

# NEWSLETTER - JULY 2021

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

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

Editor: Gill Salter-Smith. [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)



## HNW Dates for the Diary 2021 – all times are BST / UTC+1

Government guidelines can change with little notice, so plans can change! You will be informed!

### The Harps North West offer to members

HNW plans to offer 10 monthly live sessions per year (not January and August) plus regular Zoom sessions. We will endeavour to provide recorded versions of the live sessions but this cannot be guaranteed.

Where there is no specific fee stated for an event, HNW welcome donations from members in order to cover costs for tutors, music arranging, the Zoom licence and/or hall-hire (£5 minimum is suggested). Non-members, who wish to join a session, please join Harps North West. (See the website or look below for details.) This covers the first session and entitles you to join all sessions thereafter as a member. Find details of how to make donations at the end of this newsletter.

### Harps North West Annual Membership Fees were due on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

Membership fees: Adult £20; Family £25; Youth £10. See the website for more details.

If your contact details have not changed there is no need to complete another membership form. However do please inform us of any changes to the status of your membership, your contact details, your standing order or your agreement to offer gift aid. Please contact our administrator, Alison on [membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:membership@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

<p><b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>  <b>Open to all members</b>  <b>Donations are welcomed.</b>  <b>No need to sign up</b></p>	<p><b>NEW on ZOOM Composition Competition Playalong</b>                      All members will receive a pdf copy of the HNW Lockdown Compositions before the playing session.                      This Zoom session will be recorded and made available to members.</p>	<p>Zoom                      10:00 - 12:00</p>
<p><b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>  <b>Open to all members</b>  <b>No need to sign up</b></p>	<p><b>NEW on ZOOM Workshop: Tutor - Lauren Scott</b>                      Lauren will lead members through the first and second pieces she has arranged for us, as the HNW Composer in Residence. Hopefully a recording of the session will be available to members who cannot attend.</p>	<p>Zoom                      10:00 - 12:00</p>
<p><b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August</b>  <b>Open to all</b>  <b>Fee £25.</b> Guidance on how to pay at the end of the newsletter   <b>To book</b> contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>LIVE EVENT Absolute Beginners' Session. Tutor: Susan Lambert</b>                      Harps, music stands and sheet music are provided.                      Please bring your own refreshments.                      There will be an opportunity to hire a harp from HNW at the end of the session.                       HNW advises that participants should have had two vaccines and/or have carried out a negative COVID test within the previous 24 hours.</p>	<p>Slyne-with-Hest Church Hall, next to St. Luke's Church. LA2 6JL                      Arrive 10:50                      Playing from 11:00 – 13:30</p>
<p><b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> to Wed 11<sup>th</sup> August</b>                      A few places still available</p>	<p><b>Higham Hall - A 'Weekend' with the Harp. LIVE</b>  <b>Tutors: Jan Bennett and Mary Dunsford</b> <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a></p>	<p>Higham Hall, CA13 9SH</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>Open to all members</b>  <b>Donations welcomed</b></p>	<p><b>Preparation for the HNW Christmas Party - LIVE</b>                      Send your suggestions for pieces to play at the HNW Christmas Party to Carol <a href="mailto:convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk">convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Venue TBC                      Tuning 10:00                      Playing 10:30 - 12:30</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>Open to all members</b></p>	<p><b>HNW Annual General Meeting - Live</b>                      We are always looking for keen harpists to join the committee and help organise the wide-ranging harp events that keep us harpists so happy.                      Please contact our convenor, Carol, if you are interested on <a href="mailto:convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk">convenor@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Venue TBC                      13:30</p>
<p><b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>  <b>Open to all members</b></p>	<p><b>NEW EVENT - Harps for Harmony – Live recording of Pachelbel's Canon</b>  <b>Musical Director: Mary Dunsford.</b>  <b>Recording Manager: Jon Borgia</b>                      More details of how to get involved to follow.</p>	<p>St Bee's Priory, Cumbria. Full Day.</p>
<p><b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>                      Register your interest today!</p>	<p><b>Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. LIVE</b>  <b>Tutors: Ailie Robertson and Wendy Stewart</b> <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a></p>	<p>Higham Hall, CA13 9SH</p>

## A message from our Convenor, Carol Coldwell

Hello everyone,

Another frustrating month on the COVID front! We are itching to give you definite information about our summer/autumn programme, but will have to continue to hold fire until such time as we can confirm. Be assured, we have lots of plans! If the pandemic continues to affect our live meetings, we will continue on Zoom, and even after we resume 'normal' meetings, we will hold Zoom meetings regularly to accommodate our growing numbers of members from far away. You will probably have already noticed that some of our sessions are recorded and can be accessed after the event.

Some regional playing groups are managing to hold live meetings, hurray! We are planning a live beginners session in August. We hope the AGM will take place live, as usual, in September and we have made a date to complete our Harps for Harmony - Pachelbel's Canon project in October!! Please continue to be safe, and keep your fingers crossed for a resumption of normal activities! Hope to see you all soon. **Carol**



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

1. Kulning workshop: Tutor: Mary Dunsford
2. Half day live workshop: **Cumbrian Tunes** Tutor: **Jean Altshuler**
3. Full day live workshop: Tutor: **Rachael Gladwin**
4. Live play through: **Freshwater Tears** Tutor: **Lauren Scott.**

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**AS SOME PLAYING GROUPS ARE PLANNING TO PLAY LIVE, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE GUIDANCE FROM MAKING MUSIC GIVEN BELOW. THE HNW PROTOCOLS FOR PLAYING TOGETHER UNTIL PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS ARE FULLY LIFTED ARE SET OUT AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**

### Making Music guidance.

<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/can-group-get-back-in-person>

**In person non-professional activity can return at step 3 of the road map – so as of 17 May.**

[DCMS updated their guidance](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Organised events guidance for local authorities:](#)

'... the total number of people attending a rehearsal can be more than the social contact limit – but they must always remain in sub-groups within social contact limits.

So, indoors the social contact is 6. If your venue could safely (i.e. with social distancing) allow for 42 people (as an example) to attend, all 42 could attend but they would have to stay in a maximum of 7 sub-groups of 6 people, with no mixing / switching between the sub-groups.

Likewise, outside the social contact limit is 30. If you can safely (i.e. with social distancing) allow for 60 people (as an example) to attend, all 60 could attend but they would have to stay in a maximum of 2 sub-groups of 30 people, with no mixing / switching between the sub-groups.

**Making Music advise that you go further than this both indoors and outdoors and treat everyone as a sub-group of 1 – and don't allow for any mixing. This will mean your rules can be very simple and clear and make the rehearsal much easier to manage.**

The last point also mentions "face coverings in indoor areas where required" see our separate guidance on [face coverings and singing](#) for more information.

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### Other Dates for a Harpist's Diary 2021 (Times are BST / UTC + 1)

On line video course Discount for HNW - code HARPSOC25	<b>Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott.</b> 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, 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>
Next session: Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> July 20:00 - 21:30	<b>Shelley Fairplay's Dynamic Harps Virtual Ensemble.</b> A monthly free offering to all harpists to come together to enjoy our wonderful instrument. First Tuesday of the month for 2021 <a href="https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/">https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/</a> . On Zoom and/or Facebook. Shelley also offers many other online courses.
On-going. Online.	<b>New Orleans Jazz and Pop Harp Festival. Patrice Fisher et al.</b> <a href="http://www.neworleansjazzharp.com">www.neworleansjazzharp.com</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> July 24 <sup>th</sup> July 31 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Ailie Robertson Workshops.</b> <a href="https://www.ailierobertson.com/workshops">https://www.ailierobertson.com/workshops</a> Also look for <b>Tuesday harp tips</b> and <b>Subscription to monthly pieces and teaching videos on Patreon</b> Scottish Slow Airs Cape Breton and Quebecois Times How to Play in a Session
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> July	The Dumfries and Galloway Clarsach Group are kindly inviting HNW members to join them for a <b>Workshop with Eira Lynn Jones</b> with tunes from her lockdown book, <i>Summer Days</i> . There is a limit of 15 for the workshop. Charge £10, under 16s free. Please contact Lyn Walby on <a href="mailto:lyn.walby@uwclub.net">lyn.walby@uwclub.net</a>
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>The Somerset Folk Harp Festival, USA – online with Rachel Hair</b> <a href="https://www.somersettharpfest.com/index.shtml">https://www.somersettharpfest.com/index.shtml</a>
29 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	<b>Mary Dunsford - podcast.</b> 'Excited to have completed and sent off my podcast on Music in Healthcare to Lancaster Health Festival - listen out for it at the end of July! #musicinhealthcare With thanks to OPUS colleagues Nick Cutts, Oli Matthews, Sarah Matthews, Richard Kensington for their contributions. Can't wait for it to air! University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust.'

	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/MaryDMusician/photos/a.1955427101411013/3094018790885166/?type=3">https://www.facebook.com/MaryDMusician/photos/a.1955427101411013/3094018790885166/?type=3</a>
30 <sup>th</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Ibacus Harp Course. Suffolk. Imogen Barford, Charlotte Seale.</b> <a href="http://www.ibacusharpcourse.com">www.ibacusharpcourse.com</a> (Pedal harp)
6 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Festival Interceltique de Lorient</b> – featuring <b>Rachel Hair</b> et al <a href="https://www.brittanytourism.com/matching-what-i-want/culture-and-heritage/brittanys-main-events/festival-interceltique-de-lorient">https://www.brittanytourism.com/matching-what-i-want/culture-and-heritage/brittanys-main-events/festival-interceltique-de-lorient</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Glasbury Arts Online Harp Summer School</b> - featuring <b>Adriano Sangineto, Ailie Robertson, Gwenan Gibbard, Eleri Darkins</b> all imparting their insane wisdom for participants at all levels. <b>Manon Brownings</b> teaching adult beginners in a well-paced, stress free way! <b>Martha Powell</b> is assisting Manon. Bookings close 19 July <a href="http://www.GlasburyArts.co.uk">www.GlasburyArts.co.uk</a>
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Harp on Wight International Festival 2021. Planning to go LIVE – all being well!</b> <a href="https://www.harponwight.co.uk/#">https://www.harponwight.co.uk/#</a>

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## HNW EVENTS COMING UP

### The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition Winners were announced Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

'It's been a real pleasure to listen to so many wonderful harp compositions by members of HNW. Each piece had such character, and it was great to see a diverse range of influences and inspiration behind each of the pieces; from zoom calls to missing seeing family this past year to naughty rabbits! Each piece had its story and that really came across in the music. Congratulations to the winners and a huge "well done" to everyone who took part in this creative competition; a fantastic job by you all. You all have great pieces in this HNW collection which I hope you will be able to perform to each other in person soon.' **Lauren Scott**

'It has been a total joy to hear all the new harp pieces submitted for the HNW Composition Competition, congratulations and thank you to everyone involved! The variety of pieces presented was wonderful and it was so interesting to hear/see the inspiration behind the compositions, which were so clearly conveyed by the music. It is exciting to think that the HNW community now has a new collection of music you can learn together, written by members. To everyone who entered and all involved in creating this competition, thank you for this positive and creative happening in Spring 2021.' **Shelley Fairplay**

#### With special commendation: 'Marmalade, Schokolade' - Maureen O'Sullivan



*Judges' Comments:*

*'This is a piece that really raises a smile! I enjoyed the cheerful feel, the swung quavers, the contrast with straight 8's, the similarities yet differences between the two main themes. The music is carefully written out with dynamics and directions for the performer which is brilliant. I enjoyed the winding down for the "end of the day" feel in the final section at bar 40. When playing this I really felt the connection of this music to the poem. Great!' Shelley Fairplay*

*I like this piece, full of character! Great use of straight quavers, and swung sections, well done!*

**Lauren Scott**

#### Third Place: 'Out Walking with a Butterfly' - Kath Wilson



*Judges' Comments:*

*'A very well shaped composition. The introduction entices us in and the coda lets us float away gently with the butterfly! This for me gave a feeling of a warm dream like summers day with a gentle breeze and the butterfly just fluttering about exploring the world. The syncopation, swooping bass line and cluster chords all create interest in this piece and it is nice to have the time signature changes. The score is very carefully marked up for the performer with clear instructions and plays well on the harp. Congratulations and thank you for sharing.' Shelley Fairplay*

*'You could hear the butterflies! I would have a look and see whether you can "prune" any of the notes in the left hand to make it easier to play? If there is melody in the RH you could sneak in a rest in the LH. What a lovely piece, well done!' Lauren Scott*

#### Second Place: 'Irene's Island' - Gill Lowden



*Judges' Comments:*

*'What a beautiful flowing left hand you chose for this piece Gill! The waves lapping at the boat or this island I wonder? To me this had a slight touch of "Summer" from the Kitchen Garden Suite by Paul Read. I enjoyed the rise and fall of your melodic line with the little added harmony lines at the ends of phrases. At the end, I experienced the piece ending in Aeolian mode to be like the end of the happy shared dream with a slight sense of longing for that island. A well-shaped and pleasant to play tune, with a journey!' Shelley Fairplay*

*'I love this piece, it really captured that sense of sailing away! Lovely shape and structure to the piece, well done!' Lauren Scott*

## First Place 'Sunrise' - Judy Sharps



### Judges' Comments:

*'An extremely well-shaped composition, congratulations! I enjoyed your embellishment of the melody at B and then the contrast at C. The return to the main theme at D with the full chords is also very effective and I had a sense of the sunshine coming right out which was joyful.'*  
**Shelley Fairplay**

*'A beautiful piece with great melody and harmony. I particularly liked the way you varied the accompanying left hand, especially at figure C to get the 2 over 3 pattern between RH and LH.'*  
**Lauren Scott**

### A message from Susan Lambert

'Thank you so much to everyone who took part; you have created something quite wonderful for us to treasure when we reflect on this rather unusual time in lockdown. We can't wait to share with you all of the wonderful pieces and their inspirations. A pdf book will be available to members in time for the Playalong on the Sunday 11th of July. You can hear the winning pieces in our winners announcement video on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/98CbB0kYzwY>

Everyone who took part will receive a manuscript book, pencils and personal feedback from the judges. The four winning pieces will receive a CD and a year's membership for HNW.

We look forward to sharing with you the recordings of all of the fantastic pieces, and look forward to playing them together on the 11th of July. We'd love to keep the creativity going so get your "composition caps" on if you would like to be involved in the next project /competition. 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>

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## Playalong to the HNW Lockdown Compositions – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July on Zoom 10:00

All members will have access to pdf copies of the pieces in advance of this session.

No need to sign up as all members will be sent the link to the Zoom meeting.

Donations are welcomed. Please use references CCPLAYALONG

**If you are one of the 18 composers, and would like to introduce your piece to members and/or lead the playing of your piece, please let Gill know on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)**

Otherwise, we shall play along to the brilliant videos of the pieces that Susan has put together. You can follow the score on each video.

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## **NEW on ZOOM - Workshop: Tutor - Lauren Scott - HNW Composer in Residence** **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July on Zoom 10:00**

Lauren will lead members through the first and second pieces she has arranged for us.

'Black Sheep' and 'The Beatles Medley' with multi-part videos to support ensemble playing on Zoom.

All members will receive a copy of the sheet music before the session and a link to the Zoom meeting so no need to sign up.

Hopefully a recording of the session will be available to members who cannot attend.

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## **LIVE EVENT - Absolute Beginners' Session. Tutor: Susan Lambert** **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

Slyne-with-Hest Church Hall, next to St. Luke's Church. LA2 6JL

**Open to all interested in the harp – encourage your friends to come along**

Arrive 10:50. Playing from 11:00 – 13:30

Harps, music stands and sheet music are provided.

Please bring your own refreshments.

There will be an opportunity to **hire a harp** from Harps North West at the end of the session.

**Fee £25.** Guidance on how to pay at the end of the newsletter

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

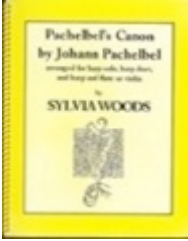


HNW advises that participants should have had two vaccines and/or have carried out a negative COVID test within the previous 24 hours. On arrival participants will have their temperature taken (contactless).

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**HARPS FOR HARMONY 2020-21  
AT LAST – THE DATE IS SET!**



**THE LIVE RECORDING of PACHELBEL'S CANON  
performed by members of HARPS NORTH WEST,  
in St Bees Priory, West Cumbria. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021– all day  
Musical Director: Mary Dunsford  
More details to follow soon.**



As a truly inclusive organisation we aim to involve as many members as possible in this live recording whatever their playing level and experience. Mary has produced a useful sheet of **simple and even simpler accompaniments** that can be played in harmony with the Sylvia Woods' arrangements throughout the whole piece. If you would like a copy of this sheet please contact Gill on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk).

Watch this space for a Zoom session with Mary to support early and intermediate harpists wanting to get involved in this project

**Still plenty of time to practise and get involved!**

**The HNW Harps for Harmony Project – from January 2020**

Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, taught by Mary Dunsford in the HNW JanNEWary Challenge.

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

28<sup>th</sup> March '20, live recording postponed.

1<sup>st</sup> May '20, deadline for harpists' video submissions.

19<sup>th</sup> June Video Launch Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyv1JTuu17o&feature=youtu.be>

196 video clips. 109 harpists from across the globe. 19 young persons (youngest age 5) <https://www.harpnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html>

Please keep on sharing the video with your friends, family and contacts.

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**The next live Harps North West Festival will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 at the University of Cumbria, Ambleside, The Lake District, Cumbria.  
Watch this space for further festival news!**

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**NEWS of recent HNW EVENTS**

**Classics Playalong on Zoom with Susan Lambert – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May**



Twenty members enjoyed playing through a wide range of popular classics with Susan. Mary Dunsford provided us with three ensemble pieces plus the vibrant videos to go with them that enabled a better experience of playing ensemble when on Zoom. We were a few members down compared to our usual group including Carol, our Convener, who had had a nasty accident when walking the dog resulting in a broken ankle that made playing the harp very uncomfortable!! Get better soon Carol!

Kath Wilson enjoyed the session. 'This morning's "Play Along Session to the Classics" with Susan was such fun! The selection of music was excellent, some dreamy and romantic, some cheeky and quirky! I thoroughly enjoyed it. The time flew by and all the planned sheet music was played within the two-hour slot perfectly. Thank you Susan and Harps North West.' **Kath Wilson**

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**LUCY NOLAN WORKSHOP - O mio Babbino - Puccini. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June on Zoom**



**Lucy Nolan**

Over thirty members enjoyed Lucy's workshop, 13 live and 17 via the recording. Thank you, Lucy, for a wonderful afternoon.

I have always loved Puccini so was delighted to think I could attend a harp workshop featuring his wonderful work. From the beginning, Lucy, certainly caught my attention with the 'warm up exercises'! When she asked us to tune into how we were sitting etc., I was amazed, I thought she must be in the room with me as I was not sitting correctly at the harp, so I fixed that ... When she asked us about our shoulders, were they high or low? ...it was a timely reminder that I was holding tension there and



**Giacomo Puccini**

promptly 'dropped them', and then, when she asked if our jaws were clenched with concentration, I was suddenly aware, without realising, that that is what I was doing!!!! And all before we started the session properly. Really good guidance from start to finish, I enjoyed the workshop immensely and hope that Lucy has more classics she can pass onto us. **Elizabeth Wilkinson** (Isle of Arran, Scotland)

Thank you! And warm thanks to Lucy for her arrangement, time, and guidance. Thanks also for the recording. This was great fun to watch, learn, and play. **Rebecca Blakeney** (Vancouver)

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. It is always good to hear/see things from other harpists and to always have an open mind to continue learning. How encouraging and welcoming Lucy is to all the participants and being able to share such good advice - what a delightful afternoon. COVID has created a bigger use of Zoom and opened up so many things - especially being able to participate in other harp communities. I am thankful for that and absolutely delighted that from Hastings, East Sussex I am part of the HNW community. **Sarah-Juliette** (East Sussex)

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Harps Up North - First Live Session!

Harps Up North, our monthly harp playing group, met in person on 3rd June for the first time since late 2020. We had decided to play pieces that were in parts, because the combination of harmonies is what we've missed most during our lockdown Zoom sessions. Even if we (I) did play wrong notes here and there! I wish I could have bottled the little sighs and murmurs as we concluded each piece. The sound of happy harpers! So much more intense than sitting with the harp at the computer. **Sue Millard** (Convenor of Harps Up North)

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### Mandy's poem – plays with Harps South Lakes and is a committee member

#### LOCKDOWN LAMENT

Baggy black track suit bottoms,  
Pallid winter skin, not being able to go to the gym.  
So-called social distancing.  
Eyes downcast,  
You are too close, mask at half-mast.  
Was that a cough or a sniffle?  
Served with a side  
Of government doom.  
But not in a restaurant.  
Hair long and lank,  
Can't get to the bank,

No need to look spruce –  
When no-one is looking  
It's of no use,  
(except on Zoom).

So, thanks Harps North West  
Plucking triumph from gloom,  
Tutors and Leaders,  
Committee and Zoom.  
I've had no rest  
And must practice apace,  
Sure we'll all be grade eight  
When we meet face to face,  
(finally).

**Mandy Bartlett 2021**

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### Message from Eil Bentley

Would just like to say thank you for keeping things going over the past couple of years. Susan's 'Classics', Lucy's 'flying fingers' and Lauren's 'Beatles twiddly bits' have been lovely breaks from lockdown. I did appreciate being able to pick up the YouTube recordings as I was unable to attend a couple of the workshops. Being able to re-visit the tutors was a bonus, as I found that I'd missed quite a bit the first time around. I do hope that the techno at HNW continues. It was almost worth CV19 just to be encouraged to try new ways of doing. Keep up the great work. All the best!

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**Armelle Le Corrie**

### A message from Gill Lowden, plays with Harps South Lakes

This is my first harp teacher, **Armelle Le Corrie**, crowd funding for a concept album. I think she sounds a bit like Kate Bush!

Here is the link to the crowd-funding for the presales:

<https://fr.ulule.com/armelle-lc-concept-album>  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Do you think any HNW members would be interested in supporting her? There's a lovely video of her playing her own arrangement of Westmorland Waltz on YouTube.

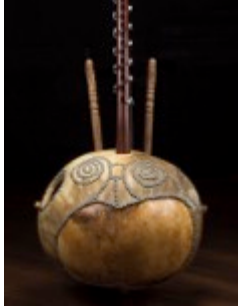
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgHn53i7c3g>

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## NEWS of other HARP EVENTS

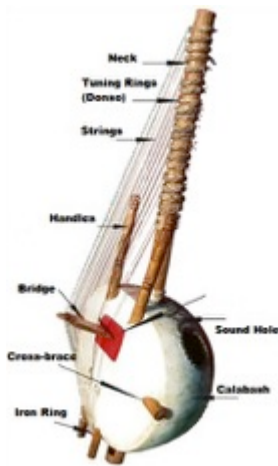
### Rachel Newton played at The Natural History Museum on 27<sup>th</sup> April

A unique live-streamed performance based on the books by Robert Macfarlane and artwork of Jackie Morris 'The Lost Words and Spell Songs'. Funds in aid of the Urban Nature Project. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/spell-songs.html>



### The Lost Words Spell Song concert – double harp experience

Rachel Newton, who has recently done a workshop for HNW, was one of the seven musicians at the fabulous online Spell Song concert put on in aid of the Urban Nature Project. The setting was amazing – under the gaze of Hope the blue whale in the main atrium. As well as Rachel's dramatic black electric harp, Seckou Keita played a Kora. I had never seen one of these before but it is a traditional West African instrument with 22 strings and an intricately carved Calabash gourd soundboard. The strings are stretched over a long hardwood neck and tuned with loops although they also have levers. The sound is part harp, guitar and lute and very distinctive. In fact all of the songs had their own distinct sound, every one a delightful earworm with the musicians taking turns to lead their compositions. The words were inspired by Robert Macfarlane's 'The Lost Words' poems and Jackie Morris painted a beautiful fox, ready to pounce and some sinuous otters while the music was playing. It was a magical experience altogether. In fact I loved it so much I bought the CD! If you missed the concert there are still YouTube videos that can be accessed – just search for the Lost Word Spell Songs. **Ann Woolley**



Ever since I read 'Mountains of the Mind' back in 2003, I have loved everything that nature writer Robert Macfarlane has written. So when he created a beautiful picture book 'The Lost Words' in collaboration with artist Jackie Morris in 2017 I was excited to spend time reading and enjoying the wonderful words and paintings. This was soon followed up by 'The Lost Spells'. The poems in these books cry out for musical settings and it wasn't long before Spell Songs came on the folk scene.

This is a musical collaboration between guitarist Kris Drever, singer and guitarist Karine Polwart, kora player extraordinaire Seckou Keith, harpist Rachel Newton who has led a workshop for HNW, Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, cellist Beth Porter and keyboard player Jim Molyneux. Together they produced a wonderful album of imaginative and sensitive settings of some of the poems from these two books. In concert, Jackie Morris paints as they play and sing. Three times we had tickets for a live performance of Spell songs and each time it's been cancelled. So we were excited to see the live stream from the Natural History Museum in May. It was a wonderful evening of inspiring music word and art, raising money for the Urban Wildlife Fund. Fifty-three thousand people watched the live stream and recording. £105,000 has been raised. During lockdown the musicians met in the lake District to write a follow up album 'Spell Songs Volume two'.

We are very much looking forward to hearing this when it is released and also hoping to finally see them live at Shrewsbury Folk Festival in August, if it goes ahead.

If this project is new to you I highly recommend you get the books and listen to the music. You won't regret it! **Judy Sharps**

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## PLAYING GROUPS

Please contact group leaders to find out how each playing group is proceeding during these unusual times. Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing. The following are contacts for the HNW open playing groups:

**Harps Out West** is based on the west coast, near Gosforth, usually meeting on the Thursday morning before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Contact Helen on [helenbrian@sky.com](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com)

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on [hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)

**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. If you are interested, please contact Gill on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk).

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## The MANAGEMENT TEAM from September 2020

Carol Coldwell	Convenor Harp Hire - overview	<a href="mailto:convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Mandy Bartlett	Events: members' bookings	<a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Susan Lambert	Website & Facebook	<a href="mailto:online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Cathrine Livesey		
Gill Salter-Smith	Vice Convenor Newsletter editor Higham Hall Link Membership Secretary - overview	<a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">higham@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>
Linda Taylor		
Ann Woolley	Secretary Treasurer - overview	
Alison Stobbs – Not 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:harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>

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.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE re Covid-19 restrictions

**HNW members attending 'live' events, where legally acceptable, please adhere to HNW protocols based on government guidance & 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.
6. Bring and use hand sanitiser and antiseptic cleaning wipes.
7. **Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens will probably 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. Inform participants.

**Be aware that government guidelines can change with little notice!    HANDS – FACE -SPACE**