



# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

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## Kiwi's host first ever Flash Fiction Portrush

Photos by Ciaran Clancy

**THE first ever Flash Fiction Portrush , the new younger sibling of Flash Fiction Armagh, took place on Friday, March 21.**

Writers read their work to a large and enthusiastic audience at the inaugural event in Kiwi's Brew Bar, at the resort's Main Street.

Flash Fiction Events differ from other Open Mic events in that the readers are selected ahead of time, based on submission quality.

Both of the Flash Fiction Events held in Northern Ireland, in Armagh and now Portrush, are based on Flash Fiction Forum in San Jose, California, where these events are held four times annually.

Entries were encouraged from both new and experienced writers, resulting in an unexpected number of submissions for a first-time event.

Eleven stories were chosen. While many of these writers came from the local area, some travelled quite a distance by car, including from Armagh and Donegal.

The unexpected crisis at Heathrow did not cause the problems it could have done for three of the performers.

Gary Deveney from Coleraine was flying home from a holiday in Boston, Heidi Edmundson from Portrush/London and Brenda McAteer from Portrush who interrupted her Italian holiday. Both Heidi and Brenda had flown home specially for the weekend just

to read at the event.

Other lucky winners chosen to perform were Sinead Coxhill and Alice Henderson from Portrush, Peter Osbourne from Portstewart, Ian Garner from Coleraine, Rachel Toner from Armagh and Catherine Kay from Donegal.

During the evening the writers/performers were voted for by the audience with three readers going forward to be published in the next Impsired Press Online Magazine and its subsequent print volume.

These three were Heidi Edmundson from Portrush/London, Ben Austell from Derry/Londonderry and Paul Hutchinson from Portrush.

In a separate event, Gary Deveney had already been chosen earlier in the week by Charlie Cawte, the Editor of Impsired, based in Lincoln, also to be featured in Issue 32 of the Online Magazine as part of the 'First time to be Published' Initiative.

As always, Kris Charteris of Kiwi's Brew Bar, Portrush was extremely supportive before, and during, this inaugural event.

It was a great start for Flash Fiction Portrush. Watch this space as the enthusiasm shown by the large crowd bodes well for it becoming more than an annual event.

Perhaps we too on the North Coast can aim in time for four each year, following in California's footsteps!



Paul Hutchinson reading his own story at the Portrush Flash Fiction at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC25



Alison Holmes, Clare Rainey and Agnes Rainey at the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC28



Brenda Mullan and Bernie Martin at the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC32



Ben Austell, Heidi Edmundson and Paul Hutchinson presenting Portrush Flash Fiction organiser Mary Farrell with a bouquet. WK13-25KC30



Some of the writers after their readings at Kiwi's - Catherine Kay, Ian Garner, Paul Hutchinson, Gary Devenny, Brenda McAteer and Portrush Flash Fiction organiser Mary Farrell (right). WK13-25KC26



Writers after reading at Kiwi's - Ben Austell, Heidi Edmundson, Peter Osbourne, Sinead Coxhill, Alice Hutchinson, Rachel Toner with Portrush Flash Fiction organiser Mary Farrell. WK13-25KC27



A full house for the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC29



Members of the Mermaids Swimming Club enjoying the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC31



Vanessa McIntyre, Caoimhe Grant, Jenny Tipton supporting writer Ben Austell at the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC34



Adrian Devenny, Ashley Cunningham, Joanne Devenny and Bernadette Brady supporting the writers at the Portrush Flash Fiction event at Kiwi's in Portrush. WK13-25KC33