

Alderman Harry Lonsdale Davies MBE 1930 – 2008



It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of Alderman Harry Davies MBE. Harry died on Thursday 8th May 2008, following a short illness. Harry was a major part of the Festival, getting involved at the beginning through Billingham Urban council, then continuing through the years until three years ago he had to resign from the Board of Directors through ill health.

Harry has had many roles within the Festival including Chairman, Vice Chairman and even Uncle BIFF, and some of us who are old enough will remember Judy, Harry's dog, who went everywhere with him and was the only canine member ever of the Uncle BIFF Club. Then in 1989-1990, Harry became Mayor of Stockton Borough Council, but still was involved with the Festival at grass roots level, when the mayoral robes came off, in true Harry style, there he was sleeves rolled up, doing anything he could to help out.

Harry was very involved with CIOFF since it was founded in 1970, and recently, before his illness, for two years he was president of the Northern European Sector, Chairman of PR Working Group, and Member of CIOFF International Council. For all Harry's dedicated work he was awarded the CIOFF Silver Pin in 2008. The president of CIOFF, Dr Udomsak Sakmunwong, sent an e-mail today expressing his deepest sadness, along with the messages of love and support we are receiving from all over the world, we feel this is a true tribute to the wonderful man Harry Davies really was.

He will be greatly missed, not only by everyone at the Festival, but from friends he made throughout his life, from all over the world.

Sleep Tight Harry, Till we meet again.

Harry's funeral will be held on Monday 19th May 2008, at St Cuthbert's Church, Billingham Green, Old Billingham at 2.30pm.

Harry how we will remember
him...



On his last CIOFF duty trip to
Bergen, Norway

*“It was a great sadness to learn about the decease of Alderman Harry Davies the former Council Member of CIOFF. My deepest sincere condolence to his family, I am sharing in your tremendous loss. Close in thought will stay loved and remembered. He will be certainly missed by CIOFF World Members. The love and the warm memories will live forever in our hearts. May God Bless all Alderman Harry Davies' s family members, With best wishes,
Dr. Udomsak Sakmunwong
President of CIOFF”*

*“DEAR FRIENDS FROM CIOFF UK
It is really a sad news ! I'm so sad too ; please accept my deepest condolences to CIOFF UK and to all his family ;
We have so great souvenirs in mind with Harry Davies when he was with us in CIOFF Family ; he was so young and friendly with all of us ; always laughing and enjoying our meetings !
we will miss him fo ever !
With my warmest regards,
Philippe Beaussant
CIOFF Secretary General.
Festival de Confolens”*

*“Dear all friends and colleagues,
May I express my deep sorrow for all of you, missing Alderman Harry Daivies, MBE.
Lord, save his soul.
Sincerely -
Rimantas Sliuzinskas
CIOFF Lithuania”*

*“Please give the family of Harry our sincere condoliations of the CIOFF Luxembourg board. Also our sincere feelings for you all.
Kind regards,
Susanne Kramer
President CIOFF Luxemburg”*



**ONG en relations formelles
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l'UNESCO**

CIOFF

**CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISATIONS
DE FESTIVALS DE FOLKLORE ET D'ARTS
TRADITIONNELS
Central European Sector**

13/05/2008

**CIOFF United Kingdom
Mr. Joe Maloney
Stockton Business Centre
70 Brunswick Street
Stockton on Tees, TS18 1DW**

Dear friends

With shock we came to know from the dead of our longtime companion

Alderman Harry Davies.

In our common effort for the conservation of the Folk Culture we were connected very close.

His experience and His research were always welcome and very helpful,

Together with His family members and the big CIOFF family we grieve for the adored deceased and we will keep Him in commemoration

With teariness and solicitousness

CIOFF Central European Sector

**Jerzy Chmiel, President and CIOFF Vice President
Susanne Kramer, Sector Representative
Norbert Mueller, Chairman CIOFF Festivals Commission**

*“Dear Friends,
Gustel and myself are deeply touched by the decease of alderman Harry Davis, with whom I cooperated a lot in my active CIOFF time and whom I respected and appreciated very much.
We present our sincerest condolences to his family and to the whole CIOFF-UK.
With our best regards.
Siegfried and Gustel Verbeelen, Belgium
Honorary Member of CIOFF”*

*“Dear friends,
I am sorry to hear the sad news about Alderman Harry Davies death. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to meet him and learned him to know as a very sympathetic and friendly man, dedicated to our folklore work.
Yours,
Tone Eisvold
CIOFF Norway”*

*“We were very sorry to read the sad news about the passing away of Harry Davies. I was privileged to know him for many years starting in Billingham festival and later in several CIOFF conventions. He was a good friend and had a pleasant personality he was dedicated, open, and inquisitive person with leadership qualities.
We will miss him.
Dan Ronen
CIOFF Israel
Chairman of CIOFF Finance Commission”*