

# NEWSLETTER – NOV. 2021

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

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

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



## HNW Dates for the Diary

All times are GMT / UTC until the end of March

### A message from our Convenor

Hello members, what a busy month it has been. The highlight of the month was the pinnacle of the **Harps 4 Harmony project**, the live recording of **Pachelbel's Canon in St Bees Priory**. Thank you to Mary, Jon and their team for a fascinating experience. Can't wait to see the end product in the spring time! We've been busy on Zoom with an enjoyable **Play Along Session** at the start of the month which raised funds for **MacMillan Cancer Support**. Thank you to all those who contributed. At the end of the month **Tamsin Dearnley** provided us with an exciting **Jazz and Blues** workshop. So now on to November when many of us will be playing with **Wendy Stewart** and **Ailie Robertson** at **Higham Hall**. Now is the time that many of you will be brushing up on those Christmas carols. I hope that, like me, you find it very satisfying to revisit a carol that was tricky to play last year and discover that you are mastering it this year - a good feeling of progress! I hope we'll see lots of you at the next **HNW Christmas Party rehearsal** with **Mary Dunsford** on **Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. at Orton Market Hall**. Mary is also running an **Absolute Beginners'** session on the same day so do encourage your friends and family to come along and try playing the harp. The committee is busy planning for 2022. Zoom workshops with **Luke Webb** (an Irish harpist) and with **Eira Lynn Jones** in February and March respectively are booked so far; look out for more events in the next newsletter. **Gill**



**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.

Date and how to book	Event details	Venue
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 – course full	Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp – Residential Tutors: Ailie Robertson and Wendy Stewart <a href="http://www.highamhall.com">www.highamhall.com</a>	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November Donations welcome To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Christmas Party rehearsal - Tutor: Mary Dunsford - LIVE EVENT Arrive 10:00. Playing from 10:30 until 12:30 A recording of the session will be made available to members after the session. <b>Please bring your own refreshments.</b>	Orton Mark't Hall CA10 3RU Live event leader Ann Woolley
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November Open to all. Fee £25. To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	Absolute Beginners' Session - Tutor: Mary Dunsford - LIVE EVENT Arrive 13:15. Playing from 13:30 until 16:00. Harps, music stands and sheet music are provided. <b>Please bring your own refreshments.</b> Opportunity to hire a harp from HNW at the end of the session.	Orton Market Hall CA10 3RU
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Committee Meeting - LIVE and on ZOOM 13:30 start	Orton Market Hall CA10 3RU
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	HNW Christmas Party - Tutor: Mary Dunsford – LIVE EVENT Arrive 10:00. Rehearse 10:30 until 12:30 Concert for family and friends 14:00 – 15:00	Braithwaite Inst. CA12 5RY Live event leader Chris Pollington
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December Donations welcome No need to book.	Play and accompany carols - Tutor: Susan Lambert - Time to be confirmed <b>How to accompany tunes.</b> Offers to lead a carol are welcomed. Contact Susan on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a> All members will be sent the music and the Zoom link before the event.	<b>ZOOM EVENT</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 Open to all harpists across the globe	The 2022 JaNEwary Challenge - Tutor: Mary Dunsford Mary introduces us to exciting new tunes in bite-size portions each day, with plenty of hints on technique. A great way to learn.	FaceBook, YouTube HNW website
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> February Fee £10	An Irish Harp Experience - Workshop – Tutor: Luke Webb 10:00 – 12 noon	<b>ZOOM EVENT</b>

Ref: LUKE & your initials To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	<a href="https://www.lukewebbharpist.com">https://www.lukewebbharpist.com</a> . There are lots of pieces on YouTube too. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBSgXyiH7PQ</a> Those who have signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event.	
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b> <b>Fee: £10</b> Ref: EIRALG & your initials To book contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	<b>'From the First Note' - Workshop – Tutor: Eira Lynn Jones</b> 10:00 to 12noon 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. <a href="http://www.eiralynnjones.com">www.eiralynnjones.com</a> Those who have signed up will be sent the sheet music & a Zoom link before the event.	<b>ZOOM EVENT</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b> To register your interest, please contact Mandy on <a href="mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpnorthwest.org.uk</a>	<b>Harps North West Festival - Tutors: Jean Altshuler, Mary Dunsford and Lauren Scott. More tutors to be announced soon.</b> Harp repair and servicing by Teifi. Alexander Technique and Positive Posture sessions. Exhibition of sheet music and possibly harps.	University of Cumbria Campus, Ambleside.
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>	<b>Higham Hall – A Weekend with the Harp – Residential</b> <b>Tutors: Shelley Fairplay and Rachel Newton</b>	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023</b>	<b>Higham Hall – A summer Break with the Harp – Residential</b> <b>Tutors: Lucy Nolan plus ANO</b>	Higham Hall CA13 9SH
<b>POSTPONED WORKSHOPS (due to the pandemic).</b> We'll keep you informed of dates for these events once secured.		
The following workshops will now be included in the <b>HNW Festival 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b> 1. <b>Kulning</b> workshop - Tutor: <b>Mary Dunsford</b> 2. <b>Cumbrian Tunes</b> workshop - Tutor: <b>Jean Altshuler</b> 3. <b>Freshwater Tears, Black Sheep &amp; The Beatles Medley</b> - Tutor: <b>Lauren Scott</b>		Full-day live workshop yet to be arranged for 2022 - Tutor: <b>Rachael Gladwin</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

## COVID-19 SECURITY

### HNW ADVICE TO MEMBERS ATTENDING LIVE EVENTS – to help keep members safe

1. Before attending a live event participants are advised to have had at least two vaccines and to have recorded a negative result from a Lateral Flow COVID test within the previous 24 hours.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Come with plenty of warm clothing as venues are encouraging good airflow with doors and windows open.
5. Maintain 2m social distancing, especially from over 70s and clinically highly vulnerable people.
6. Wear a face mask/covering when less than 2m distant from those with whom you do not live.
7. Bring and use hand sanitizer and antiseptic cleaning wipes. Take your own rubbish home with you.
8. **Bring your own refreshments and utensils and do not share. Kitchens may not be available.**
9. Print your own copies of the music to be played in advance.
10. Avoid touching and sharing other people's property. Wash your hands often.
11. Be familiar with the risk assessment and the specific expectations for each venue you visit.
12. **Respect the decisions of others, but do not be afraid to ask others to adhere to the advice if you feel you are at risk.**

**Nominated organisers of HNW events:** Please ensure that a specific risk assessment for the venue and activity has been carried out and all participants have been informed of its expectations.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 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 spread sheet. 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@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:administrator@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR – position now filled.** Thanks to Frances who will be taking over the editing of the newsletter in the next few months.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Other Dates for a Harpist's Diary 2021 (Times until the end of October are BST / UTC + 1)

Free tutorial for Autumn Leaves – a jazz piece	<b>Ailie Robertson</b> is offering harpists a <b>free video tutorial</b> for her arrangement of the jazz piece, <b>Autumn Leaves</b> . The piece is suitable for early-intermediate players and harps with 25+ strings. Sheet music is available to purchase: <a href="https://www.ailierobertson.com/harp-music-shop/the-autumn-leaves">https://www.ailierobertson.com/harp-music-shop/the-autumn-leaves</a> Free tutorial: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtciyj8i08s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtciyj8i08s</a> Video performance by Ailie: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyQ3wYf0jVE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyQ3wYf0jVE</a>
Online video course Discount for HNW - code HARPSOC25	<b>Be Thou My Vision Masterclass. Tutor: Lauren Scott.</b> This is a <b>video course on the traditional hymn arranged by Lauren Scott</b> . Covers topics such as Understanding Musical Form, Exercises for Independence of Fingers, a Healthy Practice Routine, Creating a Dynamic Range on Harp, Right Hand Harmonics and Creating Rich Voicings in your playing. Suitable for intermediate to advanced levels (Grade 4 to post Grade 8) <a href="http://www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision">www.bit.ly/be-thou-my-vision</a>
Next session: Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> November 20:00 - 21:30	<b>Shelley Fairplay's Dynamic Harps Virtual Ensemble.</b> A monthly <b>free</b> offering to all harpists to come together to enjoy our wonderful instrument. First Tuesday of the month for 2021 <a href="https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/">https://startharp.com/dynamic-harps-virtual-ensemble/</a> On Zoom and/or Facebook. Shelley also offers many other online courses.
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Transpennine Harps Online Festival with Tamsin Dearnley and Lucy Nolan</b> <a href="https://transpennineharps.org/festival2021.html">https://transpennineharps.org/festival2021.html</a>
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> November 19:30	<b>Talisk – a popular Scottish folk band - in concert at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal</b> <a href="https://www.breweryarts.co.uk/event/talisk-2/">https://www.breweryarts.co.uk/event/talisk-2/</a>
October - December	<b>Heather Downie – Christmas Harp Collaboration 2021.</b> Free to all harpists Christ Child Lullaby; Away in a Manager; We Wish You a Merry Christmas <a href="https://heatherdownieharpist.thinkific.com/courses/christmas-harp-collaboration-2021">https://heatherdownieharpist.thinkific.com/courses/christmas-harp-collaboration-2021</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	<b>KAREN MASHALSAY'S new lever harp book announcement!</b> A Harper's Yuletide has 20 old and new tunes for the season, arranged or composed by <b>Karen Marshalsay</b> , some with variations, and suitable for elementary to advanced level players. There are 13 sets, but the tunes can all be played as single pieces too. Pre-orders are now available for posting out on 5 November, and PDFs are available too. Marsharp Music will be posting out worldwide! Books £12 plus postage PDFs £10 <a href="http://www.marsharpmusic.com/aharpersyuletide.asp">http://www.marsharpmusic.com/aharpersyuletide.asp</a>
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	<b>Winter Harp Festival 2022 - Online.</b> Join acclaimed harp tutors <b>Ailie Robertson</b> (Scotland), <b>Kim Robertson</b> (USA), <b>Park Stickney</b> (USA/Switzerland), <b>Marianne Gubri</b> (France/Italy) for a weekend of workshops and concerts.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HNW EVENTS COMING UP

**Higham Hall - A Weekend with the Harp 12-14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Course full.**

**Tutors: Ailie Robertson and Wendy Stewart**

As well as looking forward to a great weekend of harping, don't forget to stock up on:

**Jane's Jams and Chutneys** – a message from Jane:

'Subject to any change in regulations I hope to bring along, as usual, Jane's Jams, a range of marmalade, jams and chutneys. I do not have a card payment facility so prefer cash payments, so please bring enough cash with you! Proceeds will be shared between HNW and the Dumfries and Galloway Branch of the Clarsach Society. Anyone wanting supplies who isn't going to Higham should contact friends who are! I'll do my best to meet demand, but although I've been busy I've not got quite so much stock as last time.'

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rehearsal for HNW Christmas Party - Tutor: Mary Dunsford**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Orton Market Hall. CA10 3RU.**

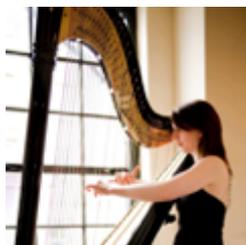
Arrive 10:00. Playing from 10:30 to 12:30. A recording of this session will be made available to members.

Donations welcome. Please use reference: ORTON plus your initials

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

**Please bring your own refreshments as the kitchen will not be in use.**

Mary will guide us through a rehearsal of the pieces to be played at the HNW Christmas Party in December.



Members were sent the sheet music in September. If you would like the music, please ask for it via the [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

**Clouds in a Sunlit Sky – Eira Lyn Jones (2021 JaNEwary Challenge)**

**O Mio Babbino Caro – Puccini. Arranged by Lucy Nolan (May 2021 Zoom workshop)**

**Sunrise – Judy Sharps (First place in the HNW Composition Competition)**

**Carol – arranged by Susan Lambert - to be confirmed**

**Plus a play-through of Pachelbel's Canon – Sylvia Wood's arrangement.** You need your own copy of this or Mary's 'gentle' accompaniment.

**Playing Groups – Seren Fach – Shelley Fairplay.** You need your own copy of this if you do not play in a playing group.

There is lots to practise **but DON'T FORGET, HNW PLAYING GROUPS** - you are invited to play a party piece of your choice at the Xmas party.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Absolute Beginners' Workshop - Tutor: Mary Dunsford Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Orton Market Hall. CA10 3RU

Arrive 13:15. Playing 13:30 to 16:00

Fee: £25. For details of how to pay see the end of this newsletter.

Share your love of the harp by encouraging your friends and family to have a go at playing this beautiful instrument. No musical experience is necessary. Harps, music stands and sheet music are provided.

**Please bring your own refreshments.**

To sign up please contact Mandy on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk)

There will be an opportunity to hire a harp from HNW at the end of the session.

Harp hire: £70 per quarter, minimum 3 months up to 12 months. £50 deposit. Membership of HNW is a requirement.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Play and accompany carols - Tutor: Susan Lambert - on Zoom Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Time to be confirmed

Donations welcomed.

Susan will lead us through numerous carols guiding us in developing various accompaniments. To offer to lead a favourite carol, please contact Susan on [events@harpnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpnorthwest.org.uk), making sure you have the permission of the arranger to share the music. This session was great fun last year; have your mulled wine and mince pies to hand!

No need to sign up - all members will be sent a multitude of Christmas Carol lead sheets and the Zoom link before the event.

## NEWS of recent HNW EVENTS

### MACMILLAN 'COFFEE MORNING' PLAYALONG SESSION – ON ZOOM

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 15:00 – 17:00

Thank you for a wonderful play along event I really enjoyed it. It was lovely to see everyone and to play along to some pieces which were at just the right pace for me. Others, that I loved, were a challenge which is great and I'll be practising them over the coming weeks. A special thanks to all the wonderful people who led various pieces for us to enjoy. **Annie Allison**



Fourteen harpists from across the UK (Scotland, South Wales, Leicestershire) met on Zoom and enjoyed each other's company playing a wide repertoire of tunes, sharing tips on technique and chatting. A big thank you to Judy Sharps who skilfully lead us through Eriskay Love Lilt, arranged by Anne Macdearmid, and Clouds in a Sunlit Sky, Eira Lynn Jones. Gill led us through the Grenadier and the Lady, arranged by Anna Cosby Gaudet, and O Mio Babbino Caro, Puccini, arranged by Lucy Nolan. So some useful practice for the HNW Christmas Party.

We looked at Tamsin Dearnley's easy pieces, Scarborough Fair and Lavender is Blue and discussed how they can be embellished to fill out the sound. We listened to Tamsin's recording of her Breton Style Dance as none of us felt up to playing it. Thank you to Tamsin for making these pieces freely available on her website. <https://tamsindearnley.co.uk/sheetmusic.html>

Finally we played through some of the HNW competition compositions either to the video or led by the composer themselves (very brave!). These were: Cultures Entwined - Gill Salter-Smith; Out Walking with a Butterfly - Kath Wilson; Finding Sunshine - Marie Carson; Sunrise - Judy Sharps. It was fascinating to hear the story behind each composition.

All members were sent the sheet music that we played which is so generously shared with us by harpists. If you have enjoyed the music, please consider making a donation. Click on <https://thyg.uk/BUU004397660>. So far we have raised £155 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Very well done everyone and thank you! **Gill Salter-Smith**

\*\*\*\*\*

### HARPS FOR HARMONY 2020-21

#### LIVE RECORDING of PACHELBEL's CANON – AT LONG LAST!!!

performed by members of HARPS NORTH WEST at St Bees Priory, West Cumbria

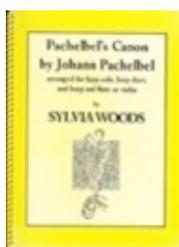
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021



**Musical Director: Mary Dunsford**

**Recording manager: Jon Borgia**

**Mary's vlog of the day!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DmTZrgf1Lc>



It was an early start for most of us and a long journey for most on a blustery wet day. But what an amazing experience was waiting for us. The cheery Eric, visible in his hi-glo, gave a warm welcome and enabled us to unload harps, etc. with ease.

Mary, and Jon and his crew, magically cleared pews to create a large open space in which the harps sat very well. St Bees Priory looked beautiful and the acoustics really enhanced the sound. It was a pleasure to play in those surroundings and with lovely fellow harpists. The morning was spent playing through and recording the piece *n* number of times. With Mary's encouragement we increased in confidence at every go. After a pleasant lunchtime break the filming began. The 'techies' worked quickly to remove all the sound recording gear and set up for filming. It was fascinating watching the techies do what they do and how they created imaginative shots! Can't wait to see the final result in the springtime. Thank you to Mary, Jon, the team and all at St Bees Priory, and to all the harpists who made a very great effort and long journeys in order to be with us for the day.

**Gill Salter-Smith**

I had the most amazing time with Mary, and other harpists, on Saturday at St Bees Priory, making a recording of Pachelbel's Canon. The whole experience was so relaxing, not at all intimidating! Everyone was really friendly, which put me at ease from the onset. I feel like a true member of Harps North West, having personally met such lovely, friendly people! A new 'extended' family!! Thank you again! PS, love this YouTube Vlog recording, makes me feel even more excited about seeing the final edited version! Thank you, Mary and Jon (and your two super support workers!) for such an amazing day! I thoroughly enjoyed it. **Kath Wilson**

Thanks so much for all the hard work, a great experience, looking forward to the video! **Frances Quinn**

Although I felt a little daunted about what was to come at the recording at St Bees... was the 'Gentle' sheet going to carry me? Mary, as usual, put us at ease right from the start and the morning just flowed with the music. The afternoon was real fun as it did not matter how many wrong notes you hit as the important issue was to 'keep smiling' for the camera. I arrived home very tired but extremely happy to have been part of the recording team. Thanks Mary, Jon and The Team. A wonderful day. **Kate Pearson**

It was a lovely, if tiring, day. So nice to chat to everyone as well as working hard. I enjoyed the chance to explore the Priory and Old Hall too, a place I had never been too but always wanted to see. **Jane Freshwater**

### Harps at St Bees Priory

Early start long drive nerves tuning setup concentration counting in  
Pachelbel's Canon again and again and again  
Headphones cables monitors mics cameras  
Laughter backache jokes stretching coffee breaks  
Reset replay rewind reset restart cut  
Standing by recording take 2 ....take 16 .....

Smile breathe relax shoulders down elbows out  
Sore fingers stiff back aching head weary bones  
Dark arches red gold carpet stunning roof  
Serene strains of harps in harmony soar into the sacred space  
Resounding  
Dusk falls stained glass glows  
Silence is waiting  
**Judy Sharps** *(This is just waiting to be set to music, Judy??? – from the editor)*

### Background to the HNW Harps for Harmony Project – from January 2020 to October 2021

**Pachelbel's Canon**, arranged by Sylvia Woods, was taught by Mary Dunsford in the **2020 HNW JanNEWary Challenge, Days 24 to 31.**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> March '20**, live recording postponed due to the pandemic.

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

**19<sup>th</sup> June '20 Video Launch Day**

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

196 video clips. 109 harpists from across the globe. 19 young persons (youngest age 5)

<https://www.harpsnorthwest.org.uk/harps-for-harmony.html> Please keep on sharing the video with your friends, family and contacts.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Play Jazz and Blues on the Harp - Workshop - Tutor: Tamsin Dearnley Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October Zoom

Eleven members, including two new members, attended the workshop with Tamsin on Zoom and a further nine have requested the recording. The workshop was very much appreciated.

#### Members' comments:

'What a brilliant workshop with Tamsin yesterday! I didn't notice the rain outside... it was so interesting to do the theory too... although I didn't follow it all... I'm going to watch the recording to catch up!' **Judy T.**

'This is brilliant! Thank you for an exciting morning.' **Linda T.** 'More please!' **Frances Q.**

'It's the first workshop of Tamsin's that I've attended. I really like her teaching style and how she breaks things down. It makes it very accessible. I did an online Jazz and Blues course with another tutor a couple of years ago and I found the content of the lessons too much. Sometimes less is more if you know what I mean.' **Linda D.**

'Just listened to the recording of Tamsin - great fun. What an earworm the Bags Groove is. Looked up the track on YouTube and there are lots of backing tracks at different speeds you can play along to, as well as the original track of Miles Davis that she played for us. Members may like to try playing along! All quite fast but there is one slightly slower I could just about keep up with just right hand. Something to work on. Haven't nailed it with both hands yet!' **Judy S**

For more information about Tamsin visit her website: <https://tamsindearnley.co.uk/>

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Harps North West Inaugural Composition Competition 2021

Winners were announced by the judges, Shelley Fairplay and Lauren Scott, on 19<sup>th</sup> June

A Play-along to all sixteen Lockdown Compositions was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July; both events were held on Zoom.

**A message from Susan Lambert** – Thank you so much to everyone who took part. Everyone who entered the competition will receive a gift from HNW of a manuscript book and pencils.

**A pdf booklet** of all the compositions will be sent to all HNW members soon.

**A hard copy** of the booklet will be available to purchase – more details to follow.

We look forward to playing all sixteen pieces in future get-togethers whether live or on Zoom. You can hear the winning pieces in our winners' announcement video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/98CbB0kYzwY>

Look out for Judy Sharps, 'Sunrise', that we are playing at the HNW Christmas Party!

Don't forget, the links to the **Bitesize videos and pdfs** giving guidance on how to approach composition, will stay on our website so that you can access them any time. You can find them here: <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk/composition-month/bite-size-composition.html>

**First Place 'Sunrise' - Judy Sharps**



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



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



**Special commendation: 'Marmalade, Schokolade' - Maureen O'Sullivan**



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Thank you to Eira-Lynn Jones – an article from Alice Pell

I was recently invited to play my harp for the 'Tiger Lily Trust' during International Baby-Loss Awareness Week. At the end of the week parents affected by early miscarriage or Infant loss may gather to hold a remembrance service or informal ceremony to join the 'Wave of Light' when candles are lit around the world at a given time. This is not to mark the end of the week, far from it but recognition of the journey we are on together in uniting parents in their grief. I am a member of this group. This subject is very much viewed as 'taboo' and not openly talked about, so this is why it felt very personal to me to be asked to play at this year's face-to-face gathering in Kendal.

I wanted to find the right piece of music that I felt was chosen with my heart and would reflect the atmosphere of our gathering, many of us meeting for the first time since March lockdown too. When there are so many amazing harp pieces out there it was going to be hard to choose just one! I had recently purchased Eira-Lynn's 'Songs of Hope' book of original compositions she had written during lockdown. One of the pieces I was particularly drawn to is her 'River Daydreams' piece. Played at a slightly slower tempo it really has a special quality about it. I then set about emailing Eira to ask her kind permission for me to perform it at our gathering and to explain to her what it was all about? I was really thrilled when she replied to me and her words alone gave me the confidence and strength to perform this piece. On the night, we were able to perform outside at the foot of Kendal Castle. It was dusk, the moon had risen and the chill of the October evening was settling in. We all lit our candles and held them close in our jars whilst I played Eira's piece. We honestly could not have asked for a better evening for this occasion.

Once the music had finished, we all walked up the hill to the castle with our head torches on and candles in hand. The light was drawing in and the stars were appearing high in the heavens above. I think our thoughts, prayers and music certainly made us feel closer to our 'lost but not forgotten little ones' that night as the lights of Kendal twinkled below in the darkness.

Shortly after the event, I emailed Eira back to thank her and let her know how the performance had gone. I sent her a photo from the evening and she said she might share this in her newsletter. So, I thought it would be nice to share my story here with Harps North West too in recognition of the lovely music of hers that we have all recently been enjoying in her 'Summer Days' book too. It just goes to show that although my path is different to how it may have turned out, I am still grateful for having my harp by my side all these years to help get me through. **Thank you Eira.**

*Thank you Alice for sharing a very personal and moving experience with us. The Editor – Gillx*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Charity Concert in Brough, Cumbria - Sue Millard

I sing with a community choir called Middle Eden Voices, led by Barbara Gilbertson. Choir re-started in mid-September and our first gig was a concert at Brough on 23<sup>rd</sup> October – rather a short period for rehearsal when we were all so rusty from the long lay-off – so Barbara chose eight pieces that the whole choir were familiar with, and interspersed them with solos and duets. I was one of those she asked to fill a slot. We had a couple of practices together, sorted out which keys her violin and my harp could 'meet' in, and picked three duets and a solo for the concert. At home I dug out a plain offcut of curtain and practised with it spread on the floor beyond the harp. That worked very well on the night to hide the chapel's red-patterned carpet. Barbara really wanted to include a lullaby in F called 'Little Boats', by Harold Boulton. Gulp! Cue many hours of practice to get the syncopated sections 'under my hands'. Fortunately she put it first in our set so that I could get it over with. However I'm ashamed to say that despite the lever changes having been the very first section I put into my practice, they vanished completely in the performance and I have no idea why. 'Women of Ireland' in G was an obvious choice as a tribute to the late Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains and, of course, to Derek Bell (find it on YouTube). For Ivan Drever's 'Leaving Stoer', arranged in A flat, we ignored the key signature and played in A. Margaret Collin's lovely arrangement of Duncan Johnson's slow air 'Sine Bhan' (Fair Jeanie) in E flat was my closing solo.

A mum and her daughter came up afterwards to chat so I let the little girl have a play on the harp and gave her mum a leaflet for the Beginners Workshop at Orton – I wonder how that will go?

*Great to see live 'gigs' going ahead now, creating more and more interest in the harp!*

*Pease let us know about what you and your playing group have been up to!*

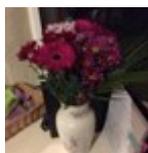


**Songs of Hope**  
Eira Lynn Jones

<https://www.eiralynnjones.com/shop-1>



Needed a plain sheet to cover the red background that makes seeing the strings very difficult!



Lovely to receive flowers after the performance! ...the only performer left - still packing up the harp!

\*\*\*\*\*



### Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita - concert - 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, Liverpool & Ulverston

When attending the Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita concert on Friday, in Liverpool, with my friends, I felt full of excitement and great anticipation! The music was mesmerising and so uplifting! Catrin and Seckou played as 'one' creating musical conversations at times, entertaining their audience brilliantly! The orchestra was amazing too, subtly supporting the two artists. Everything was perfect. Would love to see the concert again!  
**Kath Wilson**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Harp String Buttons!

Take the agony out of replacing harp strings!

To all the harpists out there who have struggled with the harper's knot, Dusty Strings have heard your cries of frustration, and are thrilled to finally be able to share The Harper's *NOT*!

They know tying the traditional knot with a slippery string and tiny spline is difficult or painful for many people, sometimes to the point of near impossibility, and that means a broken harp string can be a huge source of stress and anxiety. They attacked this problem at various points over the years, looking for a string anchoring method that would be easier on the hands, would be relatively simple to use, and would hold firm without causing string breakage or loss of tone. It was a more difficult journey than we thought it would be, but we think String Buttons check all the boxes.



- Larger than a spline
- Infinitely reusable
- Can be threaded in a simple pattern without the need for tightly pinching with your fingers
- Won't spring apart midway through the knot
- Makes use of the mechanical power of the tuning pin to cinch down the knot
- Fits nylon and gut strings up to .080"/2 mm on any make of harp (see FAQ tab for more details)



A pack contains 12 black String Buttons, an instruction card, a link to the video instructions on this page, and an extra, quick-reference instruction card that you can keep handy or pass on to a friend.

<https://www.morleyharps.co.uk/dusty-strings-string-buttons-c2x35711166>

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Bit of Fun

### A Fishy Tune

### Eileen Bentley



\*\*\*\*\*

### Harp Bag project

Just before the first lockdown I bought a second-hand Fireside cardboard harp for my young god-daughter. She had shown great interest in my harp when visiting us and would sidle up to me and say, 'Please can we play on the harp?' She did not receive the harp until July 2021. She is enjoying playing and exploring the strings. After a couple of lessons, her technique is far better than mine! The extra down-time we all had in lockdown gave me a perfect opportunity to work out how to construct and finally complete a harp bag for the cardboard harp. It is made of two padded pillowcases, a large scrap of lovely flowery cotton material my neighbour gave to me, extra padding, stiffening that protected a new bed, cardboard stiffening from the box a fire pit came in, bought during lockdown, and the upholstery backing of an old sofa my neighbour was throwing out. I bought the zip, strapping and edging. Much of the bag is hand sewn because I am rubbish at getting the tension right on a sewing machine and parts of it were far too thick for the machine to manage. Here is the process, the end product and a very happy harpist. **Gill S-S**



\*\*\*\*\*

## 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](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com) . Tutor: Susan Lambert.

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Hazel on [hazyhead49@gmail.com](mailto:hazyhead49@gmail.com) . Tutor: Mary Dunsford.

**Harps Up North** are based in Watermillock, usually meeting the first Thursday morning of the month. Contact Sue on [sue@dawbank.co.uk](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk) 01539 624636.

**Red Rose Harps** are based at Slyne Village Hall, North Lancashire. They meet on Tuesday afternoons twice per month. Contact Carol on [coldwellcarol@gmail.com](mailto:coldwellcarol@gmail.com)

**NEW evening playing group** in the **North Lakes**, playing 7pm until 8.45pm at Braithwaite Hall near Keswick on the second Wednesday evening of each summer month was started in 2020 just before Lockdown One. Members will be informed when this group can restart, probably spring 2022. If you are interested, please contact Gill on [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

## The MANAGEMENT TEAM from 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 – Sept 2022

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

Bank details for use when paying donations for HNW workshops.

**Bank: HSBC**

**Name of Account: Harps North West**

**Sort Code: 40-16-22**

**Account Number: 81806521**

For those paying HNW from outside the UK please use PayPal <http://paypal.me/HarpsNorthWest>

When paying by PayPal please choose the pay 'friends and family' option where possible to avoid charges.