



I nominate Pani Maria Babych Choreographer and dance teacher of The Orlyk Ukrainian Dance Ensemble based in Manchester United Kingdom. Orlyk is the representative dance group of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain

Pani Babych started dancing under the renowned choreographer Petro Dnistrowyk when Orlyk started in 1949. She is completely dedicated sharing her talent, experience and gift with children and adults of all ages. Most of her dancers start at the Petro Dnistrowyk Ukrainian School of Dance based at the Cultural Centre in Manchester and taught by Pani Babych. From there their talents are identified and Pani Babych has the ability to nurture young talent to become elegant traditional Ukrainian dancers. Once established they move up to the senior group Orlyk when Pani Babych knows it's right and that each young dancer will hold their own when coming up against the more established experience members of the group. Other dancers join just to be part of this fantastic group and experience Pani Baych's way of teaching, gaining further experience and having their bad habits ironed out by an expert. As a lady of 70 plus years, as you never ask a lady her age, Pani Babych still has the posture, poza and flair of a truly wonderful dancer and can still show the male dancers a pryzhad or two.

Pani Baych is fair, honest and an absolutely lovable person who always has time for all her dancers. Her compassion to her younger fledglings is second to none nurturing them like a mother hen her chicks. Long may this devoted elegant lady continue to pass to others her outstanding knowledge, experience and talent. She is definitely one in a million.