

FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

OLD BRIDGE, NJ

SHENANIGANS

VOLUME 48

ISSUE 11

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Dear Fellow Members,

The first sign that the holidays are approaching is when you wake up on a cold fall morning and see frost on the pumpkins. Once the ghosts and goblins go, it is nothing but the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping to look forward to. That's of course if you are not a member of this fine club. There is so much to look forward to in the next few months as well as plenty to reflect upon.

This past month, the Friendly Sons hosted its second annual Dart Social. This well planned event was hosted by Tom Esser and Dennis Pinkiewicz. The success of this evening was due to their hard work and dedication with over 100 participants. Not only did everyone meet someone new, even a few deserving charities benefited by this groups generosity. The night was intended to be a social event, not a competition and the mission was accomplished. Having met someone new, everyone turned out a winner.

I have to hand it to Michael Lee Foster. He organized such a great trip to the Notre Dame vs. Navy game that people already want to know the date for next year's trip (except for Moe). Everything was perfect that day: great weather, great food, great people, plenty of laughs, and maybe even next time Notre Dame will bring their defense.

There was plenty of mischief at the club the day before Halloween. The club hosted its annual Children's Halloween Party, much to the delight of the little shillelagh's in attendance. Party goers were treated to an afternoon of music, games, prizes, pumpkins, and a whole lot of candy!!!

In November we all give thanks for our good health, our families, and our friends. It is with this that we should remind ourselves of how lucky we are. With that being said, it is our tradition and our compassion that we put the needs of others first. Our faithful and dedicated organizer, Ray Costello, and the Friendly Sons will be distributing Thanksgiving Food Baskets to many families in need on Saturday, November 20th. It is extremely important that all items be accounted for by Friday, November 19th. Please be considerate of this situation and contact Ray if you are unable to provide the items you signed up for as much planning goes into day.

My family and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the holiday season.

Be Well and God Bless You all-

Mac





Good and Welfare

Brother member Ed Quigley lost his dad, Rich Kyles's brother passed away as well, Charlie Costello has been a bit under the weather.



Please always, take a moment to think of all our troops and support staff overseas, and those less fortunate than us.

Good and Welfare information should be given to Barney Shannon @ (732) 254-6153, or to any officer.



SHENANIGANS DEADLINES

Please note, we are going to try and get the paper online sooner than usual from now on, that said, please have any items you want in the paper submitted by the 20th of the month. Thanks

Cellars By Starlight...

December Meeting -

Thursday, November 11th 8:30PM

NOCTOBERFEST - Saturday, November 13th

Adult Christmas Party - Saturday, December 4th
6:30PM 2 LIVE BANDS!

TOYS FOR TOTS - Sunday, December 12th

Our annual tailgate extravaganza. Tommy Dunn is your host, hopefully more next month, and in an e mail blast. An unwrapped toy is the key.

Children's Christmas Party - Saturday, December 18th

STRATHMORE THEATER; MOVIE TO BE ANNOUNCED.
SEE BARNEY SHANNON, OR SANTA FOR MORE INFO.

Membership Appreciation Social Evening -

Thursday, December 23rd
BRIAN BURNS, GREAT IRISH MUSIC.

Membership Appreciation New Year's Eve Party -

Friday, December 31st
BRIAN BURNS WILL ENTERTAIN, SEE JOHN SHERIDAN FOR MORE.

Mardi Gras - Saturday, January 22nd 8PM-12AM

SEE JOHN SHERIDAN FOR MORE.

Club Elections/ Blood Drive - Saturday February 26th

DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Incoming: - 1st Parade Fundraiser should be mid January at the club, and then, it's almost PARADE time (March 6th)



FSOS Pipes and Drums News



Anyone interested in playing Pipes or Drums, come down on Monday nights. - John Hatton



NOCTOBERFEST

**THE ONLY
OCTOBER
EVENT IN
NOVEMBER!**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

**Because we NEVER
have it in October**

**\$30.00 presale, \$35.00 at the door.
per person, for all beer, wine, soda
and food. Music by the fabulous
VOODOUES**

**Authentic Bavarian feast prepared
by Chef Demaio and crew. See John
Sheridan, tables will fill up quickly.**



NOTRE DAME TRIP RECAP

**By all accounts, a great
trip, thanks to Michael Lee
for organizing. EVERYONE
had a blast, right Mo?**



It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Nomination of Officers

Nominations will be accepted at the January Meeting for 2011 Elections.

Criteria as follows:

"To be eligible to nominate or be nominated for any office in this organization, a member cannot be more than two months in arrears in the payment of dues and must have completed payment of the initiation fee as of the January meeting"

"To be eligible to vote for any office in this organization, a member must be not more than two months in arrears in payment of dues and must have completed payment of the initiation fee as of Election Day, the last Saturday of February." – February 26th

Remember: Your Dues responsibilities also include your Ad Book payments, as outlined in our By- Laws.



Club Elections & Blood Drive

Saturday, February 26th

Blood Drive begins at 10AM. Please come down and have a pint drawn from you, and then we will draw a few pints for you.

Voting commences at 12 Noon through 7 PM.

And be sure to come down to the pub election night to hear the results, welcome your new officers, and, well, get crapulous.



Membership News

Effective as of the September meeting

1st Reading: William Schnitzerling / Sponsor - Tom Esser
Raymond Foley / Sponsor - Donald Foley

2nd Reading: Travis Gerdon

New Members: Kenneth Cassidy, Welcome!

Questions or concerns should be directed to Dennis Bohanan (732) 723-0776

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th 6:30 SHARP

The BEST we have. 2 live bands ! The wonderful Bogside Rogues, will be in the main room, entralling you with Irish rock and roll at its finest, and in the pub, traditional Irish music. \$50.00 per person (a member and significant other), or \$35.00 per person IF you attended the Dinner Dance last March .

FULL OPEN BAR, Top Hat Caterings FINEST Hor D' Oeuvres, AND a Full Dinner. You STILL cannot top this anywhere in the known galaxy. Raffle tickets are available as well \$10.

New and T.U. New Barstools have been purchased. Thanks to David Schmidt, who picked up the stools and brought them to the club.. Ok, watch for head swelling, but.... THANK YOU to our BELOVED David Cummins, who through his tireless (?) efforts, not only does a smashing job, but also saves our great club piles of money, buy him several pints!



Irish Christmas TRADITIONS

Ireland, like most countries, has a number of Christmas traditions that are all of its own. Many of these customs have their root in the time when the Gaelic culture and religion of the country were being suppressed and it is perhaps because of that they have survived into modern times.

THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas Eve is still practiced today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they traveled looking for shelter.

The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass as, during Penal Times this was not allowed.

A further element of the tradition is that the candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'.

THE LADEN TABLE

After evening meal on Christmas Eve the kitchen table was again set and on it were placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveler, could avail of the welcome.



THE WREN BOY PROCESSION

During Penal Times there was once a plot in a village against the local soldiers. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as 'The Devil's bird'.

On St. Stephen's day, a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times, an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has to a large degree disappeared but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephen's Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

DECORATIONS:

The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th) and it is considered to be bad luck to take them down beforehand.

TRADITIONAL GAELIC SALUTATION

The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is:

'Nollaig Shona Duit'

.....which is pronounced as 'null-ig hun-a dit'.



AD Book: #006 Marty Cameron, Happy Birthday indeed.

CHOW - Dennis Sullivan, SOMEHOW, moving faster than Tommy Keegan, took the first plated by a rusty Shamrock.



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