

A CELEBRATION!

Bringing together the music of present day Beresfords and the traditional Dales dance tunes of the Langstrothdale Beresford/Cockerill clans

Where? In Upper Wharfedale itself
Venue: The Village Institute in Buckden
When? Sunday April 13th 2025
Time? Sunday afternoon, 2pm to 5pm
Entry Free, but charity donations welcome

WHY

are we celebrating generations of Beresford family music making in Upper Wharfedale and beyond?

BECAUSE

from the 1790s to the 1970s generations of the large and widespread Beresford families lived and worked the land in Upper Wharfedale, Langstrothdale and Oughtershaw. They also made music and played for local dances, or “Stirs” as they were called, handing down their musical prowess generation to generation. “Music’s bred in’em”, as a neighbour said. And their music-making still flourishes in recent generations which have moved out of the Dales to Skipton and beyond though their music is now of a more contemporary kind. Brian Beresford in Skipton, for instance, pianist, composer, writer of books for children, wrote the piece in the August 2024 Link, “Sir David Attenborough’s message in a Beresford song”, a song which is now being sung in schools across the world. His son is a guitarist and his daughter is a professional musician, being a cellist and also conductor of City of Newport Symphony Orchestra and Caerphilly Choir in South Wales. **Isn’t this flow of music-making through maybe eight generations of Beresfords, now far afield but originating from Upper Wharfedale, good cause for a local celebration?** Including too the music of the prolific Harry Beresford Cockerill 1914 – 1994, born at Deepdale to parents Henry Cockerill and Barbara Beresford? **YES!** And this is it:

Outline Programme

Part A – Concert

Short slide/talks: The Beresford farms and musicians, the tunes and dances they played for

Music by Brian (piano) and Peter Beresford (guitar)

Brian’s “This is the moment” song for everyone

Interval with refreshments

Part B - “Jam Session”

Dales folk musicians and Beresford families playing together

Finale

Clear the floor for some Dales dances with expert caller Peter Barnard

Booking essential for the Institute via beresford@buckden.org

Further information from Richard Hargreaves strand@hawkswick.net