

October 3rd 2009- Family Fun Day in Renfrewshire



The Buddy Beat knows what makes a good backdrop!

Buddy Beat gathered for The Family Fun Day extravaganza in Paisley Town Hall. This was a large event where the Town Hall was taken over for festival matters. The main hall was brimming with stalls from various mental health groups, offering help and advice and with some selling candles, jewellery and gifts. Buddy Beat had their own stall and the ever creative amongst us had been hard at work, with Lesley King designing jewellery and candles. Her jewellery proved immensely popular with young girls. Anne Ross also printed some of her stunning artwork and mounted them on cards. Tom had printed a selection of favourite Buddy Beat photographs from 2009 which were put up on display boards. Upstairs in the hall were various workshops including dance, samba drums and snare drumming too. Drama was also on the menu with a performance on the main stage.

The Buddy Beaters were:- Jeanette Allan, Jane Bentley, Allan Borland, Hazel Borland, Tom Chalmers. Anne Dowie, Lesley King, Jackie McDowall, Eileen McGrory, Frances Nisbet, Anne Ross and Noreen Young.

Buddy Beat were due to perform outside the Town Hall between the hours of 1 and 2pm but Paisley's Indian Summer had by[assed and returned to Delhi, and the wind and ever threatening rain looked like putting a dampener on things. Our timings were rearranged and we ventured outside for 20 minutes. We sat in a semi circle and although it was fresh, some of us were brave enough to perform in their Buddy Beat t-shirts and Lesley stole the show with her world famous Paddington Bear hat. Jane had us all smiling and laughing from the start and we jammed first, and then a bit of echo and response followed by splitting us in two before freestyling once more. Several members of the public, including 2 or 3 small children joined in and seemed to enjoy it immensely. We were all in good form and perhaps the fine setting between the grand Town Hall and the beautiful but listing Paisley Abbey help make it that little bit more special. Anyway, the whole thing was simply energising! Councillor Brian Lawson, a friend of Buddy Beat even appeared and enjoyed himself so much that he has invited us along to an perform at an event this coming November. The power of performance!



Buddy Beat perform outside Paisley Town Hall



“No one knows that my marmalade sandwiches are under my Paddington hat!”

So after 20 minutes of fresh air and thrashing out beats, we ventured back into the hall where the ever efficient Jeanette Allan had arranged seating for us below the main stage. Once introduced, Jane set us off with some echo and response, some beating in the middle of the drums and on the edge also, before ending on a big rumble. This seemed to get people interested and Jeanette busied herself by passing out Boomwhackers and percussion instruments and very quickly Jane, who by now was booming with the aid of a microphone, had a large ensemble playing together. There was one woman present who was entirely in the zone and she had the best time imaginable. Some of us spoke to her afterwards to tell her this and she was amazed, stating that she always thought of herself as “without rhythm”. The noise in The Town Hall was deafening and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. Another successful Buddy Beat Mission!



Inside The Town Hall-Buddy Beat giving it laldy!

Words and pictures by Tom Chalmers