



# BILLINGHAM

## INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



**BIFF NEWSLETTER No 4, July 2007**

**43<sup>rd</sup> BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL – 28<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2007  
Last Minute Update – changes in the international groups line up**

We are now just 2 weeks from our 43<sup>rd</sup> Festival and typically that is when the problems start with last minute cancellations from Groups. We have recently lost for various reasons New Zealand (due to financial problems), Thailand (due to Thai government restrictions imposed on the travel of students) and Ukraine (due to visa problems again). Unlike last year when we were left with just 6 Groups to entertain us, (and what a good job they did) we were determined not to let this happen again so fortunately, with the help of our friends in the CIOFF International Network, we have managed to replace those groups with another 3 outstanding groups, which, we are sure, make a great impact to our Festival this year.

The new groups are from:

### **JORDAN**

#### **Folklore Troupe “Al – Ramtha”**

*This is the very first time that Jordan has appeared at Billingham. They come highly recommended by CIOFF France, where they appeared last year. They have asked us to say how honored they feel about this invitation to our prestigious event.*



### **SARDINIA (ITALY)**

#### **Cultural & Folklore Association**

#### **« SU MASU »**

*From this small Italian Island comes this highly recommended group, famous all over the World for their haunting Gregorian style chanting-singing. This group of singers, musicians and dancers perform typical Sardinian Folklore past onto them by word of mouth and deep research into their history.*



**SOUTH KOREA**  
**KOREANA Dance Company**

*This professional Korean ensemble of dancers and musicians are famous for not only performing the brilliant Korean Dances we are used to see but also traditional dances based on the Buddhist Religion passed on by ancestors and legends.*



In the Festival Performance Programme, which was published in February, New Zealand will now be replaced by Jordan; Thailand by Sardinia and Ukraine by South Korea in all the scheduled concerts, except for Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of August in The Forum Theatre, where New Zealand will be replaced by Sardinia in the “International Carousel” show.



In spite of all the changes, we are sure that the forthcoming Festival will be one of the best festivals ever and you will not be disappointed. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again in 2 weeks time at our fun filled friendship packed Festival.



## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS ...

In addition to our usual Festival events we have this year organized with the Billingham Art Gallery to hold a display of Festival Memorabilia of Dolls and Artifacts given to the Festival over the years.



I am sure it will bring back a lot of memories for you as it has for us putting the exhibition together. It makes you wonder where the 43 years have gone.

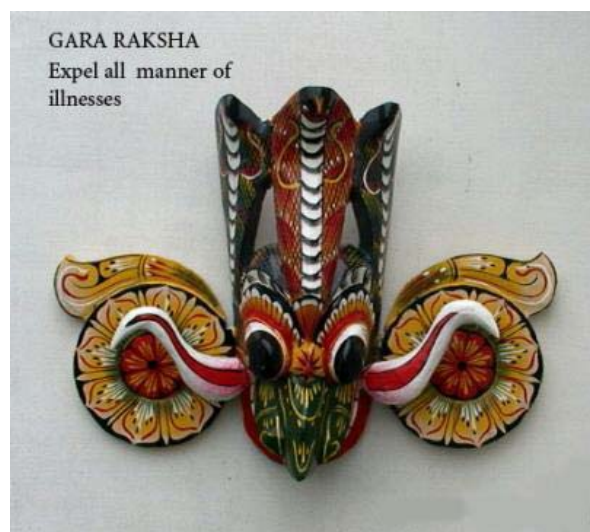


Alongside this display will be a Gallery of photographs by Alex Wilson chartering the History of the Festival from its humble beginning to the outstanding event it is today.



This exhibition will run for 5 weeks from the opening day of the Festival. Please come along and take part in this large display of Festival History, you will regret it if you don't, as this may never be repeated.

We are extremely excited to be able to exhibit these photographs by this talented photographer, alongside our interesting and colourful Display.



## A BIG THANK YOU !!!

We are extremely proud to announce that we have received a grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund for our Celebrating British Traditions project. We applied for this grant by the wishes of you, our audiences, from the Survey (we really do take notice) who would like to see more British Culture on our stage.



With great thanks to them, this year we have been able to do so, with Ireland, Scotland Wales and England taking a major role in this years Festival.



We have also been awarded a Local Network Fund & Tees Valley Community Foundation grant and Ropner Trust grant to extend and improve our Children's Club activities.



**local network fund**  
for children and young people



**Tees Valley  
Community  
Foundation**

We have been able to purchase a projector & screen with the Ropner Trust Fund money, which will enable us to give a slide and video show of all the countries represented at the Festival to give children a living and tactile experience of Geography and History, much

better than in the class room. This projector will also be used throughout the year at Promotional Events to try and get much needed funding, support and advertising for the Festival.



With great thanks to BILLINDA, who helped us secure the local Network Fund grant and will be hosting all the Children's Club activities, this grant has enabled us to extend the Children's Club for an extra hour to include International Handicrafts, where groups will teach our children what they learnt as children from their parents and grandparents. We intend to make learning a fun experience for our future generations.



The funding we received has also enabled us for the first time to hire a large marquee within the grounds of Bede College to hold various events and teaching workshops.

## NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF BIFF NEWSLETTER

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

The next BIFF newsletter will come out in September/October 2007.

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](mailto: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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