



LOTTERY FUNDED



Billingham World Explorers Project wins National Lottery Support

Today, Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance has received £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, Billingham World Explorers. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on celebrating 250th Anniversary of Captain Wallis discovering of the island of Tahiti in 1767, linking it with Captain James Cook, who was born in our region and later followed Captain Samuel Wallis's expedition discovering the Cook Islands in Polynesia. The project will be carried out in close cooperation with the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum in Marton, Middlesbrough.

The project will engage a wide range of community participants, including primary and secondary schools, community interest groups & families. Participants will visit the Museum exploring the lives and journeys of the two famous captains. This opportunity encourages people from the local area to engage with these facilities, inspiring them to research & learn about the local British explorers, taking pride in local history & heritage.

The heritage research undertaken will be presented at the festival interpreted through community participant's visual art work, films, storytelling, poetry, drama and dance, created prior to the festival with the help of professional visual and performance artists.

The project will culminate in the creation of an interactive journey through the centre of Billingham, visually mapping out the expeditions of the 2 captains. Festival visitors and audience will also be given a map, which they will use to follow the route, with finale dance and music performances by three visiting

dance companies from Easter Island, New Zealand and Tahiti, the three destinations from the expeditions of two captains.

“We are thrilled to have received support thanks to National Lottery players. Billingham World Explorers is an exciting project which celebrates and shares cultural heritage through the platform of the festival. The project encourages exploration of both personal and other people's heritage to provide a firm understanding of both traditional and modern cultures expressed through a variety of engaging art forms. We aim to present an enjoyable, enriching and interactive heritage activity for people of any age or ability.” – Joe Maloney, Festival Director

Notes to editors

About Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance

Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance (BIFF) founded in 1965 is a unique multi-cultural festival with global impact, with 52 years of history celebrating world cultures: over 20,000 performers from 93 countries and a strong community legacy of generations of festival goers. It has a worldwide reputation as one of the world's oldest and most renowned festivals of World Dance, one of the top leading festivals of its kind in the world, and the only festival of its kind in the UK.

Billingham festival 2017 will take place from 12th to 19th August

Further information:

www.billinghamfestival.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/billinghamworlddancefestival>

Twitter: @Billfest

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Mr. Joe Maloney, Festival Director at Billingham International Folklore Festival Ltd on 07909923173.