

FORTHCOMING SPBWNI BRANCH EVENTS

JANUARY EVENTS:

Nothing planned as yet for the branch.

1st. January: Membership fees increase.
Renew quickly and save some money.

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Nothing planned as yet

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

MAY/JUNE EVENTS:

The WOODFEST2017 Festival Committee agreed to my suggestion of having a selection of breweries from N. Ireland represented at the Festival in July.

Prior to the WOODFEST2017 - the first National SPBW Beer From The Wood Festival - a dozen or more wooden pins will be filled and sent over here for distribution and sale in local pubs. Then the selected brewers will clean & backfill the pins and send them over to Castleford for the event.

The event is a major undertaking and opportunity for cask ale from the wood in the province is unprecedented and, to be honest, unbelievable!

More details will be made available as the time comes closer. All I can say is, you are members of SPBW so hopefully you will support this NI initiative, and support those brewers and publicans who have got involved and are investing quite a lot of time and effort, not to mention money, working and supporting SPBWNI and beers from the wood.

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

JULY EVENTS:

As mentioned above:

WOODFEST 2017 - <http://www.woodfest2017.com/>

SPBWNI is part of the Festival Organisation Team and will be there during the complete week of the Festival: That means from the set-up to the take-down and working during the Festival itself. A major event in any calendar, but this is going to be a massive undertaking - will anyone be able to work at it?



DECEMBER: 2016

SEASON'S GREETINGS



CHRISTMAS IN THE WOOD



Our thanks go to Bernard Sloan for supplying the annual Christmas House Party with Whitewater Lager in the wood!

The beer had been conditioned in one of my pins for a month and imparted a lovely flavour to the crisp lager. The beer was served through a handpump and came out sparkling and clear. It was most certainly "more-ish" and enjoyed by all at the party. It was a great compliment to the varied Philippino dishes.



SPBWNI PUB OF THE YEAR 2016

THE ERRIGLE INN, Belfast

A really excellent day out. Some tasty food, chatting with the excellent staff and imbibing two cask ales from the wood. The Beers were from the Cheshire Brewery sent over by owner Shane Swindells. The two beers were on excellent form and certainly helped accompany a well deserved meal. This bar is not all that long in handling cask ales but it certainly is making a name for itself and is a deserved winner of the SPBWNI POPTY Award.

SPBWNI PRODUCTS

Don't forget, you can always purchase our own SPBW NI products locally:

Insignia Embroidery & Printing
29 Bruce Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT2 7JD
028 9023 5115

T-shirts (printed) - £10: (all prices may vary).
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>

MAILOUTS:

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 - admin@spbwni.co.uk
Or write to me at

SPBWNI
C/o 1 Hollymount
Belfast
BT10 0GL

INFORMATION:

SPBW NI information can be found as follows:

On the SPBW Forum - www.spbw.com/bb/
- in the branches section - please logon!

On the website - <http://www.spbwni.co.uk/>

On Twitter - @spbwni - get Tweeting now!

In Pint in Hand magazine (quarterly).

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Each member of SPBWNI receives a specific NI membership card which gives them access to special discounts at various places. I would like to get more but this is proving somewhat difficult. **CAN ANYONE HELP?**

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

THE SUNFLOWER BAR - 10% off cask ales
THE HOUSE OF HOMEBREW - 5% off brewkits & equipment
GET 'er BREWED - 5% off brewkits & equipment Use code **SPBW5%**.
THE HUDSON BAR - 10% off drinks & food (except specials) until 8pm
HILDEN BREWERY & MOLLY'S YARD - Free glass of ale with a main meal
SALTY DOG - Free pint of ale with a main meal

WE ALSO HAVE NATIONAL BENEFITS: <https://spbw.com/benefits.html>

RED LETTER DAYS: <https://www.redletterdays.co.uk/home> CODE = **SPBW15 (15%)**
ADP PHOTOGRAPHY: <http://www.a-d-p-photography.com/> CODE = **SPBW (15%)**
CANAL CRUISING: <http://www.canalcruising.co.uk/> (10%)
ALES BY MAIL: <http://www.alesbymail.co.uk/> CODE = **SPBW10 (10%)**
GET 'er BREWED: <http://www.geterbrewed.com/> code **SPBW5%**.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS:

New membership cards, a salmon colour, were issued to members. If you do not have one, please get in touch. **ADMIN@SPBWNI.CO.UK**

If you have renewed membership nationally, please do let me know so that I can update records on the Forum etc. as I do not get regular updates from The National Membership Secretary.

A BITTER BLOW TO NI CASK ALE



Over the past year we have seen JD Wetherspoon "rationalise" their portfolio of premises, and now it is the turn of N. Ireland with **FIVE** JDW pubs being sold to a local concern.

Nobody knows what will happen to the five bars, but the local firm is known to have no interest whatsoever in cask ale - let alone beers from the wood. It would appear absolutely senseless for Wetherspoons to sell off five pubs which were seen to be viable when they are looking at opening up a new & very large premise at University Road, plus the other one at the end of Royal Avenue. It is far too late to campaign about the sell-off, but it would be far better to approach the new owners & campaign to keep cask in bars with an existing cask clientele.

What is the good of having a beer festival every year if there is no work done towards getting the cask ales sold in bars in the province?



The sold pubs are; The Old Courthouse, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, The Spinning Mill in Broughshane Street, Ballymena, The Linen Hall, Townhall Street, Enniskillen, The Diamond, London Road and The Ice Wharf, Strand Road, both in Londonderry.

MIXED NEWS:

The Errigle: Really doing well with its cask sales: A prime target for SPBW membership - if people would visit, drink in it & talk to customers (SPBWNI discount).

The King's Head: I have been told no more cask ale there - and they started with Hilden in the mid 1980's! What is happening with a certain campaigning group?

Belfast Homebrewers Club: An open invitation for SPBWNI people to come along and either learn about homebrew, or have their homebrews judged - **PLUS!** The Club has asked if they can have the use of one of the wooden pins. What a great way to get new SPBW members?

The Sunflower: Getting rid of the usual suspects from Diageo & supporting local brewers. SPBWNI membership discount. Hoping the same in **The American Bar**.

The Dirty Onion: Whitewater IPA in two wooden pins. Lack of support means it may never happen again.

Membership fee: Due to rising costs in the world, membership fees will increase from 1st January. So renew quickly - discounts mean your membership could be **FREE!**

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. If you are on Twitter make sure you "follow", but especially, please tweet to us!



<https://twitter.com/SPBWNI>

