



CIOFF®

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS
OF FOLKLORE FESTIVALS AND FOLK ART

Official Partner of UNESCO
Accredited to the UNESCO ICH Committee

National Section of UNITED KINGDOM

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CIOFF® International Headquarters moves to Billingham

At the CIOFF® World Congress and General Assembly in Zacatecas, Mexico, 26th October -2nd November, the Artistic Director of Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance, Olga Maloney, was unanimously elected as Secretary General of CIOFF® International.

CIOFF® (Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels) is a non-governmental organization in Official Partnership with UNESCO, accredited to act as adviser to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee of UNESCO.



Founded in 1970, CIOFF® is now represented in over 90 different countries in which there are more than thirty thousand folklore dance and music groups and folk arts organizations. Today CIOFF® globally coordinates over 300 annual international folklore and folk arts festivals, uniting hundreds of people around the world with its mission to encourage cultural exchanges in order to promote a growing spirit of friendship and peace.

Billingham International Folklore Festival, which will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2014, was one of the founder members of CIOFF® in 1970 and supported CIOFF® work through the years. The first Director of Billingham Festival was Phil Conroy, was also the first Secretary General of CIOFF® in the early years.

“I feel extremely honoured to be elected especially in the festival’s anniversary year.”-said Olga Maloney- “I am also very privileged and excited to be part of the great team and looking forward to working towards strengthening the CIOFF® organisation.”

Olga Maloney becomes the first woman elected on CIOFF Executive Committee and the first woman to become Secretary General of CIOFF® International. “I am very proud of that fact”- said Olga- “and I will do my best to live up to the challenge and all the expectations.”

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www.cioff.org
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