

## FORTHCOMING SPBWNI BRANCH EVENTS

### Tuesday 1st March

Bangor Beer Tasting:

Another great night with the Bangor Beer Club at the Salty Dog, usually with nibbles. This time it is David Rogers from Northbound Brewery. Unfortunately the last train home is at 9:20pm.

### Tuesday 8th March

Rail Outing:

Catch the 10am train from Belfast and have a leisurely lunch in The Old Courthouse. Then an afternoon train back to Belfast and some ales in The Crown.

### Monday 14th March

NEC Annual General Meeting:

The Horseshoe, 24 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AG, in the upstairs function room. The meeting will start at 7pm sharp. Some of us are making a long weekend out of it. Fly out Sunday 13th and return on Wednesday 16th.

### Wednesday 30th March

Yet another one of those events with the Beer Club Belfast people. Meet in the Sunflower at 7:30 and head upstairs for the tasting.

### Thursday 31st March

Chairman's Birthday Party:

Loads of food but this time I am hoping by then to have a wooden pin of cask ale! The two pins are now on order so I hope they arrive in time. No need to bring your own. If not, an alternative plan will be launched. Be there from about 6:30 onwards please, and hopefully a late night for all.

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

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE BRANCH TO BE SEEN TO BE ACTIVE!**

It is good to get out, to meet friends & fellow SPBWNI members, but we do need to let others out there know we exist! Please make a point of going to some of the events - a lot of members have become conspicuous by their absence!

**BE AWARE: THE BRANCH HAS NO FUNDS OF ITS OWN!**

**I cannot do everything. I need to start work on the July Weekend and I do hope our SPBWNI members will be there to meet our visitors.**

**THE PURCHASE OF TWO WOODEN PINS IS IN THE PIPELINE**



FEB: 2016

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

## AN OCCASIONAL MAILOUT

### SPBWNI BELFAST WEEKEND BREAK JULY 22-24

**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
The Northern Ireland branch is extending an open invitation to all SPBW branches to come visit us for the weekend.



The province now has close to 30 micro breweries out of some 100 micros across the island. We feel this is an opportunity to sample a good range of their beers, see the changes to the City and help a fellow branch expand.

The branch also needs a high profile event to bring onboard new members and to achieve as much publicity as we can in a concerted campaign. This will include a couple of local brewery visits, pub crawls and, as SPBWNI members do get benefits, we hope to be able to get discounts on national membership cards. An effort would be made to try to get a good hotel deal in the city centre.

Obviously a lot of things need to be organised so this is just a pre-date notice. We really would like definite numbers to help us plan events.

Details, maps etc. will follow here: <http://spbwni.co.uk/events2016.html>

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EVENT

**HELP FROM SPBWNI MEMBERS!  
COMMITMENT TO BE THERE & TALK TO VISITORS!**

This is a MAJOR event for us. The invitation is open to everyone as from the latest edition of PiH, February. At the moment I have no idea how many are coming: it could be 6, it could be 60. Therefor finalising events is up in the air at the moment.

What is certain though is that some people will arrive on the Thursday, so we need to start meeting them from then. I shall be trying to get brewery visits organised, pub crawls, and other items of interest. This is a long process and what I need is for every member to try their best to recruit a new member, mark the above dates in their diary and make an effort to support this venture in whatever way they can.

**Who knows, maybe it could be an annual event?**

## SPBWNI PRODUCTS

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>

### SAD NEWS!

We lost four members towards the end of last year but a couple of new recruits brings us up to 20 members, proving everyone renews their membership. However, we do need more members as it is important to be active, and for the public and licensed trade to be aware that we are still supporting good cask ales.

### 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. Or write to me at

Mark Hutchinson  
1 Hollymount  
Belfast  
BT10 0GL

### 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 BENEFITS:

Each member of SPBWNI receives a specific NI membership card which gives them access to special discounts at various places:  
<http://www.http://spbwni.co.uk/benefits.html>

THE SUNFLOWER BAR - 10% off cask ales  
THE JOHN HEWITT - 10% off bar meals  
THE HOUSE OF HOMEBREW - 5% off brewkits & equipment  
GET 'er BREWED - 5% off brewkits & equipment  
THE BREWERS DEN - 5% off brewkits & equipment  
THE HUDSON BAR - 10% off drinks & food (except specials) until 8pm  
HILDEN BREWERY & MOLLY'S YARD - Free glass of ale with a main meal

I have tried to get more discounts and need members to help with this. Places have said no - except for Brewbot who totally ignores SPBWNI!  
**CAN ANYONE ELSE HELP GET US DISCOUNTS?**



## SPBWNE CHAIRMAN'S VISIT

Rob Shacklock & his wife Karen came over for a few days to have a look around. Not overly impressed by the beers he found in the Brewbot (pic: 1st left), but happy to meet a couple of SPBWNI members, we headed across the Ormeau Road to the Errigle where a beer selection of (cask) ales was to be had (pic: 2nd left). A trip out to Joseph at Knockout Brewery (pic: 3rd left) and Niall at Hercules Brewery (pic: 4th left) soon perked him up as did a minor crawl around some cask ale pubs. Probably the best time was when the doors of the Crown opened after the refurbishment & we met a few more branch members (pic: 5th left). Friday was more relaxed, with a visit to St. George's Market then picking a few beers from the Vineyard on route to the house where I cooked some great steaks & all the trimmings. It was an early start for them to fly back to Newcastle so they did not stay long. A great & enjoyable few days - although I found it tiring!

### THE BELFAST WEEKEND:

It can be hard to make members of a branch understand how important such an event can be. Not only for the branch to gain integrity in the community and increase membership, but for the whole scene of cask (especially wooden casks), the increase in outlets, and hence more chance of enjoying a decent pint of cask ale in N. Ireland.

Harder still is getting members to realise just how much work can be involved. Your Chairman created the first three Belfast Beers Festivals, albeit in the mid 90's when there were no other groups vying for attention, so he has a good understanding of the heavy undertaking of such a venture. From SPBW mailouts it is obvious that the NI branch is very much ahead of many other branches and blessed with a wealth of leadership commitment, organisation of a regular & varied set of events - and respect.

Now is the time for NI members to return the favour and fully support this venture and your Chairman's labours in whatever way they can. Especially important is being free that weekend to meet visitors from other branches, people who will be paying a lot of money to visit. Members should attend events and show support for all those involved.

Make their weekend visit memorable!

*Rob Shacklock*

**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>

