



poetry & music

'A magical blend of poetry and music' ...

Richard Peirce reviews 'Poetry of Exile' at The Florence Arms, Southsea.

Whoever described Portsmouth as a cultural wasteland should have been in Southsea last Sunday.

Birth, death, love, grief and joy, expressed in poetry and song, overflowed at Tongues&Grooves' Poetry of Exile evening at The Florence Arms.

Mimi Khalvati and local poet John Haynes, past and present T S Eliot prize contenders, gave powerful readings of their latest published works, with special guest contributions from Wendy French and Tongues&Grooves' founders Maggie Sawkins, and Bernard MacDonagh on button accordion.

Other local, talented and published poets offered original contributions to the night's theme, conceived and smoothly hosted by local poet Richard Williams. The 'open mic' readings were richly supported with music and acapella song by popular local duo Krystala, Janet Ayers and Sue Apicella.

The magical blend of poetry and music fully demonstrated why Tongues&Grooves at the Florence has been a favourite venue for national and international poets since 2003.

December 2010