

NEWSLETTER – June 2022

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

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



Convenor's Message

The festival is proving to be very popular. Some workshops are fully booked. There are still plenty of tickets available for the **Festival Concert on Friday 29th July 7.30pm**, featuring **Jean Altschuler, Mary Dunsford, Charlotte Petersen and Lauren Scott. Tickets just £10, no charge for accompanied under 18s.**

Please encourage **young harpists** to join Mary Dunsford, Charlotte Petersen and Lauren Scott for a fun-packed Youth session on Saturday 30th July 1pm to 5.30pm.

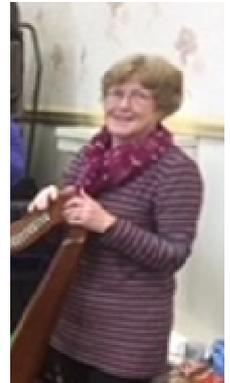
A great opportunity for anyone interested in 'having a go' on the harp is the **Absolute Beginners Session** on Saturday morning with Alice Pell. For more information please contact the festival team on festival@harpnorthwest.org.uk.

The live **Playing Session, Spring into Summer**, at Orton Market Hall in May was enjoyed by seven members who tackled a variety of spring and summer-themed tunes. We videoed ourselves playing Eira Lynn Jones' 'Clouds in a Sunlit Sky' and 'Sunflowers', both from her bright yellow book 'Summer Days', and have sent them to her. The pieces Eira composed during lockdown in her purple book, 'Songs of Hope', are also well worth a look and are very moving, <https://www.eiralynnjones.com/sheet-music-downloads>.

Mary's **Flexible Fingers for Frolicking Fun** on Zoom was great fun and challenging at all levels, a great help towards getting those fingers working at speed and independently.

Coming up in June are two events not to be missed, **Mary's Zoom session, Optimising your Small Harp**, Thurs 9th at 8pm and **Ailie Robertson's** full day workshop on Sunday 26th in Ulverston.

And please don't forget to renew your membership. The new year starts on 1st July. **Happy harping, Gill**



Editor's note: We would love to hear how any harpist/s has/ve been involved in supporting the Jubilee?' Contributions to go into the next newsletter.

credited: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images



June Events

 <p>Thursday 9th June 20:00-21:30 Free to members. Donations welcome Ref: MDJune+your initials</p>	<p>*This Week* Skills Workshop - 'Optimising your Small Harp' Tutor Mary Dunsford. Do you own a smaller harp, with reduced bass notes? Does it sit in the corner gathering dust as it just feels too daunting, or perhaps when you do play it you find yourself dissatisfied? Join Mary for this online session where you rekindle the joy of playing your small harp as you learn how to approach it as an instrument in its own right.</p> <p>To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk and you will be sent the Zoom link and any materials a few days before the event. A recording will be available to members after the event.</p>	<p>Zoom</p>
<p>Sunday 26th June 10:30 to 16:00 Tuning from 10:00 Fee: £30 Ref: Ailie+initials</p>	<p>Ailie Robertson - full day workshop Develop your skills alongside learning some fun and challenging arrangements by highly renowned Scottish harpist, Ailie Robertson. The session is designed to include harpists of all levels. Please sign up by contacting Mandy on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk Bring your own lunch.</p>	<p>Croftlands Community Centre, 44 Central Drive, Ulverston LA12 9JN</p>

Inside the Newsletter

This is a very full newsletter (thanks everyone)- as well as all our regular sections see inside for:

- *HNW Festival update - with extra information on harp servicing, beginners' and youth sessions.....**page 2
- Rhythm guide.....page 4
- Harp for sale.....page 5
- Harp Building Course.....page 5
- *Membership fees due - how to pay and what HNW offer.....**page 6

Harps North West Festival 29th - 31st July 2022 - Latest



Festival almost fully booked!

The University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside is a beautiful part of the Lake District and a wonderful place to enjoy a musical weekend in the summer.

The Festival starts with a concert on Friday night, followed on Saturday and Sunday by a range of workshops and specialist classes from our tutors Jean Altshuler, Mary Dunsford, Lauren Scott and Charlotte Petersen. These range from absolute beginners and youth groups, to Cumbrian music, developing fluidity and playing in ensembles to Gaelic and Scottish tunes.

The Festival party and late night session is on Saturday evening.

Harp related exhibitors and alternative activities (Alexander Technique, Tai Chi and harp care) are scheduled throughout.

Programme and booking form at <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/harps-north-west-festival.html>

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the festival, on behalf of the Festival planning Team - Susan, Ann, Carol, Mandy, Cathrine, Frances, Gill

Update on Harp Servicing at the 2022 HNW Festival and Teifi Harps

To all festival delegates, tutors and HNW members.

Mark Sharp, harp technician, formerly of Teifi harps, will be attending the Harps North West Festival from Friday 29th July to Sunday 31st July.

If you wish to have your harp serviced, worked on or looked over, please arrange this by contacting Mark Sharp directly on sharp61@live.com 07984 246510.

Don't delay - slots usually book up quickly. However, if necessary, Mark is willing to stay on after the festival (Monday 1st Aug) and continue to service harps, based in South Cumbria. As Teifi Harps are sadly no longer functioning as a business, Mark has agreed to work with us in a freelance capacity. Thank you Mark.

Saturday Evening Festival Party:

After a busy day at the harp, let's party! If any playing groups, or individuals, would like to perform a party piece please let us know in advance via festival@harpsnorthwest.org.uk, or talk to Susan who will be coordinating the party during the festival.



ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS' COURSE:

Saturday 30th July Workshop from 09.00 until 11:45, The University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside
Tutor: Alice Pell, FEE £25

Do you know someone who wants to learn to play the harp?
Please encourage your friends and family to have a go.

No previous music knowledge is needed as our experienced tutor will guide you through the delights of playing the harp. Harps and music stands are provided. Light refreshments will be available part way through the session.

To sign up either make an enquiry via festival@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Or complete the booking form available on the Harps North West website <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/onewebmedia/Timetable%20&%20Form%202022.pdf>
Make the payment as instructed and submit the booking form to festival@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

There will be the opportunity to either hire a harp at the end of the session or go on a waiting list. £80 per quarter. £50 deposit plus membership of HNW (Adults - £20. Under 18 - £10)

YOUTH SESSION:

A promotional poster for the HNW Summer Festival 2022 Youth Session. The background is a photograph of young people playing harps. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'Youth harp players... you are invited to our'. Below that, in large, bold, white letters, is 'HNW SUMMER FESTIVAL 2022'. Underneath that, the letters 'H', 'N', and 'W' are shown in large, colorful, stylized fonts (purple, yellow, and red respectively). To the right of these, the words 'YOUTH SESSION' are written in a green, bubbly font. At the bottom, it says 'An afternoon of harping with leaders Mary Dunsford, Lauren Scott and Charlotte Petersen. Session kindly sponsored by a legacy gift from Harps North West member, Christine Cochrane'. In the bottom left corner, it says 'SATURDAY 30 JULY 2022 13.00 - 17.30'. In the bottom right corner, it says 'UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA, AMBLESIDE'.

HNW Dates for the Diary

Times are BST/UTC+1 to end of October. Road/travel information - <https://www.facebook.com/Cumbriaroadwatch/>

Date and cost (if any)	Event details and how to book	Venue
Thursday 9 th June 20:00-21:30 Free to members. Donations welcome Ref: MDJune+your initials	*this week* Skills Workshop - 'Optimising your Small Harp' Tutor Mary Dunsford. Do you own a smaller harp, with reduced bass notes? Does it sit in the corner gathering dust as it just feels too daunting, or perhaps when you do play it you find yourself dissatisfied? Join Mary for this online session where you rekindle the joy of playing your small harp as you learn how to approach it as an instrument in its own right. To sign up please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk and you will be sent the Zoom link and any materials a few days before the event. A recording will be available to members after the event.	Zoom
Sunday 26 th June 10:30 to 16:00 Tuning from 10:00 Fee: £30 Ref: Ailie+your initials	Ailie Robertson - full day workshop Develop your skills alongside learning some fun and challenging arrangements by highly renowned Scottish harpist, Ailie Robertson. The session is designed to include harpists of all levels. Please sign up by contacting Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk Bring your own lunch.	Croftlands Community Centre, 44 Central Drive, Ulverston LA12 9JN
Tuesday 5 th July 20:00 – 21:30 Donations welcome. Ref: Susan+your initials	'Playing in a Session' with Susan Lambert In preparation for the Saturday night party at the HNW Festival, or any other session! All members will be sent the Zoom link and any materials a few days in advance of the session. A recording of the session will be available.	Zoom
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st July	Harps North West Summer Festival *nearly full! check the HNW web page	
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th November 2022	Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton Contact Higham Hall directly. http://highamhall.com/	Higham Hall CA13 9SH

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. ***See changes to bank details at the end of the newsletter***

COVID-19 Guidance Changes

Latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

The government has removed domestic restrictions in England and free tests are now only available to vulnerable groups. There are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19: Get vaccinated, let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside, consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022 (continued on next page)

Several courses in July/Aug, October	Ardival Harps Makers of Historical Harps - Harp Holiday Courses details at https://www.ardival.com/
Friday 17 th June 19:30 to 21:30	Karen Marshalsay - evening concert Shambellie House, New Abbey, Dumfries, so why not have a weekend in sunny Dumfries and Galloway? Booking https://www.shambelliehouse.org/product/scottish-harps-with-karen-marshalsay/
Saturday 18 th June 10:30 to 15:30	D&G Branch of the Clarsach Society: workshop with Karen Marshalsay Kirkcudbright Parish Hall, cost £20. Booking for the workshop to Lyn Walby (lyn.walby@uwclub.net) Payment by cheque, to Clarsach Society, Dumfries & Galloway Branch, Lyn Walby, 37 Boreland Road, Kirkcudbright DG6 4JB, or by bank transfer BACS 832402 00126275.
Sunday 19 th June 15:00 to 17:00	Harp and Flute recital: English Music - folk songs and music Louise Thompson (Harp) & Nicola Hunter (Flute), at Higham Hall. Vaughan Williams – Fantasia on 'Greensleeves' A relaxed recital supporting the Lake District Summer Music Festival (www.ldsm.org.uk) Tickets £15, £12 under 18s http://highamhall.com/course/harp-flute-english-music/
Friday 1 st July 19:30 to 22:00	The Cumbrian Duo - at St. Bees Village Hall Ed and Jean will be playing a selection of old favourites and new pieces - numbers of attendees will be limited. For booking and more information: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cumbrian-duo-tickets-34402725187?aff=ebdssbdestsearch
22 nd July to 28 th July	14th World Harp Congress in Wales https://www.whc2022.wales/
4 th to 6 th August	Harp in the Hebrides course - details at http://www.harp2ewe.net/courses.html
8 th to 10 th August	Bohemian Harp Building Course - see the News from Members section

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022 (continued)

24 th August to 27 th August	Glasbury Harp Summer School - online https://www.glasburyarts.co.uk/component/rseventspro/event/87-virtual-online-harp-summer-school-2021?Itemid=101
30th Sep. to 2nd Oct.	Harp at Blackruthven - a weekend course with Charlotte Petersen, more information Felicity Merchant felicitymerchant@gmail.com 01488 608672
28th Oct to 1st Nov.	Harp on Wight festival , details https://www.harponwight.co.uk/

NEWS of Recent HNw Events

The Far Reaching JaNEwary Challenge!

It is wonderful to share this video showing just how global the Harps North West JanNEwary Challenge has become.
<https://youtu.be/XVKw8GHIokk>

The Story.

Harp North West were approached by a harp teacher, Sharon Johnston of the Huron Harp School in a Ontario, Canada, asking permission to play Funky Blues by Ben Creighton Griffiths with a group of her students. The piece was part of the 2018 JaNEwary Challenge. This was way back in March. A welcome and thoughtful donation was made to HNw and the harpists worked on the piece. The result of their hard work is this video showing 'The Eleveneses' playing Funky Blues. Well done to them all! And a big thank you to Mary Dunsford who does so much for HNw globally through the JaNEwary Challenge.

News from Members



A busy month for Gill and Mandy, Judy and Gill.

On a very wet and stormy evening early in May, Gill and Mandy braved the elements and played for the Ulverston Rotary club. They received a warm reception and great interest was shown in the harps. This extract below, from the Rotary newsletter, shows how much they appreciated the evening. We thank the Rotary Club for their generous donation to Harps North West.

Extract from the Rotary Club newsletter.

Harp Presentation

"TWO local musicians who play Celtic Harps helped make Ulverston Rotary Club's first get-together in a temporary new meeting venue a rousing success. Harpists Gill Salter-Smith and Mandy Bartlett made it an evening to remember despite the blustery wind and rain lashing down on the marquee at Ulverston Golf Club."

"Gill and Mandy put together a programme of tunes interspersed with a talk about the history of harps, and how they work, and the music was a mixture of folk, classical and popular from different eras."

"Among their musical programme was the well known 1945 song Autumn Leaves, arranged by Ailie Robertson, which seemed quite appropriate in view of the inclement weather. However, they were more optimistic later when playing Summer's A Comin', arranged by Wendy Stewart."

Their selection of music included some classical favourites and Celtic tunes including the beautiful melodious Cavatina. Gill explained that it's claimed the harp is the oldest known instrument dating back to Egyptian times. Harps, she said, were also the instrument of the royal court in medieval days and told us that the instrument is now growing in popularity. Mandy explained about the technicalities of playing a harp and told us how they can be made of wood or carbon fibre, while Gill, who only began playing the instrument five years ago, explained how she had actually made one of own harps"

"The memorable evening came to a conclusion with the musical duo playing the Ukranian national anthem and everyone in attendance stood to show their respect and support for the people of Ukraine."

"The vote of thanks on behalf of the club was given by Rotarian Terry Horne who also presented the pair with a cheque to help further the work of the charity."

A week or so later, Gill and Mandy played at a care home in Flookborough for the residents and in particular for Alice's 101st birthday party. What a lovely lady. At that the weekend just gone, Gill, Gill and Judy played in Ulverston Indoor market in support of Ukraine (see next). It has been good to be back playing in these live settings sharing our love of the harp with others.



Musicnotes Rhythm Guide:

Thanks to Eli Bentley for pointing out this rhythm guide based on food that popped up on Facebook. Its from Musicnotes website on their Musicnotes Now blog and as Classic FM says, it is a "splendid chart to help everyone learn the rudiments of rhythm". I like the one for strawberry ice cream.

It uses a lot of references to USA food though - how about developing one using harp phrases, or things more local to us in HNw? Say, place names? For example, 'thumbs up' for 2 crotchets, or 'Cockermouth' for 2 quavers and a crotchets? Email in your suggestions.

The downloadable pdf file can be found at <https://www.musicnotes.com/now/wp-content/uploads/Musicnotes-Food-Rhythm-Guide.pdf>



Playing For Ukraine - Gill, Gill and Judy

Last Saturday 28th May, three harpists went to Ulverston Indoor Market, and played for a couple of hours in support of funding for the Disasters Emergency Committee for Ukraine. It was the brainchild of Gill Salter Smith our brilliant HNW co-ordinator . Seeing an empty stall at the market, she contacted the organiser to see if we could use it , if it wasn't being rented out. Gill , Gill Lowden, and I arrived there around 11.00am to set up. Gill SS had got all the flags , balloons, and crucially slips with the 'Just Giving Page' for people to take away to donate, as we didn't have a licence from the council to use a collecting bucket . The photo shows what it looked like. It certainly showed why we were playing!

What a lovely morning we had! Playing pieces from our various repertoires, that Gill had put together. It was all such fun. People stood and listened and clapped us. Some asked about the harps. One 'mature lady' came and had a short play on my harp, as she'd always wanted to try a harp! ' I'm going back to tell my husband I've played a harp ' she said as her feet skipped across the floor to get home to tell him! Two cyclists stopped for quite a while. They'd cycled from Barrow. They took off leaflets about HNW, so maybe we'll see them at the beginners workshop at the Harp Festival in Ambleside!

At the end of the morning, we packed up and then sampled the delicious bacon butties cooked in the little café attached to the market. Everyone was SO welcoming and friendly. We hope to do it again in August, by which time we might have a collecting bucket, as well as the 'just giving page'!

Who knows, we might play the Ukrainian National Anthem perfectly by then, but the odd wrong note was of no consequence last Saturday!! Judy Taylor

Build your own Bohemian Harp in Moniaive, Dumfriesshire - 8th to 10th August 3 day course

Lots of HNW members have. They all love their Bohemian harps or "Boho" harps, 33 strings and 26 strings.



*'Hi All! I'm very excited to share with you that I've signed up for a **Bohemian harp building course** led by Christoph of Klangwerkstatt and Wendy Stewart, in Moniaive, Dumfriesshire. It's from 8th August and will run for 3 or 4 days - final details still to be confirmed. They have run it every year since 2013, so very well established.*

There are possibly 3 spaces left on the course - several interested - so if it's for you, I would get in there quick! The organiser has given me permission to share his email address if you would like to contact him to express an interest. It's Alan James, alan@snademill.co.uk. I saw some of these harps at a retreat in Gardenstown earlier this year. They are beautiful, light weight and have a surprisingly big sound! Each one was different, reflecting the individuality of the owner. It would be great to see some of you there!' Anne Philbow, on Facebook

Subject: Harps Out West playing session at Egremont Farmers' Market

Last Friday was HOW regular slot at Egremont Farmers' Market. Six of us played a selection of music for about an hour, under Susan Lambert's guiding hand (our tutor). As is usual in these days we played the Ukraine National Anthem. As we were playing , apparently, a couple of ladies arrived at the door to the market. They abruptly stopped when they heard the music, which produced tears in their eyes. One was a friend of Janet Kennedy (our former administrator) , the other was a Ukrainian refugee, living in West Cumbria. As they spoke to Janet, they had tears rolling down their cheeks. We did too when we heard about what had happened. Judy Taylor



Harp for Sale: Pilgrim Progress (Paul), location Cumbria

'Paul' is a lever harp, has 41 strings and a beautiful sound. He is about 15 kg heavy and will come with his original padded jacket. Serviced by Pilgrim harps in 2017. £3688 (open to offers). my details: Jae-Llane Ditchburn, Workington, Cumbria, khojlyn@yahoo.com , 07594493688

Harps North West Information

*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 membership forms.

Please make the payment, as set out on the membership form and send an updated membership form to our administrator, Alison on membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

The Harps North West offer to members:

- The JaNEWary Challenge - all free of charge (FOC)
- Live Playing Sessions and Skills workshops – FOC
- HNW Christmas Party preparation session in September, a practice in November and the rehearsal and party in December – FOC
- Guest and HNW tutor-led workshops arranged throughout the year
- Between six and ten Zoom sessions per year
- The Summer Festival every two years with at least four professional tutors
- Support for the 'Weekend with the Harp' course at Higham Hall, at least once, sometimes twice, per year
- The opportunity to join a local Playing Group
- The opportunity to play with others at public events
- Access to Harp Hire and the organisation of Beginners Courses.

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 hazeyhead49@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 2021 – Sept 2022

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



WANTED! Your Harp Society Still Needs You!

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

We still need a TREASURER and/or TREASURER ELECT, though Ann Woolley has agreed to stay in the role for now. Our administrator, Alison, deals with the day-to-day bank payments and writes up the cashbook spreadsheet.

The Treasurer provides an overview, writing brief reports for committee meetings and pulling together the end of year accounts and claiming gift aid annually. The treasurer (or secretary) reports to the Charity Commission each year. If you think you could help with any of the roles above, please contact Alison

on administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

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

IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS - changes to accounts

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.