



October 2017 Club Newsletter

President's Welcome

I have been a member of SOECC since 2005, and like many of us over the years, I had lost sight of all the good times I had: the good food, the fun music, the special events and the camaraderie of such great friends I have made over the years. Becoming President has brought back focus to just how special the membership in the Sons really is. I suggest each of us, especially those of us who have been members for a long time, take a step back and, instead of focusing on what is not right, think about all the great times we have had and all the good times yet to come.

As I reflect on my three months as President, I would like to take a brief moment and send my appreciation out to everybody.

- As a Club, we have the best members any Club could ask for. Members who care about the Club and each other. Members who try and follow the rules of the Club even when they don't always necessarily agree with those rules. Thank you for making my job easier.
- The members elected a great BOD who work hard to make the Club a place where members can come, have a good time and put their worries behind them for a few hours.
- The Club has a small but dedicated group of volunteers who work very hard to maintain the Club's infrastructure and its Irish pub ambiance.
- The Entertainment committee does yeoman work putting together functions such as Comedy Night, halfway to St Patrick's day, special interest presentations, Halloween parties, and on and on they go. When you see them, take a second and say thank you.

There are other things we all can do to make the Club even better. Most of us do these anyways, but a reminder is always a good thing especially when you get old like me ☺. As a member, when you come to the Club, have your key card out and show it to the greeter. To help keep costs low, the Club does not employ bus boys, so please:

- Bring dirty dinner dishes over to the black storage holders in the back hall.
- Bring empty beer bottles and drink glasses back to the bar when you leave your table.
- Please make the bartenders lives simpler! When you go to the bar and you want to buy a round of drinks for your table, bring some friends with you to help carry the drinks back because by the laws of the Town of Yarmouth, the bartender is only allowed to serve two drinks to any one person at one time.
- If you have a table with open seats and you see members looking for a place to sit, invite them to join you and make new friends.
- If you are done eating and see members waiting for a table, please move to the benches around the dance floor so others can get dinner.

John Flaherty, Club President

Update: Focus Ireland

During the 50/50 raffle on Halfway to St. Patty's Day, the Club was able to raise \$425! You can donate using our website. For more information, see the Focus's website: focusireland.ie.

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!

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.

Upcoming events

Watch the [website](#) calendar and upcoming newsletters for updated information on these events.

October

- 4th – **Genealogy and your DNA**, from 6 pm – 7 pm with Everett Johnson of Cape Cod Genealogy Society

Come join us for our new lecture series! We hope to offer a different topic each month.

You have seen the ads offering DNA testing and have been wondering what it is all about. What do the DNA results tell me? How does my DNA help me research my Irish (and non-Irish) roots? Everett will discuss the various types of DNA testing sites and how you can use your results to better understand your family's history. **Non-members are welcome and the new guest policy is not in effect that night!**

- 21st – Come help us decorate the Club for Halloween starting at 10 am.
- 28th – **Halloween party** from 8 pm until closing

Come dressed in your favorite costume! Terry Brennan will be the entertainment for the evening (as well as all the ghouls and goblins!). Prizes for the best costume: ladies, mens, and couple.

November

- 15 – **Wills and Trusts**, from 6 pm – 7 pm (details to follow)
- 22nd – The night before Thanksgiving! Join us for pub food the and great entertainment of the Johnny O'Sullivan Family!
- 25th – Come help us decorate the Club for Christmas starting at 10 am.

December

- 2nd – **Children's Christmas party** starting from Noon to 2 pm.
 - 9th – **Adult Christmas party** starting at 5 pm.
 - 31th – **New Year's Eve party** (details to follow)
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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.

Dining Room News

Current hours are 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Thursday through Saturday. Prime rib is back on the menu on Thursday nights! A reminder that tables are to be cleared by Club members. **Meals will continue on Thursdays until Columbus Day.**

You are entitled to a **free** birthday meal the last Saturday of your birthday month!

Member Spotlight: Nancy and Greg Buckley



I've been writing Spotlight columns for some time, and I have found, invariably, that the people being interviewed are uncomfortable with the spotlight. They say things like, "I have nothing interesting to say," or "I don't know why you want to talk to me." And every time, I have found that these individuals are wrong. Each person I've interviewed has had an interesting story, including this month's subjects, Nancy and Greg Buckley. They have had unusual professional and volunteer experiences, and have an enduring love of Cape Cod, a strong appreciation for their Irish heritage, and an active membership in the SOECC.



Both Nancy and Greg grew up as third-generation Brockton residents. In her state auditor's position, Nancy worked to ensure that the agencies with which she worked handled taxpayers' money responsibly. In her community activities, Nancy has used both her personal and fiscal skills in organizations such as My Brother's Keeper, Holy Cross Retreat House at Stonehill College, and formerly, as treasurer for the St. Patrick's Day parade. An Army veteran, Greg maintained his strong commitment to the armed services in his career in the Veterans Administration. A talented musician, Greg just retired from singing at SOECC, but continues to perform Irish and classic oldies for veterans' organizations and local fundraisers.

Both Nancy and Greg grew up spending summers on Cape Cod, until they moved here full-time 11 years ago. They have passed their passion for the Cape on to their three children and three grandchildren, Declan, Finn, and the fourth generation Gregory who was born in July. Each weekend during the summer, all the generations gather at the Buckley home. While it can be a challenge having so many people with one bathroom, continuing the family tradition makes the hubbub worthwhile.

Right after they moved to the Cape full-time, Nancy and Greg joined SOECC. Since their grandparents all came from Mayo or Cork, the club seemed a perfect place to meet new friends who share a similar heritage. And they immediately introduced themselves to club members and immersed themselves in the volunteer opportunities available: Greg through his music, and Nancy through her contributions to the dining service. They strongly believe that the volunteer efforts of many members make the club a success. Their advice to new members? You won't meet people by sitting at the bar on your own. Introduce yourselves to other members. You will find that the people you meet, like Nancy and Greg, have interesting stories to share, and that you have some of your own, too. *Submitted by Helen Niedermeier*

Culture Corner: Newgrange and Knowth

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of visiting Newgrange and Knowth. I took a bus tour to the site. Newgrange is one of the best examples in Ireland and in Western Europe, of a type of monument known to archaeologists as a passage-grave or passage-tomb. It was constructed around 3200 BC, according to the most reliable Carbon 14 dates available from archaeology. This makes it more than 600 years older than the Giza Pyramids in Egypt, and 1,000 years more ancient than Stonehenge.

If you were looking out the left side of the bus approaching the site, you would miss it as it is high upon a hill and covered with grass. The tour guide led us up to the entrance where she explained the history of the site and theories as to the carvings on the stone in the front.



We walked through narrow hallway, that had wood beams holding back the rock walls from collapse, to get inside. We got to the center of the tomb, which was circular. There were three cubby holes with carvings as well. With 24 people in one place, it was very cramped.

The tour explained how five days a year, at the winter solstice, the sunshine moves through capstone at the entrance, engulfing the center room with light. She demonstrated it by turning off the lights and then turning on another light to replicate the event. Being in a dark place with 24 strangers is not something I recommend, but the demonstration was "illuminating."

Admission to the Newgrange chamber for the Winter Solstice sunrise is by lottery, application forms are available at the Brú na Bóinne [Visitor Centre](#). About 30,000 applications are submitted annually. In September each year, 50 names are drawn with two places are awarded to each person drawn. *Submitted by Dianne Duffy*

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.

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

People who wonder whether the glass is

half empty or half full

miss the point.

The glass is refillable.