
Sir Edward Elgar: A Hellfield Connection

The famous and much loved composer Edward Elgar, known for his Enigma variations and Pomp and Circumstance marches was a regular visitor to Hellfield during the early days of his career in the 1880's.

Elgar met Dr. Charles William Buck, a GP and music lover from Giggleswick, at a medical convention in Worcester where Elgar was conducting an orchestra to entertain the assembled doctors. The pair formed a friendship and Buck invited Elgar to visit him in his Dale's home.

marriage, this did not go down well with her father who refused as he considered Elgar, the son of a tradesman and a penniless musician, not worthy of his daughter! Sarah Ann never married and spent her remaining days living with her sister in a London hotel.



Dr. Buck was the family doctor to the wealthy land owning family, the Wilkinson's, who lived in a large imposing home situated on Hellfield green and Elgar accompanied Buck on his visits to the family. During regular visits to tennis parties held at the Wilkinson home Elgar fell in love with Sarah Ann, John Wilkinson's elder daughter.

The Photo, taken at the Wilkinson home in Hellfield shows Elgar, centre with his hand on the chair of Sarah Ann, with the bearded Mr. Wilkinson looking on.

The next time you are enjoying Land of Hope and Glory at the last night of the Proms, spare a thought for Elgar and his Hellfield connection!

Elgar asked for Sarah Ann's hand in

John Percy, July 2019