



BILLINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL

FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



BIFF NEWSLETTER No 8, September 2008

45th BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL – 25th July – 1st August 2009
THE Festival of Fun and Friendship

Despite some last minute changes to the Group line up, with Martinique cancelling at the last minute and being replaced by the outstanding Turkish Group from Anadolu University, and the Visa problems encountered by the Colombian's we know that this year's Festival was definitely one of the best yet, and is going to be very difficult to beat for our 45th Anniversary year next year. So that's why work has already started in preparation for next year, before this year's Festival had finished, we had received information from a great number of groups asking to come to our 2009 Festival, and at this present time we are waiting for promotional material from them and we will keep you posted.

We have received a request from the group from Panama, EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO "RITMOS Y RAÍCES PANAMEÑAS" who last visited us in 2004, to return to Billingham, an official invitation has been sent, so fingers crossed we will see our friends again.



We are working in conjunction with all the major CIOFF Festivals on the continent to

hopefully secure the best Groups the world has to offer, and are hoping to be able to, this time secure a Maori Group, as these appear to be everyone's favourite.



We have also been highly recommended a group from Trinidad and Tobago, which we are waiting for promotional material from, part of their repertoire is "Limbo" dancing, which attracted great crowds of people at Folkmoor USA Festival this year, who knows we might even get a chance to try it for ourselves.

The other groups we are considering at the moment for 2009 are: Brazil, Croatia, Costa Rica, Phillipines, Poland, Russia, Thailand (from CIOFF Thailand).



We are going to apply for additional funding for next year, being our 45th Anniversary year, and funding permitting, we would like to play host to 10 groups, which will surely make 2009 go off with a BANG.



For the first time this year we held Drumming Workshops for Children and Young Adults, and it created much interest, so we hope to be able again, funding permitting, for this workshop to continue and expand.



We hope you all enjoyed the added attraction again this year 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, and are hoping to be able to secure a group from Ireland or Wales to appear next year.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS ...



Due to the exceptional comments on the Display of Photographs by the very talented Alex Wilson (Official Festival Photographer) in the Billingham Art Gallery last year we were lucky enough to be given the use of the old Kwik Save shop this year, and were able to have the display again, alongside a limited display of gifts and treasures given to the Festival throughout the years. If we can secure another shop for next year, we are hoping to be able to show the history of the Festival throughout the 45 years through photographs, memorabilia etc, so if you have any ideas, please contact us.



ONLINE FESTIVAL SHOP

On 1st October 2007, we launched our Festival On-Line shop and we are happy to report it has been a great success. Sales of DVD's from previous year's festivals, CD's, gifts, old programmes etc, have contributed considerably to the continued success of the festival. Also in May we launched the On-Line ticket sales, which resulted in being able to attract a wider audience and has been a major boost to ticket sales and will be continued next year. If you enjoyed this year's Festival, you are able to purchase a DVD, made by professional Film Makers of the final Saturday Farewell Gala, and Closing Ceremony. Also available in the very near future will be two separate DVD's featuring Colombia Viva and Krusheva, Russia, imagine, a whole DVD featuring ONE of these outstanding groups, a great nights entertainment or keepsake of 2008.

We are always looking to expand, 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. All proceeds go towards the continued success of the Festival, as costs are always rising.



Expansion of Website....

We are also looking to expand the Website to include not only news of what's happening within the Festival, but also funny stories which has happened during the Festival, photographs, memories etc. Also we would love to hear from any volunteers who would like to appear in "A Day in the life of...."

where, featuring a short interview and photographs, you can describe your job within the Festival and the Highs and lows of being involved. Any other ideas on what you all would like to see, would be extremely welcome.

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, Coffee Mornings etc or have any goodies that we could sell, please contact us, we would be very grateful. A Great BIG THANK YOU goes to Sonia Lawson, on the 31st May 2008, she held a Coffee Morning and Raffle, and raised over £200. Well Done Sonia.

Anyone who has an interest in Ebay, can register to donate a percentage of your sales to Billingham International Folklore Festival. You can donate from 10 – 100% of your sales.

We have already sold some CD's and Books on Ebay on behalf of the Billingham Festival and raised approx £245.00, we will defiantly be starting again, once we have recovered from this year, as not only does the money go to a great cause, it helps de-clutter your house, two jobs done in one. Great!!!



WEB NEWS

Anybody who has access to the Internet can go onto our Website and take a look at the Photographs of 2007, and soon 2008, again courtesy of Alex Wilson. We also have small video clips for you from 2008 on our Website and You Tube, which has been watched by over 100,000 people all over the world in 10 months.

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

NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF BIFF NEWSLETTER

The new Billingham International Festival Newsletters is published **3-4 times per year**:

The next BIFF newsletter will come out in December 2008/January 2009.

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.

Until next Time, Take Care - Lisa

Billingham International Folklore Festival Ltd
Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1DW

Tel: (01642) 651060; Fax: (01642) 602839

e-mail: info@billinghamfestival.co.uk; www.billinghamfestival.co.uk