



Harps North West Newsletter

Website <https://harpnorthwest.org.uk>
Email events@harpnorthwest.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Veronica Wilkie
Update compiler: Gill Salter Smith

At all live sessions there is chance to buy raffle tickets. You will have the chance to win a hand made HNW teddy bear (made by Gill Salter Smith) playing an amazingly crafted Pilgrim Harp (made by Alistair Woolley). You will also have the opportunity to enter the guess the name of the Bear competition (£5)
Ann Woolley has made a beautiful quilt which can be won by buying a raffle ticket (£5) at any of the live events. All raffle proceeds go towards HNW funds.

Convenor's Message

Hope you have enjoyed the summer - it has been a soggy one up here in the north but then when the sun does come out the days are even more special!

We've had a busy summer with our harps. Two wonderful 20th Anniversary Playing Group Parties gave lots of chance to play together, socialise, eat good food and perform for family and friends. Thank you members of Harps Out West and Harps Up North for two great days. We look forward to the Red Rose Party on 7th September and the Harps South Lakes Party on 12th October.

The 20th Anniversary Concert tour continued. The HNW Performance Group enjoyed supporting Wendy Stewart and Susan Lambert at their wonderful concert in Cockermouth in June. It was much appreciated by the audience. Don't miss the Performance Group's next concert in Natland in September.

We've been busy with on-line learning too. In May Mary gave us insights into a whole range of skills and techniques in her Zoom sessions. The JuNEWary Challenge, new this year, gave us the chance to learn a beautiful tune, The Lade, from Karen Marshalsay. Thank you Mary for your gentle approach. Susan prepared us well for the festival party in her Zoom session on how to play in a session.

And then came the 20th Anniversary Celebration Summer Festival. Harps North West took over Higham Hall for the weekend and over 30 harpists enjoyed the delights that Mary, Shelley, Stephen, Susan and Wendy offered to us. From the dynamic, uplifting opening concert to the fun and worthwhile workshops, much enjoyment, laughter and learning took place. The Beginners Workshop led to recruiting new members and hiring out harps and the young harpists produced an amazing harp piece and collages based on their explorations of the grounds. Thank you to all who helped to make the festival a success.

As we approach the final months of the Harps North West 20th Anniversary Celebration Year we look forward to preparing for the final party of the year, the Christmas Party in December. There are lots of other events to look forward to this autumn, both live and online so read on for more details. We hope to see you at some of them.

This will be my final message to you all as convenor as, come the AGM on 14th September, my three year term is at an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed steering this wonderful organisation through the past three years. I have gained a great deal of pleasure and learned a lot from working with the management committee, all our tutors and the HNW members. A huge thank you to you all. I look forward to welcoming new members to the committee and wish them well in continuing to develop Harps North West.

Happy harping
Gill



HNW Events

Date	Event	Location
<p>Tuesday 3rd September 2024</p> <p>19:30</p>	<p>HNW Committee Meeting</p> <p>All members are invited to attend this meeting as observers. If you would like to do this, please contact Gill on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p> <p>We hope to welcome any of you who wish to join the committee</p> <p>We urgently need members for the following roles</p> <p>Convenor (this could be a shared role, dividing up the work) 3 year post</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange and plan HNW events live and on zoom, be the face of HNW - Arrange and compile the monthly update - Communicate with members using the events@ email - Plan the summer festival with the committee every other year - Manage sales of music (Gill Lowden's books), the bursary scheme, any post, oversight of other roles <p>Harp Hire coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage the hire of harps , maintenance , support the absolute beginner workshops, and manage payments for harp hire with treasurer and admin/ bursar <p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome new members, keep the membership spreadsheet up to date, email list and chase late payments <p>Higham Hall Link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with Higham Hall for November weekend and invite tutors. 	<p>Via zoom</p>
<p>Saturday 7th September 2024</p> <p>09:30 Tuning 10:00 - 12:30 Workshop 12:30- 13:30 shared lunch 13:30 doors open for audience 14:00 performance (free with a retiring collection)</p>	<p>Red Rose Harps 20th Anniversary Celebration Party led by Lauren Scott</p> <p>Please let us know if you or your playing group are coming , or wish to come and listen by contacting Carol on coldwellcarol@gmail.com</p>	<p>Slyne with Hest Church Hall LA2 6JG</p>
<p>Saturday 14th September 2024 Free to members 10:00 tuning 10:30 - 12:30 Workshop 12:30 Shared Lunch 13:45 HNW AGM</p>	<p>Christmas Party Practice led by Susan Lambert am</p> <p>HNW Annual General Meeting. Live and on Zoom pm</p> <p>The sheet music will be sent out once the program has been decided</p> <p>Please let us know if you are coming along by contacting Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</p> <p>All members will be sent a zoom link for the AGM</p>	<p>Watermillock Village Hall Pooley Bridge CA11 0LR</p> <p>AGM also on Zoom</p>

Saturday 21st September 10:00 – 12: 00 Fee £12 Non-members £15	Workshop led by Heather Downie – renowned Scottish harpist and teacher. A Zoom meeting link will be sent to those signed up and paid prior to the session. A recording of the workshop will be available to those signed up. To sign up for the recording or the Zoom session please contact Mandy on events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk and pay the fee. See below for guidance on how to pay the fee. Use reference HeatherD + your name or initials.	Zoom
Sunday 29th September 14:30 Retiring collection shared between church funds and HNW.	The Harps North West Performance Group in concert as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations. Come and listen to a Harmony of Harps playing an eclectic selection of music to while away an early autumn afternoon. Tea and cake to follow.	St Mark's Church, Natland, near Kendal LA9 7QQ
Saturday 12th October 2024 Free to members 10:00 tuning 10:30 - 12:30 workshop 12:30 shared lunch 13:45 concert	Harps South Lakes 20th Anniversary Celebration Party led by Mary Dunsford Please let us know if you and/or your Playing Group are coming to play or may be to listen by contacting Hazel on hazeyhead49@gmail.com Details of the programme to come.	Swarthmoor Hall Ulverston LA12 0JQ
Wednesday 23rd October 2024 19:30 - 21:00 Free to Members	Christmas Party Practice on Zoom with Mary Dunsford All members will be sent a Zoom meeting invitation and a recording following the event	Zoom
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th November 2024	A weekend with the harp - Tutors Karen Marshalsay and Lauren Scott Contact Higham Hall directly to secure a place admin@highamhall.com 01768776276. Website https://highamhall.com	Higham Hall Nr Cockermouth CA13 9SH
Sunday 17th November 2024 10:00 tuning 10:30 - 12:30 Workshop 13:30 - 16:00 beginners	Live Christmas Party Practice with Mary Dunsford in the morning and Absolute Beginners workshop in the afternoon Christmas party workshop free to members Absolute beginners W'shop £30 contact events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk	Endmoor Village Hall LA8 0HL
Sunday 8th December 2024 10:00 Tuning 10:30 to 12:30 Rehersal 13:45 Concert for family and friends	Christmas Party led by Mary Dunsford - Final event of the year Rehearsal in the morning Family and friends welcome to join us for a shared lunch and then concert in the afternoon A zoom link to the afternoon concert will be sent to all members	Grizebeck Community Hall LA17 7XH

Payments to HNW; many events are free to members, there are specific fees for tutor led workshops
Bank details; Account Name: Harps North West Sort Code: 40-16-22 Account No.: 81806521
For those paying HNW outside the UK PayPal <http://paypal.me/HarpsNorthWest>. Please change 'paying an invoice or business' to 'paying family and friends'.

Other Harp Events

On-going	Learn how to use a loop with Ruth Lee https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iw0L6Kv0dDc ruthleeharpist.com ruthleeharpist@gmail.com	On-line learning
Sundays 20 15 to. 21 30 From 15th September 2024	Step into the spotlight - conquer performance anxiety Eight week course https://www.aillierobertson.com/workshops	On line learning via zoom
4th September 2024 19 30 Tickets £23	Catrin Finch (harp) and Aoife Ni Bhriain (fiddle) www.breweryarts.co.uk/event/catrin-finch-and-aoife-ni-bhriain/	Brewery Arts Centre Kendal LA9 4HE
3rd November 2024 Details to follow	The Swan of Salem. Ballet film with live score for 3 Clarsachs played by the Willow Calrsach Trio. The swan of Salem is a multimedia adaptation of Swan Lake and the parallel Gaelic legend Eala Shailein https://newbyendfarm.co.uk/courses-events/	Newby End Farm CA10 3AX



RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

RNCM YOUNG HARPS

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**SUNDAY WORKSHOPS  
2024 - 2025**

10am - 1pm  
Free Admission

20 October 2024  
12 January 2025  
16 March 2025  
27 April 2025



THE PILGRIM HARP ADULT ENSEMBLE  
**AUTUMN HARP  
WORKSHOP**  
SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER AT PILGRIM HARPS  
11AM-4PM  
**CALLING ALL ADULT HARPISTS...**  
Come and join us for another fun and informative workshop led by Luisa Cordell.  
Pieces will include new arrangements by Paraguayan harpist, Alfredo Ortiz, and pieces inspired by Autumn.  
For more details, please contact Luisa by emailing [luisacordell78@gmail.com](mailto:luisacordell78@gmail.com)

## Harps for sale

### 1. Pilgrim Ashdown 2001

This lovely sweet-sounding harp has been well played, much travelled and cherished by one careful owner. It is in immaculate, full playing condition. Routinely serviced by Pilgrim, and recently Mark Norris, and is regularly tuned. An ideal first harp. 34 String. Wood Ash Satin finish.

#### Price £2000

Price includes well-used but functional carrying case, harp key and spare strings, Korg Tuner. The harp is currently near Edinburgh for immediate viewing, but viewing elsewhere in the Borders, Dumfries's and Galloway, or Cumbria could be arranged through me. Jane Freshwater

Worth noting a new Ashdown costs in the region of £4,800.

Contact. Jane Freshwater [jane@hillfoot.uk](mailto:jane@hillfoot.uk) Mobile [07980 870 275](tel:07980870275)

**2. Tim Hampson 34 String 'Ossian' harp** for sale. Range 6th octave B to first octave G. Gut strung. Cherry wood with fiddle back. Height 113cm, weight 6kilos. One of the lightest harps on the market to carry! Comes with carrying case. Lovely tone. Purchased in 2012. "In very good condition" (Teifi servicing technician).

#### £3000 ono.

Contact Lesley McCourt, tel [01524 702281](tel:01524702281) (Silverdale, Lancashire).

[lamccourt0@gmail.com](mailto:lamccourt0@gmail.com).

## Harp bursary winners 2023

### Annie Dickens

The highlight of my year was playing a piece specially written for two harps and orchestra with the Westmorland Youth Orchestra in Kendal Parish Church. I also played the harp with Cumbria's flute choir, Flutes & Co, in Cartmel Priory. I have played the harp for several school events including concerts and open evenings. Playing with other groups has been a fantastic experience and has enabled me to play a variety of music genres. I have enjoyed attending HNW workshops and am grateful for the support they have given me.



### Clara Hepworth



I have had an enjoyable harping year. I started Juniors at the RNCM, where I have lessons on my harp and in musicianship, and also play as part of a harp quartet. I have played at many venues with the harp quartet and the RNCM harp ensemble, including the Manchester Harp Festival and the Edinburgh International Harp Festival (EIHf). The EIHf was great, and I was able to attend pedal harp courses as well as play my lever harp as part of the Festival Orchestra. I helped my first harp teacher, Mary Dunsford, teach the Youth Workshop as part of the HNW Festival - I enjoy

helping other musicians. I was lucky to win a place at the European Youth School of Music. This was an amazing week during which I played as part of a full orchestra and also performed the Flower Duet with the flute and learnt the Swan as a duet with a cello.

Thank you so much for my bursary. It has funded all the music I have needed to buy for Juniors, plus some extra which I buy just for fun.



## Emily Bruce

Emily (now aged 13) was thrilled to receive a scholarship from HNW. It has really helped us to continue her lessons with Savourna Stephenson in Scotland - it's a lot of petrol to get there and back each month!

Emily has performed in school a number of times: at their annual showcase she worked together with other students to perform 'What a Wonderful World'. This was her first time playing her harp in an ensemble, and accompanying a choir. She hopes to do more of that kind of thing in the future. Emily performed solo at her school's summer concert, playing Savourna Stephenson's *In a French Style*, and has been invited to perform in some upcoming fundraising events. Since the end of her school term, she has done some work experience with Rhythm Time South Lakes and Furness, and she used her harp to captivate the babies and toddlers.

Emily is looking forward to taking part in a HNW party in a few weeks, and beginning to work out what she will play for the Mary Wakefield competition next year..



## HARPS NORTH WEST 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL AT HIGHAM HALL



Saturday  
is  
party night







Sunday – its all over much too soon.



Thanks to Susan, Wendy, Mary, Shelley and Stephen for a great weekend.



#### A FEW OF THE COMMENTS;

*“The best weekend with harps ever”*

*“Thank you so much to all the committee for all the trouble you’d gone to , to make this weekend such a success. Every little detail was perfect and your thoughtfulness much appreciated.”*

*“Fantastic. Thanks so much.*

*“This was the most enjoyable and useful course I have attended.....The tutors were excellent and **SO DIFFERENT!** The organisation of the weekend was excellent”*

The weekend was held on July 19th -21st 2024. A huge thanks to Gill Salter Smith, Anne Woolley and to all the committee and volunteers who worked so hard to make this event so extraordinary. Higham Hall looked after the harpists and tutors extremely well. We looked forward to our next event at Highham Hall; 9th/10th November ‘A weekend with the Harp’ Tutors Karen Marshalsay and Lauren Scott

### Higham Hall Leek and Hazlenut Cheesecake

**Base** ; 1.5 oz butter, 3 oz crushed ritz biscuits, parmesan cheese

**Filling** ; 12 oz finely chopped leeks, 1 oz butter, 1 medium onion chopped, 2.5 oz hazelnuts, 3 oz grated cheddar cheese, 1/2 pint whipped cream, 3 eggs

*You will need a 20 cm tin and make a collar 5 cm tall with baking paper*

**Method**; melt the butter and mix with crushed ritz crackers and parmesan, press in to base

*Fry leeks and onion in the butter then mix eggs, cream, cheese, together until smooth add the leeks, onion and hazelnuts.*

*Cook 190 C 20 minutes and then. 170 C 10 - 20 mins or until set*

*Makes 8 medium slices*

*Thanks to Marion Beagan for sending the recipe*

## A weekend with Heather Downie

Thanks for letting members know about the great, free weekend with Heather Downie. There were over 100 people attending the ZOOM sessions and many more (including me) picking up the recordings. It was memorable in so many ways. We were given so much harping information, I was blown away. Heather was very generous with her teaching. We covered - day 1 - Chord Construction, day - 2 - Extended Harmony, day - 3 - Harmonising a Melody and, within the Q & A sessions, so much more on the 4th day. We also had homework. As I was unable to attend the ZOOM sessions I didn't have to do the homework.

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For those who did submit their sheets Heather held a prize draw at the end. Prizes included copies of Heather's music, one of Heathers courses, etc.

It was a very full weekend. If you want to catch up with these sessions Heather has put them on YouTube. (Free sessions )She also has a Facebook page and website. Her next free event will be at Christmas, so sign up to her news letter for details. [www.heatherdownie.co.uk](http://www.heatherdownie.co.uk)

For more info and messages [heather@heatherdownie.co.uk](mailto:heather@heatherdownie.co.uk)

Thanks again for letting us know about this great weekend.

Eli Bentley

### Gill Lowden's Books

**Stargazing - 7 pieces for 2 or more harps  
£12 (add £2.40 for postage) hard copy or £10 for pdf**

**The Yellow Wheelbarrow - 7 solo pieces  
£10 (add £ 2.40 postage) hard d copy or £ 8 pdf  
Souvenir d'un Scierie - single advanced pièce  
£6 for pdf file (no hard copy available)**

**Contact Gill Salter Smith at [events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)  
pdf files will be sent once the money has been  
received in the bank**

**Gill Lowden has recorded excerpts of the Yellow Wheelbarrow  
please contact Gill Salter- Smith if you wish copies of these.**

**Contributions to the 20th Anniversary  
Celebration Book are still welcome  
- photos of your experiences of HNW, music  
or your stories of your harp journey with  
HNW**

**Please send to  
Gill and Susan  
[events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)**



## Harps North West Information

### HNW Playing Groups

**Harps Out West** is based on the west coast near Gosforth, usually meeting on Thursday mornings once and sometimes twice a month. Contact Helen ([helenbrian@sky.com](mailto:helenbrian@sky.com)). Tutor: Susan Lambert

**Harps South Lakes** are based in Ulverston and usually meet in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Contact Hazel ([hazeyhead49@gmail.com](mailto:hazeyhead49@gmail.com)). Tutor: Mary Dunsford

**Harps Up North** are based in Watermillock, usually meeting on the first Thursday morning of each month. Contact Frances ([francesmquinn@btinternet.com](mailto:francesmquinn@btinternet.com))

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

**HNW Performance Group** is open to all members. A commitment to practicing once a month with the ensemble is necessary to ensure balance in the group when we play. It's not expected that every one will play in every performance, and parts are available for all levels. Venues for the practice will vary. If you decide you'd like to be part of this group or wish to know more contact Gill Salter Smith ([events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk)).

### The Management Team Sept 2023 to Sept 2024

|                   |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gill Salter Smith | Convenor<br>Membership Secretary -<br>overview<br>Higham Hall Link                             | <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mandy Bartlett    | Vice Convenor<br>Harp Hire Secretary -<br>Overview<br>Events - member's bookings               | <a href="mailto:harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">harphire@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>                                                                                                           |
| Ann Woolley       | Secretray                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Susan Lambert     | Website & Facebook                                                                             | <a href="mailto:online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Veronica Wilkie   | Newsletter Editor                                                                              | <a href="mailto:events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">events@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Catherine Livesey |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Chris Pollington  | Venue Bookings                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Frances Quinn     |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Linda Taylor      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Anne Gilbert      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Rosemary Scholes  |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Alison Stobbs     | HNW Administrator<br>Treasurer<br>Harp Hire admin & support<br>Membership - admin &<br>support | <a href="mailto:administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">administrator@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">treasurer@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk">membership@harpsnorthwest.org.uk</a> |