

Hello!

We're looking forward to welcoming you to Halsway a month from now, for the Northumbrian Smallpipers' Weekend.

Your 2020 team includes tutors Pauline Cato, Andy May, Chris Evans, Rob Say and Francis Wood, plus host Christine Corkett who will be around throughout the weekend to help you get the most from your visit.

Programmes are attached, for the full NSP Weekend and for the Saturday Taster Day. Advance tunes from each tutor are also attached; in each case you'll find the simpler (Basic level) tunes first, getting progressively more tricky. **Please make sure you print out and bring a copy of the music with you.**

This year as part of the NSP Weekend programme we will be offering optional workshops on Saturday afternoon, or you're free to take some time off if you prefer. We'll announce these at the Weekend.

A note re. Sunday, Francis Wood will be offering a Basic Technique workshop throughout the morning; you are welcome to drop into this at any point if you feel you will find this useful, whatever your level.

Typically, this group will include a range of abilities, including beginners and also more experienced players who are experiencing some problems or frustrations with their playing.

We'll be looking at practical aspects of playing and maintenance including things like:

- Assembling pipes and protecting them
- Posture and hand position
- Using the bellows in the most efficient and relaxed way
- Maintaining a steady pressure
- Tuning the drones
- Use of chanter keys
- Simple maintenance and adjustment
- Problem diagnosis – is it the pipes or me?
- Practice routine and tips
- Participating in playing sessions

If most (or all) of our Basic level students will find it useful to work with Francis on Sunday, we will re-deploy the talents of Andy & Pauline to run additional workshops aimed at Intermediate and Advanced levels; we'll make this decision over the weekend, once we've had a chance to meet everyone and see where the demand lies.

A couple of final pieces of housekeeping:

- If you are vegetarian / vegan / have any food allergies and have not already told us, please get in touch.
- If you have an outstanding balance on your booking, it is now due!

You can contact us on 01984 618274 ext 1 / office@halswaymanor.org.uk.

Best wishes

The Halsway Team!