

## **Cancellation Notice: *Melodeons in Wensleydale 2020***

It is with very great reluctance and sadness that we have decided to cancel *Melodeons in Wensleydale 2020*, which was due to take place on 24-26 April. In view of the rapidly deteriorating situation with regard to Covid-19 and government advice that over-70s should consider self-isolating even if they don't have any symptoms, we feel that cancellation is the only responsible course of action open to us. We also have to consider that Covid-19 hasn't reached Wensleydale yet and we don't want to be the ones to inadvertently introduce it to the area.

The age profile of those booked on the course includes a significant number of over-70s, including a couple of the tutors, and there are others with underlying health issues that place them in the high risk category in which the infection is likely to be serious for anyone unfortunate enough to contract the virus. Therefore, we have to consider people's health above the pleasure we were anticipating from meeting up for a weekend of melodeon tuition. Some people have already made the understandable decision to withdraw and there would no doubt have been others doing so in the coming weeks. We are sorry to have to cancel, but we hope that you will understand and support our decision to do so.

There are two options available to you: either a refund or we can carry over your fee to next year's *Melodeons in Wensleydale*, which will be on 23-25 April 2021. The tutors in 2021 will include Andy Cutting, Emmanuel Pariselle and Katie Howson plus at least one other who has not yet been booked.

Some of you will know that the surplus generated by *Melodeons in Wensleydale* would have been used to fund the publication of my book on the music and dance of the Yorkshire Dales, which has just gone to the printers. The cancellation of this year's event means that there will no longer be enough money to fund publication, which may have to be delayed for up to a year. However, if enough of those who booked this year are willing to carry forward their bookings into next year, there could be sufficient money in the funds to go ahead with printing and publication as planned. The choice is, of course, entirely yours, and we will repay the booking fees to those who ask us to do so within the next couple of weeks. Please reply to this email by next Saturday or send an email to Bob ([bob@bpellis.idps.co.uk](mailto:bob@bpellis.idps.co.uk)) to indicate whether you would prefer a refund or would be willing to carry forward your course fee to next year.

We hope that all of you remain safe and well through these trying times and that we will all be able to meet up again at festivals and other folk events later this year – and at *Melodeons in Wensleydale 2021*.

Best wishes,  
Bob