



## December 2017 Club Newsletter

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### Giving thanks this holiday season

During the holidays, it is time to be grateful for all of the fortunate things that are in our lives. It is easy to overlook the roof over our heads, the friends that help us through tough times or through many happy moments, and the good fortunes that have come our way. We should be truly grateful that we live on Cape Cod and have the Club as a sanctuary as many around the world are fighting for just the simple things in life like food and water. We need to remember to be thankful, not only at Christmas time, but every single day!

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### Holiday Donations

Each year, the Club strives to help those less fortunate than us by setting up donation bins for the Yarmouth Food Pantry, 912<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team (FST), and Toys for Tots. Next time you stop by for dinner or a pint, bring a donation to spread cheer to all this holiday season.

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### St. Stephen's Day in Ireland

St. Stephen's Day (*Lá Fhéile Stiofáin*), or the Day of the Wren (*Lá an Dreoilín*), is an occasion to commemorate the life of St Stephen, a Christian martyr. Celebrated the day after Christmas, many people spend the day quietly with close friends or family.

St Stephen is believed to be the first Christian martyr. He was stoned to death sometime around the year 33 AD. According to an Irish legend, he was betrayed by a wren while hiding from his enemies. Another legend tells of Viking raids on Ireland on St Stephen's Day sometime around the year 750 AD. Irish soldiers were approaching a Viking camp to drive out the intruders. However, a wren started eating crumbs from a drum and alerted the Vikings to the presence of the Irish soldiers. Hence, some people felt that wrens betrayed them and should be stoned to death, just as St Stephen was. Boys traditionally hunted a wren and threw stones at it. They tied it to a stick when it was dead and paraded it around the village. They did this to collect money for a dance or party for the whole village. Although the custom of killing wrens on December 26 died out around 1900, St Stephen's Day is still known as the Day of the Wren, particularly in rural areas.

*The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze, Although he was little his honour was great, Jump up me lads and give him a treat.*

*As I was gone to Killenaule, I met the wren upon the wall, I upped with me wattle and knocked him down, and brought him into Carrick town.*

*Droolin, Droolin, where is your nest? 'Tis in the bush that I love best, It's in the tree, the holly tree, where all the boys do follow me.*

*Up with the kettle and down with the pan, And give us a penny to bury the wren.*

*We followed the wren three miles or more, three miles or more, three miles or more, We followed the wren three miles or more, at six o'clock in the morning.*

*I have a little box under me arm, under me arm, under me arm, I have a little box under me arm, a penny or tuppence'll do it no harm.*

*Mrs. Clancy's a very good woman, a very good woman, a very good woman, Mrs. Clancy's a very good woman, she gave us a penny to bury the wren.*

Video: <https://youtu.be/o8jUwJJCr2E>

St Stephen's Day has been a holiday in Ireland for hundreds of years. It became a public holiday following the Bank Holidays Act in 1871.

## Upcoming events

### November

- 25<sup>th</sup> – Come help us decorate the Club for Christmas starting at 10 am.

### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Children's Christmas Party** from 12 pm to 2 pm.

There will be lots of arts and crafts activities for the children. Complimentary pizza and water will be served. A special visit will be paid by Santa and his helpers. **Parents/Grandparents must sign up their children or grandchildren by Saturday, November 25th on the sign-up sheet at the Club.** Parents/Grandparents need to bring a wrapped gift labeled with their child's name.

Also looking for two more helpers to arrive at 11:00 am. Please contact Kathy Hegarty at [akoncc@yahoo.com](mailto:akoncc@yahoo.com).

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Road trip to Heritage Gardens to see Gardens Aglow** leaving the Club at 5 pm.

This treasured family holiday tradition features beautiful light displays throughout the gardens. Enjoy marshmallow-roasting, a reindeer scavenger hunt, visit with Santa Claus in the Model T, take carousel rides, holiday treats at Magnolia Café, and more. We will carpool from the Club or if you live near Heritage Gardens, be there by 5:30 pm. Cost for adults is \$18. If we have 10 or more people, then the price would be \$15. The guest policy is not in effect for this event. After the light display, join back at the Club for a glass of holiday cheer!

- 9th – **Adult's Christmas Party** starting at 5 pm until closing

There will be a cocktail reception with complimentary hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. **Each member can bring one guest for a fee of \$10.** Beginning at 8:00, until closing, DJ Patrick will provide your favorite music for dancing.

- Dec 15th and 16th – **Ugly (or not) Christmas sweater weekend.** Wear your Ugly (or not) Christmas sweater for a few laughs.

- **New Year's Eve** 5:00 pm until closing

The masquerade ball will begin by ringing in the Irish New Year at 6:00 with a televised celebration. If you plan on **staying for dinner, the cost is \$30.** See the bartender for a ticket and to choose your menu entrée. DJ Patrick will be providing the entertainment.

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## Member Spotlight: Paul and Regan (Murphy) Deignan



In keeping with giving back to others, we would like to introduce you to Paul and Regan Deignan. Paul and Regan moved from Londonderry, NH to Cape Cod in 2014. After having spent many vacations here, they made it home, and immediately joined the SOECC. They both serve on the SOECC Events Committee. Paul plays with the SOECC cribbage league, serves as a member of the Yarmouth Parks and Recreation Commission and Substance Abuse Committee. Regan donates her time to the Yarmouth Senior Center serving meals and is a member of the South Yarmouth library genealogy group. They have two children Shaylin and Jake.

Paul retired as the Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator for the state of New Hampshire and Regan retired from teaching 3rd and 4th graders after 25 years. Paul helped to create the first in the nation alcohol treatment alternative to jail for multiple DUI offenders in Rutland Massachusetts. Today, Paul provides FEMA Crisis Counseling for states as they prepare for and respond to disasters. He has trained first responders in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Iowa, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas, and Pennsylvania.

On one of their first dates in Rutland, Regan stopped at a local liquor store to pick up what she thought was Paul's favorite beverage: Jack Daniels. However, she quickly remembered it was Jameson instead. In returning to the liquor store she confessed her error to which the store owner who stated, "Oh, you must be getting this for Paul Deignan." They have been together ever since.

Their family trees go back to Tipperary, Galway, and Cork and hope to someday soon plan a trip to Ireland. Travel recommendations are welcome!

In their spare time, they like to kayak, swim, golf, play badminton, and like spending time living near the beach.

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## Keeping up with Club events

We recommend that you keep up-to-date with Club events by reading this newsletter but you can also visit our website (<http://sonsoferincc.org/>) or like our Facebook page (Sons-of Erin Cape-Cod).

### Not receiving emails from us?

Email newsletters can be blocked or filtered to a spam folder. You may be unable to read certain email communications even if you have subscribed to receive them. To avoid these situations, add our email address ([Info@sonsoferincc.com](mailto:Info@sonsoferincc.com)) to your contact's list or safe senders list.

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## Function Hall Rentals

To reserve the Function Room, you must sign a rental agreement, and a fee of \$100 and a \$50 security deposit are required for all rentals. If you need to use the kitchen to cook or heat food, you will be charged a \$50 non-refundable fee. The security deposit will be returned if the room is left in the same condition as it was found. The Function Room is not available on Friday nights and Saturday's are limited to 35 guests. Contact Katie Fitzsimmons at the Club to book the room.

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## Dining Room News

Current hours are 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Friday and Saturday. A reminder that tables are to be cleared by Club members.

You are entitled to a **free** birthday meal the last Thursday of your birthday month in November including Trivia Night with DJ Patrick!

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## St. Patrick's Day Parade

There is a new website for the parade: [CapeCodStPatricksParade.com](http://CapeCodStPatricksParade.com) The parade committee is now taking orders for the new 2018 Coupon book. If you advertised in last year's Parade ad book, contact your St Patrick's Parade contact to secure your ad today!

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## Club Merchandise

Club Gear is in the case by the front door. If we don't have your size, color or clothing you're looking for orders can also be placed with Katie Fitzsimmons by leaving a note at the Club or contact [Info@SonsofErincc.com](mailto:Info@SonsofErincc.com).

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## Ongoing Events

Be sure to check our Calendar of Events page on the website as well as the bulletin boards at the Club updated information on scheduled entertainment.

### Cribbage League

Join us the starting September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 pm to play cribbage. This is a social league and if you haven't played in a long time, we'll get you back up to speed in no time. Don't forget to bring a \$1 for the skunk jar! For more information, contact Dianne Duffy at [soe\\_733@comcast.net](mailto:soe_733@comcast.net).

### Irish Ceili and Set Dance Classes

No dancing experience necessary!! Classes are held every Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm; cost is \$10 a week. Dancers should wear comfortable clothes and footwear. Singles and couples are welcome. You need not be a member of the SOE to join the dancing class.

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## Traditional Irish Music Classes

The multi-instrument class for intermediate or experienced players is held every Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm. This class is suitable for anyone who can play an instrument and wish to learn how to play traditional Irish tunes. Class members have the opportunity to play in a monthly session at the Club.

Classes are \$10 a week and you need not be a member of the SOE to join the music classes. For more information on the music and dance classes, please contact Sean Murphy at 1-508-790-0438.

## Irish Language classes

The Irish language class is from 2 pm to 3 pm every Thursday at the Club. It is informal, led by ourselves, where we listen to language tapes, study Irish language books, and practice conversing in Irish.

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## Closing note

**Nollaig shona dhuit, agus athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit!**

Pronounced: Null-eg hunna ghwitch, ogg-us ah-vleen fwee vosh-ah ghwitch

*Happy Christmas, and a Happy New Year!*