



## February 2018 Club Newsletter

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### Welcome

Hello SOE Members:

As we approach winter months on Cape Cod, the SOE Board of Directors will be working on several projects including building improvements, strengthening our membership and **most importantly creating a club where we have a strong and growing core of active members.**

A recent article suggests a typical club or association will reach statistics where 5% of members run the club and show up for almost every event; another 15% of members regularly participate; another 20% occasionally participate; and the remaining 60% will not participate at all with many clubs having a turnover rate of 15-20% per year.

We realize that people sometimes leave because they lose interest, they have health or financial problems, they move away, or because they are no longer being served by the club and the "services" it offers.

As we all know, being a member of club and participating in its activities has enormous rewards. We get to share our passion of Irish culture with others who have the same passion through music and cultural events. We learn new things all the time and make new and lasting friendships. We get to do good deeds, strengthen our community and build bonds with other communities.

So the question the BOD has to ask is: how do we create a strong club, one that members want to join, renew and participate, one with a strong and growing core of active members, one with people who get involved, which in turn generates more events and bonding friendships, which in turn gets more people to join and increase volunteerism.

The BOD will be asking these questions in the next couple of months to our members with an anonymous survey. We will be emailing this survey to all of our active members and we will also have paper surveys available to fill out at the Club. We hope our members participate because we need your feedback so we can begin to build stronger member relationships while we strive to improve club services.

**Hope we see all of our SOE members on Parade Day on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> so we can proudly celebrate our Irish heritage.** We need lots of help in preparation of this day such as Float Preparation, Marching in the Parade, food service, door monitors, and we would greatly appreciate any time you can provide in making this day a success for the Club. We will have sign-up sheets posted at the Club so please stop by and join in on the fun!

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### Kitchen Staff help

We are in need of waitresses and kitchen staff. Do you have a child at least 16 years old looking for some extra cash? Do you have time on Friday and Saturdays to meet other members and serve up the dishes of the day? If you or someone you know is interested, contact Katie Fitzsimmons at the Club.

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### Thank you!

Patti and Greg Kashgagian, owners of Paramount Flooring, for donating flooring tiles for the Ladies bathroom. We need more business owners like them to step up to donate goods or services to keep the doors of the Club open and welcoming!

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### Volunteers Needed... that DOES mean you!

Our Club hosts several special events each year. While each event is unique and requires different types of volunteer activity and support, all of our events have one goal, and that is to benefit our Club. *Volunteers* are the backbone of events; large and small! Most volunteer opportunities require only an hour or two of your time. To volunteer, send a note to [Info@sonsoferincc.com](mailto:Info@sonsoferincc.com) and someone will contact you with details of volunteer opportunities.

## St. Patrick's Celebrations

**For both parade day and St. Patrick's Day there will be a two guest limit for each member. Also, there will be a \$10 guest fee for each guest entering the Club.**

### Parade Day March 10th

- The St. Patrick's Parade is scheduled for March 10, 2018. See the St. Patrick's parade website for more information: [CapeCodStPatricksParade.com](http://CapeCodStPatricksParade.com). The parade will start at 11:00 am, beginning at Bass River Sports World and ending at the Town 'N Country Motor Lodge.
- Grand Marshall Ball and Colleen Coronation is on Friday March 9th, at 6 pm at the Irish Village. More details to follow.
- At 10:00 am, buses will transport any and all members wishing to walk with the SOECC contingent from the Club to the starting point and will return you back to the Club after the parade. An Irish breakfast will be available starting at 8:30 am at the Club prior to the parade.
- After the parade, we will be serving corned beef sandwiches, hot dogs, chicken fingers, and French fries. Entertainment will be:
  - 1 pm to 3 pm - John O'Sullivan and Ciaran Dalton
  - 3 pm to 6 pm - Boston's Erin Og
  - 7 pm to 10 pm - Boxy
- There will be trolley service on route 28 after the parade to bring revelers to other establishments and a free taxi service (within a designated area) that night.

### St. Patrick's Day March 17th

The Club's famous corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served and along with a few other dishes, from 4 pm to 7 pm. John O'Sullivan will be performing from 4 pm to 7 pm and Dave Hickey and Sean Brennan from 7 pm to 10 pm.

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## Upcoming events

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Club lecture series event – details to follow. Watch the website for updated information.

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## Saint Brigid's Day, February 1st

Saint Brigid of Kildare is a saint of many names: Brigid of Ireland, Brigit, Bridget, Bridgit, Bríd, Bride, Naomh Bhríde or Mary of the Gaels. Living from 451 to 525 (according to hagiography and the consensus of the faithful), Brigid was an Irish nun, abbess, founder of several convents, held the rank of bishop and soon generally venerated as a saint.

Today, Brigid is considered to be one of Ireland's patron saints, ranking only (and by a small margin) behind Saint Patrick himself in importance. Her feast day, Saint Brigid's Day, is February 1st, also the first day of spring in Ireland. She is thought to have been born at Faughart (County Louth). Her father was Dubhthach, a Leinster pagan chieftain, her mother Brocca, a Pictish Christian. Brigid was named after the goddess Brigid of Dubhthach's religion, a goddess of fire.

In 468 Brigid converted to Christianity, having been a fan of Saint Patrick's preaching for some time. Her father was not pleased when she felt a longing to enter religious life, keeping her at home first. Where she became known for her generosity and charity: Never refusing any poor who came knocking at Dubhthach's door, the household needed a steady supply of milk, flour and other essentials. Having nothing else to hand, she even gave her father's jeweled sword to a leper. Dubhthach finally gave in, and sent Brigid to a convent, maybe simply to avoid bankruptcy.

Receiving the veil from Saint Mel, Brigid embarked on a career as convent founder, starting in Clara (County Offaly). But her activity in Kildare became most important - around the year 470 she founded Kildare Abbey, a co-ed monastery for both nuns and monks. Kildare comes from cill-dara, meaning the church of the oak - Brigid's cell being under a large oak tree.

As abbess, Brigid held considerable power – in fact she became a bishop in all but name. The abbesses of Kildare had an administrative authority equal to that of a bishop until 1152.

Dying in or around 525, Brigid was first buried in a tomb before the high altar of Kildare's abbey church. Later her remains are said to have been exhumed and transported to Downpatrick - to rest with the two other patron saints of Ireland, Patrick and Columba (Columcille).

According to legend, Brigid made a cross from rushes for a dying man she was keen to convert. Though the origins of this story are unknown, even today many households in Ireland have a Saint Brigid's Cross in honor of the saint. Keeping a Saint Brigid's Cross in its traditional place is prudent for practical purposes: It is believed that hanging the cross from the ceiling or the roof itself is a sure-fire way to preserve the home from fire.

## How to Make a St. Brigid's Cross



Making a St Brigid's Cross is a custom in Ireland. The St Brigid's Cross is made out of plants called rushes for hanging above the entrances to dwellings to invoke the help of St Brigid in warding off disease. Rushes were traditionally used to make the St Brigid's Cross. These were collected from wetlands and cut into pieces, 8-12 inches long. Rushes can be hard to get for city dwellers so ordinary drinking straws are a good substitute. Use rubber bands to tie up the ends.

Click [here](#) to see a video of making the cross.

You Will Need 16 reeds (or straws), 4 small rubber bands, and scissors.

### What to Do

1. Hold one of the reeds vertically. Fold a second reed in half.
2. Place the first vertical reed in the center of the folded second reed.
3. Hold the center overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger.
4. Turn the two rushes held together 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the second reed are pointing vertically upwards.
5. Fold a third reed in half and over both parts of the second reed to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight.
6. Holding the center tightly, turn the three reeds 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the third reed are pointing upwards.
7. Fold a new reed in half over and across all the rushes pointing upwards.
8. Repeat the process of rotating all the rushes 90 degrees anti-clockwise, adding a new folded reed each time until all rushes have been used up to make the cross.
9. Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length. The St Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.

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## Member Spotlight

Recently, we lost a member of the Club that brightened up the dance floor. She was honored as Dancing Queen of the Club this past Christmas party and she will be sorely missed. Here is her spotlight interview with her from December 2015.



### *Jean Poirier*

Jean was born in Watertown Mass. and currently lives in South Yarmouth. Her grandparents came from Enniskillen which is in Northern Ireland. She worked at Raytheon in the accounting department for many years. She is married to Joe, has five children, four daughters and one son, seven grandchildren, one of whom is deceased. She would love to see a jukebox at the club so she and her husband can dance the night away. Her perfect day would be a beautiful sunny day and she and Joe coming to the club to dance.

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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.

## 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 February and March, on that same Thursday night, we will have Trivia 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

**We have restocked!** 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.

### 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.

### Cribbage League

Join us any Thursday 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.

### 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.

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## Closing note

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell. Bless every fireside every wall and door. Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof. Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy. Bless every foot that walks its portals through. May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.