

Here is an article from today, 5th October 2011, as featured in The Paisley Express which certainly confirms the incessant downpours of rain at the Festival's Big Public Launch and the positive message that was delivered.

RAIN CAN'T DAMPEN LAUNCH OF FESTIVAL

By **GAVIN McINALLY**

EVEN heavy rain couldn't put a dampener on the launch of a music and arts festival as Buddies braved the downpours to show their support.

Organisers of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival cursed their luck as the black clouds gathered over Paisley town centre before the opening of the celebrations at County Square.

But their spirits were lifted when a hardened crowd of up to 300 people turned out, armed with umbrellas and waterproofs, to join Clyde 1 presenter Gina McKee for a day of live music and performing arts which raised awareness of mental health issues.

Roslin Robertson, mental health manager at Renfrewshire Council, heaped praise on those who wouldn't let a downpour turn the event into a washout.

She said: "To be honest, the weather was absolutely hideous. It could not have been any worse, yet we must have had around 300 people there to enjoy the show, which was amazing, and their support was greatly appreciated."

"We had local bands playing live music, performance groups on stage and even a couple of belly dancers, who went down a storm with the crowd."

"Those who came along really enjoyed the show and the feedback we've had has been great."

"It was a great start to the 47 events we have planned in the area as part of the festival over the next three weeks."

The aim of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival, which will see events being hosted across the country, is to help raise awareness about mental health issues and the support available for people who need it.

The festival is now in its fifth year and has grown from a weekend of film in 2007 to an internationally-acclaimed annual occasion.

And Renfrewshire is leading the way, with dozens of events being staged at



IN THE FRAME: Art is also being used to raise awareness of mental health issues

PDE03091 (FEST)-04

Paisley Arts Centre, libraries, shopping centres and even local pubs over the next few weeks.

For more information on the festival, go to www.mhfestival.com or search for the festival's page on Facebook.

There is also information on all of the events on Renfrewshire Council's website at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

SPIRITS

ARE HIGH!



IT'S GOOD TO TALK: Clyde 1'S Gina McKee chats to kids at County Square



BROLLY GOOD SHOW: The wet weather couldn't turn the launch event into a damp squib



HERE TO HELP: Margaret Kinnimont, Tom Chalmers, Maggi Boyo and David Wright at the information stall



A SMASH HIT: Members of the Buddy Beat drumming group joined in the fun