

The Swinford Museum Filkins, Oxfordshire



2019

The Music and Musicians of Filkins and Broughton Poggs

Free (donations welcome)

Welcome to the Swinford Museum's 2019 music themed exhibition. This collection presents a celebration of the history and development of musical life in and around Filkins and Broughton Poggs from centuries gone by through to the present day. The collection is intended to illustrate the many roles that music has played, and the many forms which it has taken, within the history of local area. We hope that you enjoy exploring the museum's eclectic collection, which includes vintage instruments, oral histories, photographs, newspaper clippings, books, records, music magazines, grave decorations, audio recordings and much more.

The exhibition is centred around five themes, as follows:

Music in the community

The communities of Filkins and Broughton Poggs have a rich history of social gatherings, many of which have incorporated music and musicians, including brass bands, folk songs, wartime singing, the Filkins Morris tradition and hand bell ringing to name a few. See vintage instruments known to have been played at village festivities in years gone by and you may even be able to

spot some of them in the photos above the fireplace.

Music and childhood

Around the exhibition there are several exhibits which offer insights into the youngest village residents' experiences of music over the years. Look for the children's country dancing clothes (fashioned from recycled blackout fabric!) which were used for maypole dancing on the village paddock, George Swinford's handmade childhood tin whistle, a photograph of senior students at Burford School making wooden instruments, memories of performances by Filkins School pupils and parties for the local children who attended piano lessons with the wife of George Swinford Junior.

Music and religion

There are rich histories of musical traditions associated with the churches of Filkins and Broughton Poggs. Various instruments were used in church services prior to the installation of the church organs, some of which are on display. The exhibition houses a collection of hymn books from at least the early 1920s (originally priced at

“twopence”), music themed church kneelers, a vintage bell pull, details of the touching story behind Filkins solo church bell and oral histories from the longstanding organ tuner and organists.

Music in the home

Residents of Filkins and Broughton Poggs have long enjoyed music in their homes, whether on a grand scale, as suggested by photographs of the former pipe organ from Filkins farmhouse, or on a smaller scale with song books used for private parties and domestic performances. Historic music magazines, vinyl records, record players and early crystal radio sets are also displayed.

The music industry and Filkins today

Filkins provides an unexpected contemporary link between Glass Animals musician Ed Irwin-Singer, composer of the Tomb Raider suite Nathan McCree, professional drummer extraordinaire Mike Monaghan and Spandau Ballet songwriter Gary Kemp. Local community choir The Cotswold Voices prove that some current Filkins village residents also enjoy singing rock and pop music classics! Clive Morley Harps have kindly donated a selection of instruments from their private collection and have set out the fascinating story behind this unique Filkins-based family business.

Acknowledgements

This exhibition has been made possible with the kind help and support of local residents, to whom we are most grateful. Special gratitude goes to:

Ben and Juliet Morley of Morley Harps for the loan of their wonderful vintage instruments, provision of posters and the kind donation to the museum.

Oxford Brookes University, Music Department, for their kind financial support.

Richard Martin of the Cotswold Woollen Weavers, a local fount of knowledge on the history of Filkins and Broughton Poggs.

Composer Nathan McCree for the donation of Tomb Raider CDs and the programme from the world premiere of the Tomb Raider Suite.

Mike Monaghan, drummer extraordinaire, for the photos, videos and recollections of your time rehearsing in Filkins Village Hall.

The family of Glass Animals musician Ed Irwin-Singer for the loan of the poster and ‘cork characters’.

Trish Poole for the loan of church artefacts and Filkins hand bell group performances.

Sheila, Ena and Hilary from the village shop and post office, and village resident Kevin Robbins, for your wonderful recollections which helped to bring the exhibition to life and linked past with present.

Diane Blackett, at the heart of the museum, without whom the exhibition would never have happened.

This music themed exhibition has been presented by village resident Jennifer Skellington (Dr), who works as a lecturer and researcher at Oxford Brookes University and Solent University. Further details about Jennifer’s work can be found at www.jenniferskellington.com and she can be contacted at skellij@hotmail.com. Follow Jennifer on Twitter @DrSkellij.

We hope that you enjoy visiting our collection and that you will encourage others to visit us.

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