

HI ALL,

As some of you may know I have not been the best since the start of the year. That has meant not getting out and about for some time and hence not arranging meetings and outings. Hopefully that is all past now and we can get on with the social side of the branch - and a bit of campaigning as well.

### MAILOUTS:

I am sending this issue through the post (as well as email) to make sure all members get a view of what is happening. I know a couple of members do not have email and thus would seem to be a bit isolated. I had hoped that this would just be an occasional postal mail due to the rising cost of postage.

For those who do not have email, if you would like notification by mobile text please get in touch with me - initially by TEXT please - at 07791762823. I can then keep you up to date about any forthcoming events or meetings. Or write to me at

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1 Hollymount  
Finaghy  
Belfast  
BT10 0GL

**PLEASE CONSIDER ADVERTISING SPBW BY WEARING BRANCH APPAREL!**

All addresses - including my own (above) address - will not be used for anything other than SPBW NI mailouts.

### INFORMATION:

SPBW NI information can be found as follows:

On the SPBW Forum - [www.spbw.com/bb/](http://www.spbw.com/bb/) - in the branches section - please logon!

On the website - [spbwni.co.uk](http://spbwni.co.uk)

On Twitter - #sbpwni - get Tweeting now!

In Pint in Hand magazine (quarterly).

### MEMBERSHIP:

We really do need to increase our membership. With extra members to attend events we can look towards to achieving some sort of discount or other initiative for our members.

So, please, make an effort to recruit some new members. Membership forms are available online - or just contact me.

### HELP & ASSISTANCE:

People join the SPBW for their own reasons. I would hope that it is both social and some campaigning. I do a lot of the background housework & campaigning and this takes up a lot of my time. I am hoping that there would be some people who would have the time to volunteer to assist me in some of the work.

It is all very simple: leave membership forms into pubs and off-licences, talk to people, Tweet, generally spread the word. **PLEASE HELP!**

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

### APRIL.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

The Crown Bar, 6:30pm

Get-together for chat and sample several pints at the Nicholson Spring Beer Festival. We can stay and chat or wander round to the Bridge House for a meal and a few more cask ales. This is a great opportunity to let people see and hear that SPBW members are active and the branch is alive!

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April*

The Crown Bar, 6:30pm

The penultimate day of the Crown Beerfest. Meet up for chat and maybe a repeat of the Bridge House for afters.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

The Old Courthouse, Coleraine, lunchtime.

The train leaves Great Victoria Street Train Station at 10:10am, arriving in Coleraine at 11:40am. A pleasant walk to stimulate the appetite, a few cask ales and a return journey leaving either 4pm or 5pm arriving Belfast 6pm or 7pm.



**DATES NOT SUIT? TELL ME DAYS/TIMES WHEN YOU CAN ATTEND.**

### MAY.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May.*

The Bridge House, Belfast, 1:30pm

Members Meeting.

This is just an informal get-together to discuss ways and means of improving member experience of the SPBW, suggestions for events, increasing membership etc. It is **important** that members attend, give feedback and support their branch. It is also a chance to have a good Sunday meal and/or a few pints and chat with friends. Please make a point of coming along on the day.

*Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May*

The Crown Bar, 6:30pm

Get-together for chat and some pints of ale.

All other Fridays from 6:30 will be at the Bridge House.

*Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April*

The Central Bar, 130pm

Under new management: Leave Europa at 12:15pm, arrive at 12:49. No details yet who is replacing Alice as manager, but hopefully we can all chat and elicit support for the branch. Return trains are every half hour (24 & 54 mins past the hour).

### FUTURE EVENTS:

**Pub Crawls: Summer BBQ: Hilden Brewery: Homebrew: Steam Train (August):  
SUGGESTIONS AND HELP FROM MEMBERS MORE THAN WELCOME**



## WETHERSPOON'S THANK-YOU AWARD

For several years now the Managers and staff at J.D. Wetherspoon premises across the province have been extremely helpful and supportive of the local SPBW branch.

2013, our Jubilee Year, was a very important time for us and all of the group's premises helped out in various ways. Mostly it was keeping an eye on our membership forms and form holders, many of which just "disappeared" shortly after being installed.

A discount on cask ale was given at the start of the year to encourage people to join.

Bunting was allowed to be put up and the time limit for the bunting display was extended a couple of times.

Special posters from the SPBW were displayed in several bars. In general, the support was magnificent.

So it was with deep gratitude that the branch presented the group with a "thank-you" plaque. The presentation took place in the Bridge House, Belfast, helpfully arranged by manager Barry. I had asked along Sharon (Tuesday Bell, Lisburn) and was really glad to see old friend (and ex-Area Manager) Phil who is now running the Spirit Merchant in Newtownards.



# S.P.B.W. N.I. BRANCH

APRIL 2014

## AN OCCASIONAL MAILOUT



## ONLINE SHOP LIVE

You are most likely aware that our Shop Admin suddenly resigned and defaced the SPBW shop front.

After some prolonged and hard work we are now back online. Do check it out.

[HTTP://WWW.SPBWSHOP.CO.UK](http://www.spbwsshop.co.uk)

Don't forget, you can always purchase our own SPBW NI products locally:  
**Insignia Embroidery & Printing**  
23 Bruce Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT2 7JD  
028 9023 5115

T-shirts (printed) - £10:  
Rugby style (embroidered) - £25: Sweatshirt (embroidered) - £18  
Alternatively, bring along your own clothing and pay for the stitching/printing.

<http://spbwni.co.uk/products.html>

**The branch has opened up a twitter page - this has been gaining quite a few followers and has been of value with publicising the branch and its endeavours.**

**However, it does need support so if you are on Twitter make sure you "follow", but especially, please tweet to us!**



<https://twitter.com/SPBWNl>

