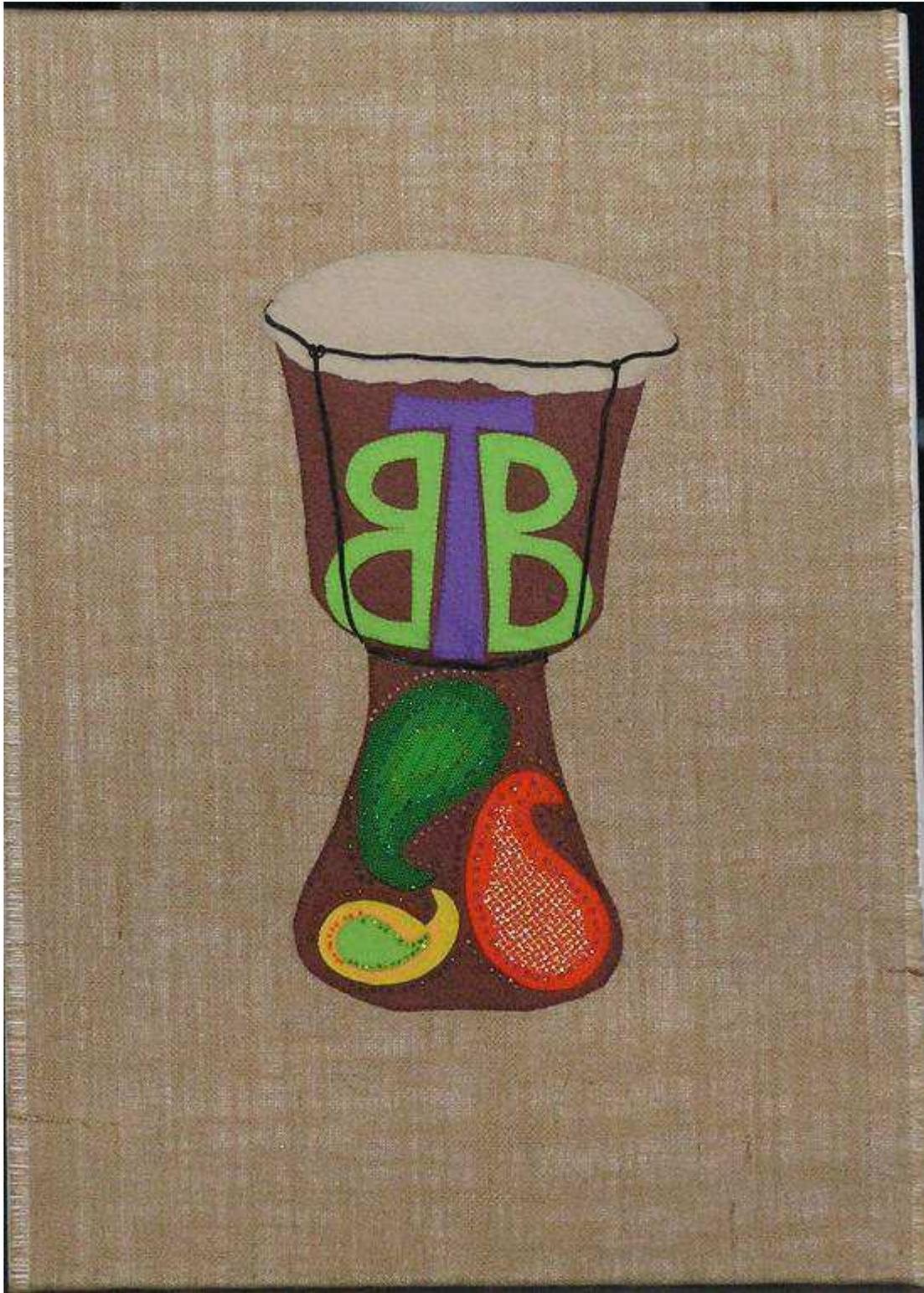


26.5.2009 The Tuesday Club, Milngavie, Glasgow



The Buddy Beaters:-

- ✓ Jane Bentley
- ✓ Tom Chalmers
- ✓ Anne Dowie
- ✓ Margaret Healy
- ✓ Frances Nisbet
- ✓ Noreen Young

Buddy Beat member Frances seems to be revelling in her role as our Booking Agent for this was the groups 3rd engagement of the year that she had introduced us to.

Our latest adventure was to The Tuesday Club which meets at St Joseph's Primary School in Milngavie, Glasgow. The Tuesday Club is for adults with learning difficulties to get together. Frances has helped out with The Tuesday Club for 20 plus years and in the past she has told her friends there all about The Buddy Beat and they asked her if we could go to their meeting and show them what we are all about.

Frances asked Jane to check her diary and that was the date set in stone. Frances and Jane travelled in her beloved Berlingo Van, and had to stop for petrol on the way. Taxi Tom picked up Anne Dowie in Barrhead just after 6pm and they then collected Noreen, also in Barrhead, before nipping into Paisley to get Lesley at Hawkhead. Lesley had with her The Buddy Beat emblem, superbly crafted by Anne Ross, and Anne had attached it to a wooden frame so that we can display it prominently when playing. Last one to be picked up was Margaret, our Occupational Therapy student and we met her at 6.30 at Paisley's The Lagoon Centre. This is Margaret's last week with us and she jumped at the chance to come along to one of our gigs, wanting to soak up the whole experience.



Here are Bananarama before the gig. Singer Noreen looks a bit startled

Tom managed, with the help of his sat-nav system, to get there with just one wrong turn! A few minutes after arriving, Jane and Frances arrived. We piled all the gear into the school hall and after a potty break Jane asked us for a Buddy Beat huddle so that we could run through our programme. While this was happening, The Tuesday Club members were arriving and we had decided to put the chairs out in a very large circle, and Margaret's O/T training sizzled through and she took charge of the setting out.



Here we have Jane and Frances in relaxed mode pre performance.



Margaret just about to strut her stuff

By 7.30 we were all set to go. Frances' friends had turned out in numbers and I stopped counting at 35. Looking around the circle, we could see that they were all eager to start, so Jane asked us to play quietly at first and we gradually became louder before slipping into echo and response and we finished on a loud rumble. The Tuesday Club broke out into instant applause and cheering, and we had an early sense that we were on the verge of something special.

Jane then spoke a few introductory words and produced her famed pineapple shaker. She stood up and said that the pineapple was going to pass around the circle, and that everyone should shake it in any style and announce their names to everyone. After Jane was Anne D, then Tom, followed by Margaret and when it came to Noreen, she jumped from her seat and her legs went up in the air all gymnast style as she passed the pineapple between them, which went down a treat with The Tuesday Gang! Lesley was the last of us before the pineapple passed around everyone else and how they embraced it all, and it brought out plenty of giggling and clapping.

Next up, Jane produced her beach ball globe and the idea here was to stand inside the circle and pick someone out and then shout their name at the same time as tossing the globe to them. This went down a storm and the laughter almost raised the roof!

The Tuesday Gang was clearly hungry for more and luckily Jane had put fresh Duracell batteries in her back earlier, and she simply kept going. Out came the Boomwhackers and Tom rushed out to The Berlingo to get more and before long everyone was armed and ready for action. Jane got everyone playing and quickly got them to stop and start on a count of four. Then she got everyone free-styling and the atmosphere was electric, and the heat in the hall was building. A two second breather and Jane got all the girls to play only. Then it was the turn of the guys, and although the ladies had superior numbers, the guys gave it all they could. Tom shouted "The boys were the best!" which the boys obviously appreciated, but some of the ladies booed that particular statement. Lastly, Jane showed everyone how to control the music by asking for the tone to be lowered or raised. Looking for volunteer composers, Anne D took to the floor to show them how and this seemed to encourage The Tuesday Gang, for three of them in turn also stood up and ran the proceedings, as did Margaret who was up for anything.



Here's Anne Dowie in the middle - natural born leader.



Here is Tuesday Club member Donna leading the way.

Then finally it was time for the instruments. We spent a few moments handing out Jane's many, many drums, burroughs and shakers, making sure that no hands in the hall were idle. Jane gave a brief demonstration on how to hold and play a drum. Laugh of the night was when Jane was busy telling everyone about the deep sounds in the middle of a drum and the higher notes that can be found on the edge. She said it was "like a 2 for 1 offer" and quick as lightening, Anne D quipped "That's what you get at Asda!" Well, that brought the house down and for a few hilarious moments, it looked as though an ambulance may have been required to resuscitate some of the regulars!



It is hard be too sure if Jane is taking off or landing here.

Jane then adopted a Boomwhacker as a microphone and moved around the circle to allow everyone a little solo spot and The Tuesday Gang's faces said it all. If there were Gold Medals for smiling, then The Tuesday Club would win hands down!



Some of the eager Tuesday Club members

Jane finished off by having a massive jam. The air crackled with electricity as everyone took part and it was a terrific ten minutes where Jane invited anyone onto the floor to dance. Several of The Tuesday Club members took her up on her offer, including Buddy Beat member Anne Dowie, who leapt to the floor, and while still drumming, did a fandango!



“No Frances, you put your right leg in...!”

So that was indeed a mammoth session that lasted just under an hour. We got a thundering round of applause and Buddy Beat returned the compliment, as The Tuesday Club members were quite simply brilliant. We quickly packed up and then joined everyone for a cup of tea and a chat, and several of Frances' friends came up to us to thank us and introduce themselves.

Buddy Beat has performed at many venues and our gigs have been varied in size and type, but all of us agreed that this was something very special to have been involved in. The Tuesday Club members know how to have fun and it was a pleasure to see the happiness radiate from the faces. They embraced the session wholeheartedly and the evening was like a massive party! It was rewarding for everyone involved.

On the drive home we all agreed that the evening had been nothing short of phenomenal!

Thanks for asking us along Frances!



The Cheeky Girls

Words and pictures by Tom Chalmers