



January 2018 Club Newsletter

A look back at the past year

Fellow members, as we start a new year, we cannot forget all the fun we had in the past year. We had many members vying for Club positions (a welcome sight!) and we elected John Flaherty (President), and Board Members Tom Hickey, Mike Shea, Ed Tierney, and Lisa Williams. They have provided stability to the Club and are actively moving forward with new initiatives to improve the Club and add value to your membership.

Trivia nights, Irish Ceili and set dance classes, Irish music and language classes, roast beef Thursdays, the Cribbage League, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Patrick's Day, plywood pony races, the Golf tournament, The Healy Brothers Invitational, the Sons of Erin Scholarships, and that was just the first part of the year! Then came the Golf leagues, Comedy night, Club clean ups, Club decorating, Halloween party, Halfway to St. Patty's Day, Club lecture series on DNA and Genealogy, and Wills and Trusts, Children's and Adult Christmas parties, and the New Year's eve party.

None of this is possible without dedicated Club members organizing, preparing, and delivering the events. Kudos to all who have helped this past year and we invite every member to help out in the coming year.

Wishing everyone a prosperous 2018!

Irish Woman and Man of the Year



Congratulations Kathy Hegarty and Bill Hurley! It was announced during the Adult's Christmas party that they have been chosen to represent the Club as Irish Woman and Man of the year. Kathy works as a server on the weekends, is Chairwoman of the Events Committee, and adds her comedic flair to monthly member meetings. Bill is an original member and assists in the kitchen, runs the buffet at member meetings, serves on the Scholarship committee, the Building committee, and is a current Club Board member. There is rarely a day when one, or both of them, are not at the Club helping out in one way or another.

They will be special guests at the St. Patrick's Day parade. Make sure you thank them for all they do for the Club!

Upcoming events

December

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

The party will begin by ringing in the Irish New Year at 7:00 pm 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.

January

- **28th** – Winter Warmer with the Paddy Murphy Quartet from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Pub food will be served on this night.

Celebrating the Old Year



For over one and a half centuries the arrival of each New Year is celebrated in Portmagee Ireland with a unique costume parade called the "Old Year".

In 1727, three days after Christmas, a Kinsale brig, flying a French flag, landed in the Port of Portmagee after coming from Nantes, France. The boat remained until the New Year but what was to happen to the people of Portmagee on New Year's Eve 1727 was going to change their little village for evermore.

As the locals were retiring for the night, a strange but eerie noise was coming from the vicinity of the local pier.

As the strange sound came up towards the village, to the locals amazement they saw the crew of the French boat holding torches and marching through the village. They were led by a piper and in the center of the torch men a shaggy and staggering figure of an old man on his last legs was swaying as if his time was up.

They proceeded through the village and when they returned to the head of the pier, a shot rang out and the old man lay on the road as if dead. Silence descended again but only for a moment when a newly-dressed man with white trousers, swallow-tail coat and top hat emerged from the darkness and he repeated the route of the old man with again the piper leading him and the torches either side. The new man gave a speech to explain to locals about what they had just seen and he went on to inform them that the old man had symbolized the year gone by and, come midnight, he was no more. The New Man symbolized all that was new and the youth of the year that had just begun.

The local people, at first confused and a little fearful, loved the whole event and have recreated it annually ever since. It's quite a sight. Torches lit with paraffin soaked turf light the path of a local dressed as a stooped old man parade through the town to the pier, where at midnight he is reborn and young again.

The event takes place on the streets of Portmagee, so there are no tickets or admission charges.

Member Spotlight: Dee Petit



Webster's Dictionary defines a jack-of-all-trades as, "a handy, versatile person." This month's spotlight is on one of SOECC's handy, versatile people: Dee Petit.

Dee grew up in the Greenville section of Smithfield, Rhode Island, and lived there until moving to the Cape in 2010. The youngest of six, she had four brothers and one sister. Sadly, only one brother is still alive. For 26 years, she worked for the Diocese of Providence, first in child care and then as a classroom educator. That career ended when she was laid off due to budget cuts. Dee now works at the Stop and Shop on Long Pond Drive in Yarmouth; you can find her there in the Deli from 6:00 am until noon or 1:00 pm.

Dee has had a long-term connection to Cape Cod. She spent multiple summer vacations on the Cape. During one of those visits, in 2008, a member of the wait staff at Skippy's told her about the Sons of Erin and convinced her to join. She completed the entire application process by email; after that, she planned her visits to the Cape around events taking place at the Club. Now Dee is a Lifetime Member. She described the Club members as her second family, and she appreciates their friendliness. As a single person who has never married, Dee feels that the Club is a very open place for people in all life circumstances.

Why is she described as a jack-of-all trades? Here are just some of the many ways in which Dee is involved in the life of SOECC: she helps in the kitchen when needed; she is on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and, when possible, works on putting together the SOECC float for the parade; she is a member of the Activities Committee and likes to help decorate for holidays when able to do so; she spent two years as Recording Secretary; she plays in the Golf League; she loves to dance to the music on the weekends. A perfect example of her involvement is the way she spent last Saturday. After arriving at the Club to interview candidates for Colleen for the parade, Dee stayed to sub as dishwasher for Charlie, who was not able to work that night. When there is a need at the Club, which Dee can handle, she can be counted on to fill it. She truly is a handy, versatile member of the Sons of Erin community.

Club renovations

Over the next few month's you will see a lot of changes to the Club. Both the ladies and men's bathrooms will be renovated and the floor in the kitchen will be updated to a composite materials which should last a very long time. More details in next month's newsletter!

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) 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.

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 and we will have Trivia Night with DJ Patrick!

St. Patrick's Day Parade

There is a new website for the parade: 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!

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.

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 14th 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.

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.

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.

Closing note

In the New Year, may your right hand
always be stretched out in friendship
and never in need.