



BILLINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL

FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



BIFF NEWSLETTER No 5, September 2007

44th BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL – 26th July – 2nd August 2008
Festival of Fun and Friendship

Despite some major disruption to the Group line up and major changes to this year's programme we hope you all agree WOW what a fantastic Festival that was.

We were very fortunate at the last minute to secure the group from Sardinia who proved to be extremely popular with our audiences with their unusual throat singing and fascinating dance patterns which changed effortlessly, like a kaleidoscope. From the macho Malambo of the Argentinians to the colour and gaiety of the Mexicans we feel that this Festival keeps going from strength to strength.



We have already started working on 2008 Festival to hopefully secure the best Groups the world has to offer.

Unfortunately, this year at the last minute the group from New Zealand had to cancel due to funding, however, we have already issued another invitation for next year and we are keeping our fingers crossed, as we have told them how disappointed we all were that they were unable to participate. The word back from New Zealand is that it looks quite promising, as

they have plenty of time to fund raise and find funding so hopefully we will have a Maori Group for us all to enjoy next year.



The other day for a completely different reason we were speaking with Snr Saulo Romero, the Director of Tenochtitlan (Mexico) who has asked us to pass on his best regards to the Bilingham Festival supporters, and has asked if we would be good enough to ask them back next year, as they enjoy their time very much in Bilingham, so major fund raising is also happening in Mexico.



We have also asked for promotional material from Hawaii (Joseph who travelled with Clog America, and danced with the hoops and fire) has formed a group with his Family,



We were extremely lucky to see an excellent group from Cuba perform in Confolens at their 50th Anniversary in August, they are guaranteed to get our feet tapping.



(photo from Festival de Confolens 2006)

The other groups we are considering for the Festival 2008 are:



Colombia



Martinique



South Africa *(photo from Festival de Confolens 2006)*



Japan

Romania, Russia, Philippines and India, to name but a few.

We hope you all enjoyed the added attraction to this year's Festival of celebrating British Traditions. From the feedback we have received it was a very positive addition to the Festival. We hope, with continued funding and support, we will be able to continue this feature, as we feel it is extremely important to promote our Folklore on our stage alongside our International Guests.



Wales

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS ...

We have also had great feedback on the Display of Photographs by the very talented Alex Wilson (Official Festival Photographer) in the Billingham Art Gallery depicting the Festival throughout the years. In 1967, Mr Wilson first watched the Festival as a very young boy, a year later he returned with a camera and the history began. Alongside this magnificent display of photographs was a fantastic display of gifts and treasures given to the Festival throughout the years, and a film made in 1969, playing all day "What's A Festival Like You, Doing In A Place Like This?" (which will be available from our Festival Shop, in the near future). Unfortunately all good things have to

come to an end, and this display finished on 31st August 2007, but hopefully will return.



NEWSFLASH : ONLINE FESTIVAL SHOP

We are also extremely excited and proud to be launching our Online Festival Shop, hopefully by 1st October 2007, selling a variety of Festival Merchandise i.e., Compilation CD's of the very best music heard at Billingham, Past Festival's on DVD including "What's A Festival Like You Doing In A Place Like This" as seen in the Billingham Art Galley during the festival, Souvenir programmes (subject to availability), Photographs taken by our own Official Festival Photographer Mr Alex Wilson, and other Festival Memorabilia.

The Shop Catalogue will also be available by post on request.

If you have any ideas for our Online shop or wish to make suggestions for merchandise, please contact us either by e-mail or post and we will do our best to provide them.

Also next year the shop will have the added advantage of being able to purchase Festival Concert Tickets Online through the Paypal Facility (a very secure way to make payments direct to us to secure your tickets)



LATE ARRIVAL

We are very pleased to announce the birth of a baby boy for Mr Ian Russell (Town Centre Arena Director and BIFF Ltd Director) and his partner Debbie. George was due to be the 2nd Festival Baby born in two consecutive years,

however he already takes after his daddy and was nearly 2 weeks late.

FUN AND FUNDRAISING

As you all know we are always interested in new ways to fund raise to ensure the continuation of this fantastic Festival. If you have any novel and interesting ideas, we are always ready to listen. Or if you would like to join any fundraising that continues throughout the year, ie Car Boot Sales, Boat Trips, etc or have any goodies that we could sell, please contact us, we would be very grateful.



WEB NEWS

Anybody who has access to the Internet can go onto our Website and take a look already at the Photographs of 2007, again courtesy of Alex Wilson.

We are also hoping in the near future to be able to have small video clips for you.

Any ideas that you would like to see on our Website or any improvements you think we could make, again please contact us.

www.billinghamfestival.co.uk
info@billinghamfestival.co.uk

IN MEMORY OF IRENE ...

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sadness of the passing of Mrs Irene Hodgson, who worked alongside her husband Peter in the Town Centre Arena. Even throughout her illness, Irene was always in the Arena with a smile on her face and a few welcoming words. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to her husband Peter and Family. Irene will always be remembered by all of us here at the Festival.



NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF BIFF NEWSLETTER

The new Billingham International Festival Newsletters is published **quarterly**:

The next BIFF newsletter will come out in December 2007/January 2008.

If you would like to make any comments regarding the Newsletter, or receive the

previous edition of the Newsletter by e-mail, please contact us on:

billingham.festival@virgin.net

If you do not wish to receive our Newsletter in the future, please e-mail us back with a word “**unsubscribe**” and we will delete your e-mail address of our mailing list.

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