

NEWSLETTER – March 2022

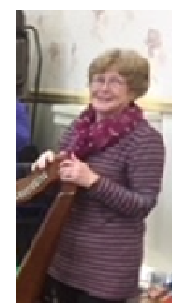
Website: <https://harpsnorthwest.org.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

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



A message from our Convenor

In these uncertain times, I hope that you are able to enjoy your harp and gain solace from it. Harpists Janice Eckworth and Rebecca Root shared their arrangements of Ukrainian music on FB alongside their encouragement to harpists to donate to a relevant cause. I have asked Frances to attach a copy of the Ukrainian folk tune, 'Why Didn't You Come' (an apt title?) and the **Ukrainian National Anthem** to this newsletter message. If anyone has access to Ukrainian tunes, please let me know so that we can play them together in a spirit of support and harmony. Look out for HNW's 'Play for Ukraine - Harps for Harmony' Zoom session next month (date and time to be confirmed). I have sent our collective thoughts and offer of support to three Ukrainian harpists - Zoya Magomedova, Victoria Smetana, Alina Bzhezinska Lazorkina. HNW has had another busy month. Luke Webb introduced us to two delightful Irish tunes via Zoom. I have a feeling that we'll be seeing more of Luke in the future. We had a live playing session in Windermere and enjoyed sharing some of the wealth of tunes to which HNW is privileged to have access. The festival planning team have been very busy and we are hoping to have the programme finalised soon so that we can open booking this month. In March our tutors, Mary Dunsford and Susan Lambert, will be leading live skills workshops near Lancaster, one for elementary harpists and the other for intermediate/advanced harpists. We have a beginners' session on the same day. Later in the month we look forward to a Zoom workshop with Eira Lynn Jones. Lots of harp activity to enjoy. Best wishes. **Gill Salter-Smith**




Download 'Carol of the Bells' and donate to Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund: from Ailie Robertson

In light of this week's horrific news from Ukraine, I am offering a free download of my lever harp arrangement of the Ukrainian tune 'Carol of the Bells'. In return, please use the button on the page to donate - all donations will be sent to

Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund. Every donation, large and small, will make a difference.

<https://www.ailierobertson.com/harp-tips-blog/2022/2/27/download-carol-of-the-bells-and-donate-to-save-the-childrens-ukraine-crisis-relief-fund>

March Events

Saturday 12 th March Arrive 10:45, Play 11:00 – 13:00 *times changed Fee £10 ref 12Mar+initials	Skills Workshops - Tutors: Susan Lambert and Mary Dunsford Finger Agility! In a HNW first, we will be holding two concurrent skills sessions to cover the same skill, but at different confidence levels. We will be focusing on finger agility, building your skills in fluidity of motion over a range of techniques. Suitable for all players, with something for everyone! Workshop 1 - Elementary Workshop 2 - Intermediate / Advanced To book contact Mandy events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG
Saturday 12 th March Arrive 13:45, Play 14:00-16:30 Fee £25 ref BEG+initials	Absolute Beginners Workshop - Tutor: Mary Dunsford *FULLY BOOKED! Next workshop will be in July To book contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG
 Sunday 27 th 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. www.eiralynnjones.com Those signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event. To book email Mandy; events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	ZOOM

Harps North West Festival 2022 - update



Festival booking opening later this month - Keep an eye on the website and your emails for updates. The venue and tutors are now confirmed for our Festival, running from Friday 29th to Sunday 31st 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 Altschuler.

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.

Alternative activities: Tai Chi, Alexander Technique, Harp care

The programme will be published mid March. Bookings will be taken from mid March.

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 th 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 events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG
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Sunday 24 th 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 events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Threlkeld Village Hall CA12 4RY
Sunday 26 th June 10:30 to 16:00 Tuning from 10:00	*NEW! Ailie Robertson full day workshop more details to follow	Croftlands Community Centre, 44 Central Drive, Ulverston LA12 9JN
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st July *Save the date!	Harps North West Summer Festival More information soon, booking opening mid March	
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th November 2022	Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton	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 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***

*UPDATED: COVID-19 Guidance Changes

Latest Covid guidance from the Government: The government is removing remaining domestic restrictions in England. 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
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and stay at home if positive.

Other Dates/Activities for a Harpist's Diary 2022

Sunday 20 th March online	Spring Strings 2022 - Transpennine Harps online Festival with Lucy Nolan and Tamsin Dearnley https://transpennineharps.org/spring-strings-2022
Friday 8 th April to Monday 11 th April	Edinburgh International Harp Festival https://www.harpfestival.co.uk/ *UPDATES: Announcements on artists and tutors begin now and the box office is now open. This year the festival takes place in George Watson's College, Colington Road, Edinburgh,
Sunday 3 rd April 2:30 - 4:30 	Lily Neill, Harpist - at The Heron Theatre, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7AS <i>'Any pre-conceptions about harp music dissolve into her melting pot of dynamic compositions and exquisite arrangements of music. Her repertoire encompasses tangos, ragtime, harp, harpsichord and lute classics, as well as traditional music from Ireland and northern Europe alongside her own compositions. She is rightly recognized as one of the country's most talented, eclectic and innovative harpists. Few musicians - let alone harpists! - perform such a varied programme.- the Heron Theatre'</i> https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/venueplan/PXldUbTFHCxz
Tuesday April 12 th to Wednesday April 13 th	Wales Harp Festival https://www.walesharpfestival.co.uk/
Saturday P th June 10:30 to 3:30	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.
Friday 17 th June	Karen Marshalsay - evening concert Shambelie House, New Abbey, Dumfries, so why not have a weekend in sunny Dumfries and Galloway?

22 nd July to 28 th July	14th World Harp Congress https://www.whc2022.wales/
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

Ailie Robertson Premieres and Performances

"After a long period of cancellations and postponements, I am so excited to have a range of exciting in-person premieres and performances coming up over the next few months. It would be wonderful to see you at any of these!" **Ailie**

Mar 1-5 - Residency at Hospitalfield Arts, followed by Premiere of new work by Senary - Commissioned by Chamber Music Scotland
 Mar 7-21 - Composer for Defrosting project - Svalbard, Norway
 Mar 23rd - Premiere of 'The Living Mountain' - Harp and String Quartet - Music in Peebles
 Mar 24th - Premiere of Song Cycle based on poems of Marion Angus - McEwan Commission - Glasgow University
May 17-30 - Tour with Scottish Ensemble featuring new premiere of new commission and harp performance

NEWS of Recent HNW Events



Luke Webb workshop: An Introduction to Irish Traditional Music

We have had great feedback about the workshop on the 12th February - thank you Luke, it was clearly enjoyed by all. Thanks also to all who commented, and especially to Eilean for a wonderfully detailed review - I think it covers everything very well.

'I had a very enjoyable workshop with HNW's new tutor, Irish Harper, Luke Webb, via ZOOM. I've so much wanted, for years, to get to grips with the twinkling rhythms of Irish music. Luke's fingers certainly twinkled, he demonstrated, with relaxed dexterity, the music he had planned for us. Ooooh! Those simple, repetitive notes and phrases, how effective and expert I will sound if I manage to succeed.

We started with exercises to develop independence between left and right hands while co-ordinating left and right brain. A bass line in Ostinato Pattern began with 4th A & 3rd A & Splat & 3rd A. The splat was more than a damp, it was a percussive whack on the lower strings giving a timed beat. Very effective. Then the right hand came in with, at first, one note to the bar, increasing slowly up to eight notes to the bar. This was surprisingly tricky as the right hand notes moved position around the 'splat'. We went through many variations to loosen up our brains.

On to the music.

The first was the lively 'The Munster Polka'. This was fast, crotchets set to 120. However, Luke broke the piece down into manageable repeats. Taken slowly, not too bad and really enjoyable.

At this point I had to leave the session, so I was very pleased that HNW had recorded it and I was able to pick it up later. (I've watched it 3 times, each time picking up more) Back in the ZOOM - on to 'Frank's Reel'. Lots more dots per inch. Again Luke's breakdown made it easier than it first looked and loads of fun.

Thanks again to Luke for a very enjoyable morning and I do hope that we will have him back for more workshops'. **Eilean Bentley**

'This was SUCH a fantastic session! I learnt such a lot ...and was inspired to continue practising after the end of the workshop! Lets book him for another one later in the year! ...and for the next Harp Festival!' - Judy Taylor

'Yes, loved it! He's so smiley too! Helped with those tricky exercises, ha ha!' Kath Wilson

'Thanks Luke, a really interesting fun morning. Loved the warm up (once I can get my head round it - gosh talk about waking up the brain!) and the two pieces, particularly the Munster Polka. Lots to think about and practice and some helpful advice about speeding up (my fingers are so slow)'. Jane Michael

'Thanks for organising the workshop yesterday. Luke was delightful and it was great to find as an elementary player that his teaching was slow and clear enough for me to get the hang of the easier piece, The Munster Polka (albeit slowly). I really enjoyed his "brain teaser" ostinato exercise too, again simple enough at the start to have a go at it. Frank's Reel was more complex, but interesting to learn about off-beat rhythms. A lively feel good factor to the whole workshop. It was a help having the music a few days in advance, and the fingering already printed - made the Polka more manageable on the day, and I wasn't madly scrabbling to write in the fingering as he was teaching.' Marian Beagan

'I have just viewed the replay from Luke's workshop. I didn't attend the live version because of my time zone, so I really appreciate having the recording.

Did I ever enjoy it! Luke's presentation was enjoyable! The pace was great and I very much enjoyed his discussion of left hand options. I don't have much Irish music repertoire, so the tunes were interesting and stretched my harping in a couple of directions that felt refreshing. It was quite timely for me to have these happy, jaunty pieces, as I have just lost a dear friend who it happens was also be a harpist. This workshop was a much-needed boost.' Phyllis Duxbury (Canada)

Sunday 27th February - HNW Playing Session



Nine members met at the Ladyholme Hall in Windermere on Sunday for a playing session. This was a new venue for us and a lovely light, spacious hall although we had to scabble round for £1 coins to feed the heating meters! We enjoyed playing tunes from this and previous years' JaNEWary Challenges plus Shelly Fairplay's beautiful lullaby 'Seren Fach', which the HNW Committee sent out to the playing groups during lockdown. Gill also found us a Ukranian folk song to play to show our solidarity with the people there. We all enjoyed being back playing in the same room and catching up with old friends. **Ann Woolley**

News from Members

Concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall - Lauren Scott, playing alongside the LPO's principal harpist

On Thursday, 10th February, I attended an amazing concert at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. The conductor was a lively, dynamic Russian young man called Maxim Emelyanychev, described as 'a man on springs!' He was outstanding!

An added bonus to the magic of the orchestra's music was: to see our beloved Lauren Scott, playing alongside the LPO's principal harpist, Elizabeth McNulty!! I was so thrilled to see her, playing her part in Debussy's 'Prelude a L'apres midi d'un faune' absolutely beautifully! Intoxicating!

The second piece was Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.2, led by a baby faced, but brilliant, Russian violinist, Aylen Pritchen. Apparently it was his debut performance with LPO in Liverpool, even though he and the Russian conductor, Maxim Emelyanychev, regularly perform together. He was incredible! The talented violinist appeared to enjoy the enthusiastic reaction from his audience and returned to play an impromptu solo with gusto! This entertained all, including the orchestral players!

After the interval, it was Beethoven's Symphony no.7. Another impressive sound! A fitting grand finale to a fantastic evening of amazing music!

Kath Wilson

Harps out West at Egremont Farmers' Market



Last Friday, the third Friday in February, I went to Egremont Farmers' Market, in the hope that Harps Out West would be playing. I had heard a rumour that they had been experimenting with being wired for sound and there they were, on the stage with speakers and microphones, and I could hear them at the back of the hall, over the general hubbub of an indoor market.

It was so good to see and hear them again after such a long break, and, judging by the applause, I wasn't the only one appreciating their music. **Janet Kennedy**

The Cumbria Duo - Ed Heslam (guitar) and Jean Altshuler(harp) in concert at Threlkeld Village Hall

I spotted five HNW members among the modest-sized and well-spaced audience for Jean and Ed's concert so it was a sociable occasion as well as a real musical treat. Ed and Jean played a mix of old favourites and tunes from their new CD '*Bleckell Murry Neet*'. The harmony of the two instruments, the foot tapping rhythms, the perfect timing together with tales about the source of each local piece made for a most enjoyable and uplifting evening. **Gill Salter-Smith**

The Cumbrian Duo's new CD of Cumbrian music, '*Bleckell Murry Neet*', can now be ordered on Willowhayne Records <https://willowhaynerecords.com/Product/tabid/36/rvdsfpid/the-cumbrian-duo-bleckell-murry-neet-1759/Default.aspx>

Harps North West Information

HNW Playing Groups

Participating in a playing group adds to the fun of playing. The following are contacts for the HNW open playing groups:

Harps Out West is based on the west coast, near Gosforth, usually meeting on the Thursday morning once and sometimes twice each month. Contact Helen on helenbrian@sky.com Tutor: Susan Lambert.

Harps South Lakes are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on 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 11th Sept 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 ★

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.