

The London Lindy Exchange



Geny Caloisi (right) and friend show off their posh frocks

May started a bit cold, but the lindy hop crowd had a great way to warm up for the summer on the bank holiday weekend. On May 4–7, the London Lindy Exchange (LLX) took place, with over 400 people getting together for four days of dancing and socialising in great venues around London.

The not-for-profit event is organised by a group of volunteers. With tickets costing just £53, dancers from around Europe were treated to six different bands and seven swinging parties.

This year was the tenth anniversary of the LLX. Back in 2002, Judy Crook and a group of the first hard-core lindy hoppers in London decided they wanted to open their houses and city to dancers from the Continent.

The exchange is now a truly fantastic opportunity to

meet new people and cross-pollinate dancing styles. One of the most remarkable aspects of this event is that local dancers host dancers coming from other countries, making it more affordable.

Elena Davtetova, from Moscow, stayed in a houseboat. Her host, Peter, had three people staying with him for the event. Elena said: "Not only am I staying in a beautiful

place, I also have the chance to dance with new people, learn new styles and make friends. This is my first LLX and it's fantastic. The lindy hop scene in Moscow is very nice too, so people should visit us!"

The evening parties were held in north London's Camden Centre

on the Euston Road, a beautiful, big venue with a large stage for the bands. On Friday night we danced to the beat of Gentlemen and Gangsters, a hot jazz band that played some old classics, ideal for balboa and lindy hop.

Saturday night was the big night for all the dancers to show off their best suits and frocks. This party had the battle of the bands with the UK's Shirt Tail Stompers and Sweden's Gentlemen and Gangsters. The energy was amazing and after the battle the two bands played together.

If the evening events didn't give dancers enough of the boogie fix they wanted, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoon there was social dancing at the Seven Dials Club, in Covent Garden, the Wilmington Arms, in Clerkenwell and at Exmouth Market. This is an annual event not to be missed if all you want is dance! ●

GENY CALOISI

www.londonlindyexchange.com



The Shirt Tail Stompers