

NEWSLETTER – May 2022

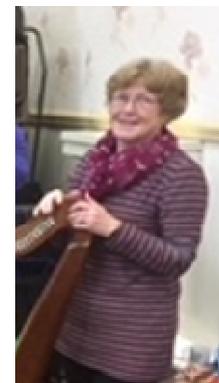
Website: <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpsNorthWest>

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



A message from our Convenor

What a busy time we've had in April! Bookings for the summer festival are coming in steadily and workshops are filling up quickly. I found The Play for Ukraine evening on Zoom earlier in April an emotional occasion. What a wonderful collection of Ukrainian music. The recording will soon be available. The Lauren Scott live workshop was fun and challenging. What a beautiful piece of music the ten harpists produced in such a short time. A huge thank you to Lauren for her contribution as our Composer in Residence over the past two years. As a result we have three exciting ensemble pieces, Black Sheep, Beatles Medley and Carousel of Dreams. Hopefully we will revisit these pieces before too long and there is a part for every level of player. May will be equally busy with two new events coming up. The 'Spring into Summer' Playing Session on Sat 21st May at Orton is a chance to share favourite pieces with a seasonal theme. Will the amazing displays of bluebells around the countryside inspire you? Later in the month Mary will lead an evening Skills Session on Zoom - Finger Agility. In June Mary is back on Zoom helping us to get the most out of our lap harps. So much to look forward to. Enjoy your harps. **Gill**



May Events

	<p>★NEW EVENT★ Live Playing Session - 'Spring into Summer'</p> <p>A chance to bring along, share and play your favourite pieces with a seasonal theme.</p> <p>Please let Mandy know if you are coming on events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</p>	<p>Orton Market Hall, CA10 3RX</p>
<p>Saturday 21st May Tuning from 10:00. Playing 10:30-12:30. Free to members.</p>	<p>★NEW EVENT★ Skills Workshop - 'Flexible Fingers for Frolicking Fun!' - Tutor Mary Dunsford.</p> <p>Mary returns with a bang with this fun and informative session designed to follow on from Susan's fabulous skills workshop back in March. Keep those fingers working for, and with, you! All members 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. Donations welcome - details of how to make a donation are at the end of the newsletter. Please reference MDJune + your initials.</p>	<p>Zoom event</p>
	<p>Thursday 26th May, 20:00-21.30 Free to members.</p>	

Harps North West Festival 2022 - update

Festival booking now open!

Bookings are open for our Harps North West Festival, running from Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July 2022.

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 the Friday night, and is 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 (possibly into Sunday?!). Harp related exhibitors and alternative activities (Alexander Technique, Tai Chi and harp care) are scheduled throughout.

If you haven't already found the programme and booking form, these are on the HNW web at <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/harps-north-west-festival.html>



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
Saturday 21 st May Tuning from 10:00. Playing 10:30-12:30. Free to members.	*NEW EVENT* Live Playing Session - 'Spring into Summer' A chance to share and play your favourite pieces with a seasonal theme. Please let Mandy know If you are coming on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Orton Market Hall, CA10 3RX
Thursday 26 th May, 20:00-21:30 Free to members. Donations welcome Ref: MDJune+your initials	*NEW EVENT* Skills Workshop - 'Flexible Fingers for Frolicking Fun!' Tutor Mary Dunsford. Mary returns with a bang with this fun and informative session designed to follow on from Susan's fabulous skills workshop back in March. Keep those fingers working for, and with, you! All members 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. Please reference MDJune + your initials.	Zoom
Thursday 6 th June 20:00-21:30 Free to members. Donations welcome Ref: MDJune+your initials	*NEW EVENT* 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. All members 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+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. Reference: Susan+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 *Booking open! 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 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***

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)

6 th -8 th May	The Flute and Harp Duo - A course looking at the repertoire for Flute and Harp - with Eira Lynn Jones and Lisa Nelsen details at https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3188
8 th May	Sunday 8 th May RNCM Young Harps - with Lauren Scott. If you know any young harpists in the North West, please do let them know about this series of friendly one off workshops. They are run by different presenters each time, and I'll be presenting this one in May. Details https://www.rncm.ac.uk/engage/young-projects/rncm-young-harps/
Several courses in May, 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 Shambelie 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/

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

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.
22 nd July to 28 th July	14th World Harp Congress in Wales https://www.whc2022.wales/
4th to 6th August	Harp in the Hebrides course - details at http://www.harp2ewe.net/courses.html
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.	Harps 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

Play for Ukraine



In the spirit of 'Harps for Harmony', Harps North West came together to Play for Ukraine via Zoom on Tuesday 12th April. The primary purpose was to show our support for the Ukrainian people through playing and sharing their wonderful music and to encourage donations to charities supporting the Ukrainian people.

Our play list included 10 Ukrainian tunes or highly relevant pieces that have been arranged and shared by fellow harpists. We had many guest harpists joining us, some leading their own arrangements. Thank you to the arrangers for sharing this music with us and to those who led other pieces.

The comments we have received show how well received and emotional the session was.

"A huge thanks to everyone involved for the lovely event last night - it was very moving and I was so glad and honoured to be able to share a piece with everyone!"

In case anyone is interested, here are some links to other versions of the piece 'Verbova doshchechka' (I hope I spelt that right - there seem to be two transliterations...!) and a wikipedia article with a few verses; clearly there are more if you listen to the vocal duet version but I've not found a translation of them all - I'd love to know more if anyone knows any Ukrainian speakers!"

"There are many others on youtube that are well worth a look, it's such a gorgeous tune." Tamsin D.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verbovaya_Doshchechka

Traditional style vocal duet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUuYmt8nPEM>

Choral version with soloist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sczg8Ka1jgg>

The violin choir that I originally saw: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQSIeD-x6dQ>

"Thanks for inviting me! I loved playing along, meeting your folks and learning some gorgeous tunes." Rebecca Root, USA

"I want to thank you and everyone else for putting on this event. It was wonderful. I felt quite emotional." Ian L.

"It felt good to be part of such a special event, with such lovely music and a beautiful pervading spirit: I thought your introduction was very touching, and the whole thing seemed to flow smoothly (obviously well organised). Thanks for inviting me to be part of it: obviously, I felt very honoured to be playing with HNW!" Best wishes. Jeff C

"A big thank you to everyone who contributed to tonight's Harps for Ukraine. I really appreciate the hard work in both the organisation of the evening and those taking the time to both contribute the arrangements and lead the playing. Beautiful music that I will continue to play. I, and I'm sure many others, are horrified at the war in Ukraine. Apart from donations of money it is difficult to demonstrate support for all those suffering in such an unimaginable situation .

Music truly is an international language and if even one person in Ukraine hears our contribution I hope it gives some comfort."

Very best wishes, Linda D.

"Well done for thinking about and organising last night I thought it went well and people were glad to have a focus. Oliver (flautist) was very pleased to have been asked to take part and said what a lovely friendly bunch HNW were." Ann W

"Thank you for organising such a beautiful, moving and emotional musical evening." Kath W.

"A big thank you for yesterday evening, and for sharing some of the wonderful music from this besieged country." Annie J.

More Ukrainian music links from Annie J.

Here are some others who are sharing and creating beautiful, poignant music from their country:

Alina Bzhezhininska who created a wonderful arrangement of a traditional piece, which she wrote when Crimea was invaded and circulated through HCA last week <https://harpcolumn.com/academy/learn-a-ukrainian-tune-2/> . There will be an open video available on the HCA site.

Keziah Thomas (UKHA) has written a wonderful piece (<https://www.keziah.co.uk/shop>) Everything Started with Music, which is available to buy from her site. There is a video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jRKqs20B5E>.

Carousel of Dreams (夢の回轉木馬), Workshop with Lauren Scott. Third composition for HNW during Lauren's time as Composer in Residence.



Last weekend ten members of Harps North West enjoyed learning and playing Lauren's third composition for HNW live. It was good to meet Lauren in person after all the Zoom sessions we have had with her. Heartfelt thanks to Lauren from all at HNW for the wonderful pieces she has shared with us; Black Sheep, Beatles Medley, Carousel of Dreams and also Freshwater Tears. The video recording of Carousel of Dreams played on the day is available at <https://youtu.be/CqxFDYzQnSY>.

Carousel of Dreams is a beautiful piece inspired by Japanese animations. Harp 1 is the trickiest part, Harps 2 and 3 are easily accessible.

***Audio recording, including slower speed for practice** - Lauren Scott has created a page on her website which she is kindly allowing us to share with members of Harps North West. So on the page (link below) is an audio recording of the whole piece. Further down the page there are three practice audios. These are the three sections at a slower speed with a click added, so hopefully they should be helpful for people to use for practice. HNW members should already have received the sheet music.

<https://www.lauren-scott-harp.co.uk/harpyness/carousel-of-dreams>



A message from Lauren:

'I've really enjoyed my time as the HNW composer in residence. It's been a real joy, and so helpful for my creative development. Thank you so much for having me and letting me have free rein to be creative. It's been an amazing experience for me and wonderful to get to know you all. Lauren x'

"We had a lovely afternoon up at Threlkeld with Lauren Scott playing her third and final piece for HNW as our Composer in Residence. Her inspiration was from Japanese Manga as an antidote to all the tragic news at the moment. The piece is written in three parts with a very catchy rhythm and use of xylophonics and a lovely light, pretty music-box style theme on top. It is a really fun piece to play, which I hope we can revisit, perhaps at the Festival in July.

In light of the Japanese theme I asked my son (who is a translator) to provide a translation of the title - 夢の回轉木馬 (literally, dream carousel - uses kanji for carousel but the meaning is closer to merry-go-round than carousel)". Ann Woolley

"I decided to join this workshop because I felt I needed the experience of playing with others as I don't really enjoy doing this on Zoom. So I put my name on the list and waited for the music to arrive a couple of days before. It came and was in 3 parts with xylophonic notes! Well they looked interesting and I had to look them up online to find out what they were and luckily Josh Layne had a tutorial as part of his 'Harp Tuesday' tutorials. So I practiced harp 2 for a couple of quick 20 minute sessions and hoped I was prepared. When I arrived and met Lauren she set my mind at rest and had a go on my harp too. Then we started; well in a nutshell, I was a bit like Eric Morecambe's famous remarks to Andre Previn "I'm playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order." However, what I learnt was invaluable to me. Firstly, that HNW has some very supportive players, so thanks to the ladies who played harp 2 and also counted out the timing for me when I couldn't play one section in time.

*Thank you to Jane B from Birmingham who stayed for coffee afterwards and gave me some very good tips and advice and encouraged me tremendously. (I took her advice and enrolled on Deborah's 'Baroque Flamenco' and really enjoyed playing day 1 yesterday.) Lastly, many thanks to Lauren who saw I was struggling and came over to encourage me and whose music was wonderful. It was an absolute joy to be part of its first performance. **If you, like me, think you are not good enough to play with more experienced players, my advice is don't hesitate, it was a workshop and those are for learning and yes, for making mistakes but that is normal.** I hope to play part 2 again in the near future with HUN (Harps Up North). Lyn Armstrong*

"I really enjoyed the season with Lauren Scott the pace was not too fast and it was good to work on sections before playing with the group. Having the music before hand meant I knew the level.

Even though I had a loooooong drive from the Midlands it was certainly worth it. She even had time to give me some hints on one of her pieces that I am learning". Jane Beauchamp

"I'm so glad I made time for this workshop. In a very hectic weekend it was an oasis of calm and delight. What a joy to play in parts with other harpists especially Lauren's lovely piece especially composed for us! The three parts were well graded in difficulty and while I could have managed the hard part with practice, I picked an easier part so I could relax and enjoy the parts fitting together. The two hours flew past. So great to have a live workshop. Thanks to HNW for making it happen and for all your hard work." Judy Sharps

News from Members

'Music for the Soul'



We encountered the artist Hideyuki Sobue at Allan Bank on our monthly foray to play for the visitors and staff. He is painting a huge mural on the stairwell of an Ash tree. He explained it is symbolic of the natural environment as championed by Beatrix Potter, one of the founders of the National Trust, and also has links with William Wordsworth who used to live in the house. We played while he painted and he was kind enough to say it was 'music for the soul'. We also had a small visitor refer to the harps as 'princess music'! We completely agree of course and will be practising our Princess waves in future along with our harp technique.



If any HNW members are visiting Allan Bank between 11 and 12.30 on the following Tuesdays, please come in and say hello - dates in the link below. Ann Woolley & Carol Coldwell

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/46040c3b-d349-4747-9b24-c60b32ce59f8/pages/details>

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 hazyhead49@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.