

The Buddy Beat

At



The College of Occupational Therapists 37th Annual Conference & Exhibition

Thursday June 20th 2013

By Sandy Smith



Buddy Beat continues to reach new heights and on Thursday 20th 2013, we had the great honour and pleasure of closing a prestigious 3 day national Occupational Therapy conference at the home of rock stars, the SECC Glasgow. Attended by some 600 delegates, Buddy Beat was given fifteen minutes stage time to entertain the gathering. It was an amazing event for the Buddy Beat gang and will be long remembered. Here is Buddy Beat's Sandy Smith relating how it went for everyone-



"Well what a day we had at The Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre yesterday!

As we arrived at The Buddy Beat HQ we had a practice before everyone boarded the Mini Bus and Hazel and Allan and I along with Jane my partner all went by car and as we arrived you could see the excitement on all our faces.

But as our time arrived we took to the stage and we watched as the hall filled- the tension was beginning to tell and our excitement was now more of "let's get the show on the road" as we all knew this was going to be good, and I mean really good.



As Jeanette firstly gave a speech and then our short film was showing, I felt really proud to be a Buddy Beat Drummer. After Jeanette's speech it was our turn and as Jane Bentley told the audience about us she also invited everyone in the audience to take part later.

Well as Jane gave us the count in, we all started in perfect time and as the echo of our drums filled the hall I looked out into the audience and all you could see was excitement on everyone's faces. Then as I looked at every one of the Buddy Beat you could also see we were really enjoying ourselves. And as we banged out our musical piece, "The Buddy Beat Mash", yes I did feel proud to be a Buddy Beat Drummer and as Jamie did his solo he was spot on and we responded likewise.



Next Jane got the audience to take part along with us- she had some of the audience opening and shutting their programs, some tapping on coins and others rattling key-ring's at different times.

We all kept a steady rhythm and as we finished we got a massive standing ovation and this was the first that anyone had got this at an Occupational Therapy conference!



Are you being served?

Hazel & Allan - busy bees

So once more The Buddy Beat got a first to add to the many others we have collected through the years. So yes not only I but every one of us were so proud of our performance but the sad thing for me yesterday was that my brother Tom was not there with us to share in our excitement.

This month sees me celebrate my first full year as a Buddy Beat Drummer. Everyone in the group has become my new family and the support they have given me has been wonderful. It has been a terrific year for me in many ways, and being part of this amazing performance was a sure-fire way to celebrate!

Words and pictures by Sandy Smith

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