

October 22nd-23rd 2009- Recovering Ordinary Lives Conference, London



Dame Lesley



Princess Anne



Duchess Jeanette

Buddy Beat attended a Recovering Ordinary Lives conference in Leeds in February. This was such a success that Jeanette was asked if she and Anne Dowie would attend a further seminar, this time in London. Lesley was on holiday in London at the time, visiting her son and attended the day.

At the event, Jeanette spoke about Buddy Beat, Anne Dowie read out her story and Lesley read aloud a poem by Anne Ross.

The following are Anne Dowie's own words about her adventure:-

There is an O/T called Jeanette
Who took me to London by jet
We were sitting in the lounge having a blether
Looking outside at the weather
We were so busy gabbing, Shock! Horror!
3.40- that gate closed at 3.30!
Jeanette took off looking like Concord
Dragging her case and me gasping behind
We took off in time sighing with relief
As quick as a flash- touch down
We had arrived on schedule. Whoopee!

We headed for the hotel jumping from underground onto trains. It was like a maze and Jeanette was like a walking and talking map!

Apart from getting a bit lost we eventually arrived at the hotel at 6.50. We checked in and found our rooms, changed and by a miracle Jeanette even had time to shower. She should be on stage as a quick change act as all this was done in 20 minutes. Wow!

We phoned a taxi to take us to the theatre to see Blood Brothers which was amazing. I couldn't believe I was there.

Jeanette doesn't seem to like wee green men. She just grabbed me and nearly got me mowed down by a cyclist that none of us saw coming. With my heart in my mouth we walked around Chinatown which was brilliant to see and then finally found time for dinner. We had a pizza at the civilised time off 11 at night! Then we were scared we had missed the last tube and raced as fast as we could which isn't recommended on a tummy full of pizza but thankfully we hadn't missed the train and made it back to the hotel in one piece!

The following day it was back on the roads again. I said a wee prayer which seemed to work because we arrived safely at the conference which went without a hitch.

Lesley came with us on a bus tour to take in the sights which was amazing. I was in my glory.

Jeanette announced that you could get to the airport faster by boat that would only take 20 minutes. We rushed down to the River Thames and realized that it would in fact take over an hour. Shock! Horror! We had a plane to catch. I just went white.

We ran on and off trains and finally by pure genius on Jeanette's part we arrived on time. Who needs to go to the gym when you have Jeanette? I was more in need of a gin but settled for a wee cider. Ahhh-sheer bliss!

Oh, it was great fun but not without some drama. Poor Lesley is now in traction. Her crutches had friction burns with all the rushing around we did. But we loved it.

I had a great time so thanks again, Jeanette.

Anne Dowie