter of Harps North West and Harps up North in particular, going back to an early beginners' session in Threlkeld. Harps up North moved to Watermillock Village Hall, and she led our playing sessions after Pat had to step down.



We benefited from her robust musical knowledge, and her gentle, unassuming but assured leadership. We aim to continue the warm welcoming, support so generously provided by Margaret and others before her.

We were delighted that she managed to attend our Christmas session and lunch in December - Margaret is on the left in the picture.

### A snippet - helpful hint for hands

Do you ever need to pause playing the harp for a few days due to cutting fingers when chopping vegetables etc...? It can be a real nuisance. Chef's gloves may be the answer. They are like soft chain mail! They are readily available on the internet. Gill

### Musicians Wanted

Devonshire Arcade owners are inviting applications from musicians to participate in a programme of weekly music in the arcade in Penrith town centre on Friday/Saturdays possibly at lunchtime or early afternoon.

Fees are offered

Link to the advert on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=4290316637736714&set=a.282996861802065>



# 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](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com). Tutor: Susan Lambert.

**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 [hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto:hazeyhead49@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](mailto: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](mailto:coldwellcarol@gmail.com)

## The Management Team from 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 - Sept 2022

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



**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](mailto:administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)

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

### ★ IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS - changes to accounts ★

Our current bank, HSBC, have started to charge a monthly fee for charity accounts and so we have taken the decision to close all but our current account for the time and we will be on the lookout for a free banking account in the future. Watch this space...

Please note that the only account now open has the following details so if you have the Festival account details saved somewhere (I know there are a few of you out there as we need to do the occasional transfer!) this should now be deleted. Cheques and cash transactions are also now charged so we appreciate your payments being made by direct bank transfer. Thank you.

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.