

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2021

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

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

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



A message from our Convenor, Carol Coldwell

Hello everyone, very exciting times ahead we hope, if this Indian (Delta) variant can be kept under control! Our composition competition winners will be announced this month and a booklet containing the pieces should be available in the near future! I'm hoping we can have a live playing session and a presentation. Watch this space!

Also, we will have Lauren Scott's latest pieces coming up soon; again details to be confirmed.

As most of you probably know, I've broken my ankle, so have been a bit limited in things I can do, but this week Red Rose harps (a HNW playing group in North Lancashire) met live and I managed to attend, and it was wonderful to be able to play together again. Fortunately we meet in a lovely new church hall with lots of space and great facilities, which helped (and easy access for me!)

As we've had quite a lot of tutor led sessions this spring, I think it would be lovely to have some playing sessions this summer to revisit all the new music!

Happy harping! **Carol**

Note from the editor. This month's newsletter will be a 'bare-bones' version. The pace of life has picked up and I type this whilst looking out at a beautiful Scottish loch bathed in glorious sunshine. Apologies to those who have sent in contributions. They will be included in next month's full version. It would be good to hear how our playing groups are getting on with their recently-resumed live sessions. **Gill**



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!

HNW live events are resuming. See the advice below from **Making Music** on how non-professional music groups in England are able to resume playing /rehearsing together live and indoors over the coming weeks, until further changes are announced later in June.

HNW will continue to offer sessions on Zoom. We will endeavour to provide recorded versions of the monthly live sessions but this will depend on the willingness of those tutoring or leading the sessions.

Where there is no specific fee stated for an event, HNW welcome donations from members in order to cover costs for tutors, music arranging, Zoom licence and/or hall hire (£5 minimum is suggested). Non-members, who wish to join a session, please join Harps North West. (£20 for adults, to cover membership from June 2021 until the end of June 2022). This covers the first session and entitles you to join all sessions thereafter as a member. The membership form is on the website. Find details of how to make donations at the end of this newsletter.

Harps North West Annual Membership Fees are due on July 1st 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@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Saturday 19th June All members will be sent the Zoom link and the video announcement will be shared via Zoom. For those who do not wish to join the Zoom session, members will also receive a link to the YouTube video.	NEW EVENT. Announcement of the HNW Composition Competition winners and book launch hosted by Susan Lambert. A Watch Party! We will be holding a social zoom session for anyone who would like to come along for a chat and watch the video of the Competition Announcement together on Zoom. This will open at 4.45pm. We will watch the video together when it premieres at 5pm and then people can stay and chat as long as they like afterwards. A Playing Session of the tunes is planned for July.	Zoom from 16:45 (YouTube 17:00)
Sunday 20th June. 1 hour session. All members are welcome but please sign up with Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	NEW EVENT. Workshop - Resident Composer: Lauren Scott Lauren would like to go through her new ensemble version of her medley of Beatles tunes. She is also planning to introduce us to the second piece she has arranged for HNW. We hope to be playing this piece in a live workshop planned for July.	Zoom 10:00- 11:00
Saturday 26th June Please sign up for the live event (necessary as village halls may continue to restrict	TBC - in light of govt guidance FIRST HNW LIVE EVENT FOR A WHILE! Workshop - Tutor: Mary Dunsford	TBC Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DU

numbers) and/or the recording. Contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Donations welcome. Ref: KULNING	Kulning – Swedish Cattle Songs More details below. A recording of this workshop will be available.	Tuning from 10:00 Session 10:30-12:30
Saturday 26th June Fee £25. To book contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	TBC – as above. LIVE EVENT Absolute Beginners’ Session. Tutor: Mary Dunsford Harps, music stands etc are provided. This session will not be recorded. Committee Meeting 13:30 - Live	TBC – as above Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DU Arrive 13:15 Session 13:30-16:30
Sunday 11th July Please sign up for the live session (necessary as village halls may continue to restrict numbers) and/or the recording. Contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Donations welcome. Ref: CCPLAYALONG	NEW LIVE EVENT Composition Competition Playalong Session All members will receive a pdf copy of the HNW Lockdown Compositions before the playing session. This live session will be recorded and made available to members on request.	Venue TBC Tuning from 10:00 Playing form 10:30 - 12:30
Sunday 18th July Please sign up for the live session (necessary in case village halls continue to restrict numbers) and/or the recording. Contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	NEW LIVE EVENT Workshop – Resident composer: Lauren Scott Lauren will lead HNW members through the first and second pieces she has arranged for us. It will be special to be playing these pieces live and ensemble. Hopefully a recording of the session will be available to members who cannot attend. TBC	Venue TBC Tuning from 10:00 Playing from 10:30 - 12:30
Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th August	Higham Hall - A ‘Weekend’ with the Harp. LIVE Tutors: Jan Bennett and Mary Dunsford www.highamhall.com	Higham Hall, CA13 9SH
September. Date TBC	HNW Annual General Meeting 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 convenor@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Venue TBC 13:30
Friday 12th to Sunday 14th November	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp. LIVE Tutors: Ailie Robertson and Wendy Stewart www.highamhall.com	Higham Hall, CA13 9SH
<p>AS SOME PLAYING GROUPS WILL BE CONSIDERING OPERATING LIVE, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE GUIDANCE GIVEN BELOW FROM MAKING MUSIC AND THE HNW PROTOCOLS FOR PLAYING TOGETHER UNTIL PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS ARE FULLY LIFTED. THESE ARE SET OUT AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.</p> <p>PROPOSED WORKSHOPS, (postponed due to the pandemic). We’ll keep you informed of dates for these events once secured.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full day: Harps for Harmony Project live recording of Pachelbel’s Cannon in St Bees Priory, Cumbria. Director: 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. 		

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](#) (18 May) to detail how this can happen.

[The guidance states](#) (section 2.4):

“non-professional activities are permitted indoors and outdoors, within the legal gathering limits.

Outdoors, people can take part in non-professional performing arts activities in a group of up to 30 people. Activities can take place with multiple permitted groups, provided the groups are kept separate throughout the activity, and the event is organised in line with the organised events guidance for local authorities.

Indoors, people can take part in non-professional performing arts activities in a group of up to 6 people, or as a group of 2 households/bubbles. **Activities can take place with multiple permitted groups, provided the groups are kept separate throughout the activity, and the event is organised in line with the organised events guidance for local authorities.**

Activities should be organised to allow for social distancing to be maintained.”

Non-singing:

Inside and outside: no fixed maximum as long as conditions are met - so maximum numbers are dictated by safety.

Making Music guidance - What can my group do?

Non-Singing – outside and inside

You can meet to rehearse with no fixed limit on the numbers, but with some conditions as set out in [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Organised events guidance for local authorities](#):

“Event organisers follow all relevant COVID-secure guidance depending on the type of event, and complete a related risk assessment” (this is DCMS guidance for music groups – see COVID secure rehearsals below) .

“All reasonable action has been taken by the event organiser to mitigate risk to public health.” (this is DCMS guidance for music groups – see COVID secure rehearsals below)

“Organisers and attendees adhere to all legal requirements, including maintaining group sizes permitted by social contact restrictions... and preventing mixing between groups, enforcing social distancing guidelines and mandating face coverings in indoor areas where required.”

It is important to understand what is meant in the last point by “...maintaining group sizes permitted by social contact restrictions... and preventing mixing between groups social contact limits”:

This means that the total number of people attending a rehearsal can be more than the social contact limit – but that 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

Other Dates for a Harpist's Diary 2021 (Times are GMT/UTC + 1)	
On line video course	Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott. This is an online video course on the traditional hymn arranged by Lauren Scott. As well as a masterclass on the piece itself, it covers topics such as Understanding Musical Form, exercises to help with independence of fingers, having a healthy practice routine, creating dynamic range on harp. It will deep dive into Right Hand Harmonics (four different ways to play them!), creating rich voicings in your playing, having flexibility & fluidity with your fingering. This is a multi-level course suitable for intermediate to advanced levels (Grade 4 to post Grade 8) with something for all level of players. The course is here: www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision Discount for HNW members - use the code HARPSOC25
Next session: Tues 1 st July 20:00 - 21:30	Shelley Fairplay's Dynamic Harps Virtual Ensemble. A free offering to all harpists to come together to enjoy our wonderful instrument and distract ourselves from COVID-19. Shelley also offers many other online courses. First Tuesday of the month for 2021 https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/ On Zoom and/or Facebook.
On-going. Online.	New Orleans Jazz and Pop Harp Festival. Patrice Fisher et al. www.neworleansjazzharp.com
18 th – 20 th June Online	Summer Harp Festival. Join acclaimed harp tutors Maeve Gilchrist (Scotland/USA), Michael Rooney (Ireland), Ailie Robertson (Scotland) and Erik Ask-Upmark (Sweden) for a weekend of workshops and concerts. Book here: https://www.ailierobertson.com/summer-harp-festival/summer-harp-festival
28 th June–2 nd July	The Ohio Scottish Arts School (OSAS) – featuring Rachel Hair https://ohioscottishartsschool.com
28 th June – 2 nd July	Common Ground on the Hill – featuring Rachel Hair et al Other dates: 5 th – 9 th July; 12 th – 16 th July https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/class-category/harp
11 th July 24 th July 31 st July	Ailie Robertson Workshops. https://www.ailierobertson.com/workshops Scottish Slow Airs Cape Breton and Quebecois Times How to Play in a Session
Sat 17 th July	The Dumfries and Galloway Clarsach Group are kindly inviting HNW members to join them for a Workshop with Eira Lynn Jones 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 lyn.walby@uwclub.net
22 nd - 25 th July	The Somerset Folk Harp Festival, USA – online with Rachel Hair https://www.somersettharpfest.com/index.shtml
30 th July – 5 th Aug	Ibacus Harp Course. Suffolk. Imogen Barford, Charlotte Seale. www.ibacusharpcourse.com (Pedal harp)
6 th – 15 th Aug	Festival Interceltique de Lorient – featuring Rachel Hair et al https://www.brittanytourism.com/matching-what-i-want/culture-and-heritage/brittanys-main-events/festival-interceltique-de-lorient
22 nd – 26 th Oct	Harp on Wight International Festival 2021. Planning to go LIVE – all being well! https://www.harponwight.co.uk/#

HNW EVENTS COMING UP

The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition - A message from Susan Lambert

The judges, Lauren Scott and Shelley Fairplay have made their decisions!

Announcement of the winners and launch of the HNW book of Lockdown Creations

Saturday 19th June 16:45 on Zoom (YouTube video 17:00)

All members will be sent a Zoom link in advance. You will also receive the YouTube link in case you do not want to join the Zoom chat. Join us for a **Watch Party!** We will be holding a social zoom session for anyone who would like to come along for a chat and watch the video together on Zoom. This will open at 4.45. We will watch the video together when it premieres at 5pm and then people can stay and chat as long as they like afterwards. If you're not able to make it to the premiere don't worry the video will remain available on our YouTube page. So get the popcorn ready and hope to see you at the **Watch Party!**

Live Playalong Session of the HNW Lockdown Creations – Sunday 11th July. 10:00. Venue TBC

Donations are welcomed. Please use references CCPLAYALONG

Thanks so much to everyone who engaged and took part in the **Bite-size Composition Project**, the **Composition Competition** and the **Lockdown Collection**. We received **18 entries for the lockdown collection booklet and/or album**, which we hope to launch at the same time. There is still time to be included in the book/album. If you would like to be involved, please send over a piece of music. Absolutely anything is welcome from a couple of bars to a symphony! If you have an image or a story behind your composition, send that in too. All levels are welcome, whether you are a beginner and just trying your hand at composing for the first time, or a seasoned professional, it will be lovely to have a document of our time in lockdown. This could become an annual project and it will be lovely to see how our music develops. The links to our Bitesize videos and pdfs will stay on our website so you can access them any time, you can find them here:

<https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/composition-month/bite-size-composition.html>



Susan Lambert



Lauren Scott



Shelley Fairplay

NEW LIVE EVENT - Workshop. Tutor: Mary Dunsford **Kulning – The art of the ancient Swedish herding call** **Saturday 26th June - Over Kellet Village Hall. LA6 1DU**

Tuning from 10:00. Session 10:30- 12:30

Please sign up for the live event or the recording by contacting Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk
A recording of the session will be available. Donations are welcomed. Please use KULNING and your name as a reference. Non-members please join HNW.

In this session we will explore a couple of these haunting sounding melodies in Mary's beautiful arrangements for the harp, inspired by Swedish artist Jonna Jinton's stunning Kulning. **Watch an example here:** <https://youtu.be/kon-h5Z5mdY>
The singing technique called 'kulning' is an ancient Swedish herding call, that was used by women a long time ago to call home the cattle (the cows and the goats) back home to the farm in the evenings. It was also used as a form of communication, since the high-pitched sounds can be heard across very great distances.



A farewell song for my cow - Ancient Swedish Herding Call

So, another summer have passed. The green fields are turning yellow, and it's time for my cow Stjärna to go back to the farm during the winter. The farm is located in a village 15 km from here, so I will of course come and visit her.

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/kon-h5Z5mdY)

HARPS FOR HARMONY 2020-21

HNW plans to hold a **live recording** of the piece being performed by HNW members in **St Bees Priory, West Cumbria**, asap.

THIS EVENT WILL HAPPEN – JUST NOT SURE WHEN, but it is getting closer!

<https://www.harpnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html>

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

Still time to practise and get involved.

The Project

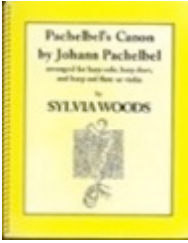
Pachelbel's Canon, arranged by Sylvia Woods, taught by Mary Dunsford in the **2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge**.

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

28th March '20, live recording postponed.

1st May '20, deadline for harpists' video submissions.





19th June 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)



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

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 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com

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

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

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

A **NEW evening playing group** in the **North Lakes**, playing 7pm until 8.45pm at Braithwaite Hall near Keswick on the second Wednesday evening of each summer month 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.

The MANAGEMENT TEAM from September 2020

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

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