

Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF
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February 2023 *Your President's Message*

Brother Shillelaghs,

High Holy Season has arrived! The 50th annual Belmar-Lake Como Parade will take place on Sunday, March 5th. Marching in the parade is the one of the highlights of the year for the FSOS, Jersey Shore. It's a special day for our membership and all should participate, if physically able and not working. Marching in the parade is an obligation of membership in our club. This year we hope to have up to 1,000 marchers creating a sea of green jackets. It is an incredible honor for me to lead my brothers down Main Street. We will be marching down Main Street proudly behind "the best band in the land", The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore. Parade Adjutant, Frank Lemkan (PAFL), and Assistant Chris Kincaid will be providing marching instructions before and during the parade. Please follow their instructions.

On February 26th, we will have a parade fundraiser at our club at 2PM. The Pat Roddy Band will provide the entertainment and our kitchen crew will provide the Irish Fare. There will be a \$15 donation at the door. On Saturday, March 4th, we will be attending the Investiture Mass at St Rose at 10AM. It is an inspiring mass with our pipe band leading us into church. Hearing Bobby Byrne sing a few songs during mass is special as well. On Saturday, March 4th, at 7PM, we will have The Bantry Boys playing at the club keeping a great tradition going pre parade.

On Friday, 2/10, the club held its Valentine's Day Bingo to another sold out crowd. A great time was had by all. Joe Kelly, Ryan Lavender, Rich Mackay and Mary Lavender have turned these Bingo nights into some of the best events the club holds.

Congratulations to the winners of our Super 50/50 raffle! And thanks for all those that participated in one of our best fundraisers of the year. Thanks also to Rosco Quirk and Snuffy Smith for leading this event.

At our March 1st meeting, nominations will be held for our upcoming elections. Anyone that wants to run for office and those that are nominating a member both must be in good standing with annual dues paid.

Enjoy the parade! Have fun, be safe.

Slainte'

Craig Coyle
President, FSOS Jersey Shore



Friday February 17th • Joel and Eddie Band

**Sunday February 26th • Parade Fundraiser with Pat Roddy
Belmar FSOS Clubhouse**

Wednesday March 1st • FSOS Monthly Meeting

**Saturday March 4th • Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade
Investiture Mass**

Saturday March 4th • Bantry Boys

Sunday March 5th • Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday March 11th • Carolina Shillelaghs St. Patrick's Day Parade

Friday March 17th • St. Patrick's Day

Saturday March 25th • Strictly 60's Band

Wednesday April 5th • FSOS Monthly Meeting

Saturday April 22nd • FSOS Polar Bear Plunge for Autism

Saturday April 29th • FSOS Dinner Dance

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc.

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com.

Please mail donations to:

FSOS Foundation
PO Box 627,
Belmar, NJ 07719

Irish History #101

"Tit-for-tat Killing" and Musical Milestones

I.

The history chapters devoted to the Irish Civil War have been tragic, sad, and dark. Add the words ruthless and bloody to that and you will have an accurate description of the civil war years. My apologies before-hand, but this article begins along the same line as past chapters. For a change, however, it will end by noting some musical milestones.

The phrase "tit-for-tat killing" is used to describe the motivating factor that often drives reprisal killings. After one of your own is killed, you get revenge by killing one of them. We saw this in chapter 100, when the Irish Free State government responded to the assassination of TD Sean Hales by summarily and extrajudicially executing 4 of the Four Courts prisoners. That decision leads one to wonder what effect such behavior from the highest government officials had on lower-level officials?

Tit-for-tat killing is a grizzly and unfortunate aspect of armed conflict, especially guerilla warfare. It fueled cycles of death and perpetuated the Troubles. The response to Bloody Sunday In Derry in January 1972 was Bloody Friday in Belfast in July. That same year, members of the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defense Regiment conducted a machine-gun attack on Annie's Bar in Derry. It was carried out "in retaliation" for the killing of a member of the Ulster Defense Regiment by the IRA a day before. Five people were killed in the indiscriminate attack at the bar - 4 Catholics and 1 Protestant. None of them had anything to do with the IRA. They were just having a pint at Annie's. Although collusion was suspected, no one has been held responsible for the murders.

1972 was the deadliest year of the Troubles. 497 people were killed.

Another notorious case of this nature was the 1976 Kingsmill Massacre. A day after the loyalist paramilitary Glenanne Gang murdered six members of two Catholic families - the Reavey and O'Dowd families (the 3 Reavey and 3 O'Dowd victims represent 6 of the more than 100 victims murdered by this sectarian murder gang) - the IRA responded by setting-up a fake British army checkpoint, stopping a van with 12 workers, separating the Catholic from the others, lining-up the remaining

11 men, and coldly executing 10 of them. One survived. No one has ever been held accountable for the massacre.

The Irish Free State was in the throes of a guerilla war during the opening months of 1923. It was being waged by anti-Treaty republicans throughout the countryside. Republicans targeted public officials and military officers for death. The Irish army often responded in kind to these killings by targeting republicans for death. We will review one such episode in Co. Kerry that covered a two-day span and involved 14 deaths. Some historians consider it to be the most infamous atrocity committed during the Irish Civil War.

In the civil war, both sides perpetrated tit-for-tat killings. When lives are lost, there is no hierarchy among victims. Both sides were equally guilty of and answerable for such acts. There is, however, a heightened expectation that government officials will follow the law. When they don't, the admonition of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in his famous dissent in the Olmstead case resonates: "If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy." When one's sole end is to achieve vengeance, the means to gain it - however unjustified - don't matter. That's what happened in Kerry in March 1923.

On March 6, republicans sent a letter to Free State forces falsely claiming that there was a republican arms dump in Knocknagoshel woods. The letter appeared to be written by a Free State informant. After receiving the letter, Irish army Lt. Pat O'Connor led 8 men to Knocknagoshel woods to check-out the tip. The search party discovered a pile of stones and a large boulder. A rigged explosion was triggered when the boulder was moved. Lt. O'Connor and four others were blown to pieces. A sixth soldier survived, but his legs had to be amputated. The loss of 5 men was the highest death toll the army experienced in a single day in Kerry, since 10 soldiers were killed during the capture of Tralee six months earlier.

In response, the Kerry army command announced a new policy: "any obstacles that troops might encounter would be removed by anti-Treaty

prisoners.” It was put into effect immediately.

According to the official army report, when an army patrol traveling from Tralee to Killorglin found a pile of rubble blocking the road at Ballyseedy on March 7, they brought 9 republican prisoners to the site to clear the roadblock. As the prisoners began to clear the road, a landmine hidden in the debris exploded killing 8 of them. The truth, however, was very different.

The 9 republican prisoners selected had been tortured during an interrogation aimed at finding out who planned the Knocknagoshel attack. Military officials considered them to be guilty for Knocknagoshel by association. The army built a landmine and placed it at Ballyseedy. They also prepared 9 coffins for the bodies of the prisoners before they were transported there.

The prisoners’ hands, legs and knees were tied by a rope. At the site, they were tied together in a circle around the army mine. Then, the soldiers detonated the mine. A “devastating” explosion killed 8 of the prisoners. To ensure the men were dead, the soldiers fired automatic weapons into bodies that were “mangled beyond recognition.” Unbeknownst to the soldiers, the ninth prisoner was thrown hundreds of yards by the blast. The soldiers thought he had died, and the blast had disintegrated his body. In fact, however, he had survived.

This was a planned reprisal aimed at getting revenge for Knocknagoshel. It is said revenge is a dish best served cold. This dish of revenge, however, was served while the soldiers’ emotions were still intensely hot over Knocknagoshel. Such brutality and inhumanity occurring today would be treated as a war crime. Back then, no one was held accountable.

The army held a Court of Inquiry into the incident a month later. Despite the existence of motive, opportunity, and intent for the murders, the Court of Inquiry “whitewashed” what happened. The Court accepted the official, but false, version of the events thereby sweeping the atrocity under the rug. Although a handwritten note by Free State Captain Niall Harrington refuted the official version, the Court of Inquiry ignored it. Nevertheless, the note was retained in the file.

The note stated the army’s report of events at Ballyseedy was “totally untrue.” Additionally, it said, “[t]he mine was constructed in Tralee under the supervision of the principal officers” with the “complete knowledge and encouragement of Major

General Paddy Daly.” The note also made clear that “Ballyseedy was a reprisal for Knocknagoshel.” The note’s existence in the file surfaced decades later, and the truth about the Ballyseedy massacre was finally made public.

II.

Some of you may be old enough to have seen Bruce Springsteen’s musical genius before he became “The Boss.” He honed his prodigious talent during the 1960’s in Jersey shore bar bands like the Castiles and Steel Mill. His first album - “Greetings from Asbury Park, NJ” with the E Street Band - is now 50 years old. It was released in January 1973 to critical acclaim, but not commercial success.

Don’t let his Dutch last name fool you. Springsteen says he draws on both the Irish side and Italian side of his personality for creativity. The Irish side - which he describes as “moodier, darker and gloomier” - surfaces on solo projects. While the Italian side - which he calls his “hail brother well met” personality - surfaces on band material.

“We Shall Overcome” was the anthem of the U.S. and the Northern Ireland civil rights movements. To hear the influence of Springsteen’s Irish personality, listen to his rendition of that song at the Point Theatre in Dublin in November 2006.

“Well, we shall overcome.

We shall overcome,

We shall overcome someday,

Darling here in my heart I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

...

We shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace someday,

Darling here in my heart I do believe,

We shall live in peace someday.”

As for his Irish roots, Springsteen’s great-great grandmother emigrated to the U.S. from Co. Kildare in 1853. He said he feels a very strong connection to that part of Ireland and hopes to plant a heritage tree there one day. Springsteen has two more Irish connections of note. In 1999, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Bono, the lead singer for the world renown Irish band - U2. More recently, he was listed as a “notable Irish-American” in the bipartisan legislative resolution designating March as Irish-American Heritage Month in New Jersey.

January 30 was the 51st anniversary of Bloody

Sunday. A month after members of the British Army's First Parachute Regiment gunned down 13 unarmed civil rights protesters on the streets of Derry, ex-Beatle Paul McCartney expressed his outrage over the deaths by releasing the song "Give Ireland Back to the Irish." It was the first single released by McCartney's new band, Wings. The song was banned from the airwaves in the United Kingdom by the British Broadcasting Company. In Ireland, it climbed to number-one on the pop charts.

John Lennon, not McCartney, was known as the Beatle who wrote protest songs. This was a first for McCartney. He said, however, that he felt the need "to use my art to protest" because "the British government overstepped the mark and showed themselves to be more of a sort of oppressive regime than I ever believed them to be."

McCartney was born in Liverpool and descended from Irish immigrants. From 1845-52 (the years of An Gorta Mor/Ireland's great hunger), more than 1.5 million Irish passed through Liverpool. The majority emigrated to the U.S., Canada, or Australia. Many, however, stayed in Liverpool and settled there. Presently, 75% of the city's population has Irish roots. Every Beatle did, none more so than McCartney. His mother's father was from Co. Monaghan in the Republic.

The song McCartney wrote with his wife Linda is 51 years old this month.

"Give Ireland back to the Irish,
Don't make them have to take it away.
Give Ireland back to the Irish,
Make Ireland Irish today."
Amen!

Primary Sources: "Bruce Springsteen on his Irish and Italian personalities," YouTube (Nov. 1, 2020); Tom Doyle, The Civil War in Kerry, Mercier Press (2008); Irish Central Staff, "Celebrating Bruce Springsteen's Irish roots with a native tree," Irish Central News (Jan. 6, 2023); Freya McClements, "Annie's Bar 1972: 'it's always been classed as the forgotten massacre,'" Irish Times (Dec. 17, 2022); Owen O'Shea, "Tied to a landmine: the tactics that show the worst of the Irish Civil War," Irish Times (Nov. 15, 2022); Meghan Sweeney, "Paul McCartney's Irish roots," Irish Central News (Oct. 14, 2022).

Slainte, EMN



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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore – February 2023!!

Let's get right to it as this has been an exciting year so far and we are only a few weeks into 2023!

Congratulations to our Band Manager, Drum Major and club member Mark Mastowski who has retired from the NJ Turnpike!

Congratulations to band member and club member Chris Everett! Chris and his wife Samantha are expecting their first child soon!

Congratulations to our Drum Corporal Aileen Mastowski who will be tying the knot in February. We wish Aileen and Joe a lifetime of happiness!

Congratulations to our newest band member: bagpiper Kieran Lavin! Kieran is 11 years old and has spent the last year plus learning to play.

Congratulations to band member Amanda Cregan who will be *finally* tying the knot in early March to yours truly!

How do a few in the band start off the new year? Playing a Polar Bear plunge on New Year's Day of course! Now there's a "cure" for partaking in one too many adult beverages on NYE!

We have already had a few performances in 2023 including two polar bear plunges and a mass band performance with the St Rose High School Pipe Band fundraiser!

Some of the upcoming events include: two more Polar Bear Plunges, parade fundraisers and of course the best parade in the state where we lead all of you down Main Street in Lake Como/Belmar!

Other parades include: Keyport and North Myrtle Beach where we will be leading the Shillelagh Club this year! It does mean we will miss the Seaside and Asbury Parades this year due to the parade in SC is the same weekend. There maybe another parade or two that will be added to the list.

We all know that our club is approximately 1400 strong and it would be quite the site to see 1200+ marching down Main Street, standing tall, representing the club! Of course that would mean the band would play Amazing grace 39 times as we split to have the entire club march past! It would be quite the sea of green to see in the parade!

I received some positive feedback for the faq's from last month so here are a few more:

1. Why on earth would I want to wear a kilt? It must be so cold in the winter and hot in the summer For me, wearing a kilt was awkward at first and has become very comfortable. Yes my knees are cold in the winter and yes

its a tad warm in the summer however it's not too often that we play in extreme temperatures.

The first time wearing a kilt is an experience you will not forget. Learning to dress and look the part does take a little time at first but everyone quickly adapts after kilting up a few times.

2. How much is it to play a song or two for my birthday (or other occasion) for me (or any event such as a funeral or wedding)?

If a solo performance time is 5 to 15 minutes or so before and/or after a mass, at a party or other function, you are paying for the time it takes to dress, drive to the location, tune up the bagpipes so they sound good for the performance, the performance itself and the drive back, etc.....

The price ranges also factor in how far away we go for the performance. There are many, many years of experience behind each performance. As a general rule, club members usually receive a discount up to 20% off the normal fee to hire a bagpiper for an event. So the answer on how much depends on a few factors and generally starts around \$250 for a solo bagpiper to perform before the club discount.

3. How much for the whole band to perform? Maybe you can perform for free and your band will get so much exposure along with beverages for your payment.

Many people are getting ready, traveling to the location, there is tune up time, the performance itself,

(the same as a solo bagpiper), which all applies here on a band level. More time is needed to tune up and organize where/when we perform with a larger group.

The fee is based on distance and other factors which our Band Manager Mark Mastowski can go over with you. Contact us for more info and our contact info is in this article every month.

4 Why are there fees? We use the fee to replenish reeds, drums, drum heads, kilts and other uniform items that the band supplies. We need the income to offset these and other costs (website, etc).

Band members are not paid directly for band performances. It is all volunteer. Members travel on their own time and dime for all events including trips to play in Savannah, Ireland and the upcoming trip to South Carolina.

We donate many of our performances for fundraisers and other venues such as the Brady Walk, Autism Fundraiser, Parade fundraisers, Polar Bear Plunges, 9/11 ceremonies,

the Belmar St Patrick's Day Parade and Manasquan Memorial Day Parade, the FSOS Dinner/Dance and other occasions.

Every situation is unique. The information provided is just to shed a little light on the inner workings of our band for you.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here!

Learning to play an instrument is one of the most rewarding, frustrating at times, fun thing I have ever done. I am always learning and having a lot of fun along the way.

YOU CAN TOO!! Yes YOU!! All you need to do is show up to see what it's all about and give it a try!!! Tuesday nights - 6:30 upstairs at the club.

Growth is key for the band's future. The club is around 1400 strong..... it would be great to see more of you (and your families) join the band! The band is not just for club members andlessons are FREE!!!

All you need to do is show up on Tuesday evening and/or contact me 732-685-9232 so you can get started to become a bagpiper or drummer in the band!

If you already know how to play bagpipes or drums & want to join the band, just head over to practice on a Tuesday evening and check us out. Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our updated website www.jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

Want to have a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations, backyard bbq's and more!

For more info, please contact our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Thank you!

As always, we want to thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



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CHARITYSPOTLIGHT

FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH OF BELMAR DONATES \$7000 CHECK TO WALL TOWNSHIP'S DREAM FACTORY OF THE JERSEY SHORE

By Luanne Wood Director of Dream Factory of the Jersey Shore



Friendly Sons of The Shillelagh of Belmar donates \$7000.00 check to Wall Township's Dream Factory of the Jersey Shore

On a cold morning on December 19, 2022, the Friendly Sons of The Shillelagh of Belmar donated a \$7000.00 check to Dream Factory of the Jersey Shore (DFJS) of Wall, New Jersey for Riley's dream. Riley is a brave Howell child, who has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Riley dreams of going to the Aulani Resort in Hawaii with her family. Riley dreams of taking a break from her illness, and looking for some peace, downtime with her family, to swim with dolphins and see volcanoes firsthand.

The Friendly Sons of The Shillelagh reached out to Luanne Wood, Director of DFJS.

"They loved our mission of making dreams come true for local critically and chronically ill children. When I told them about Riley, they wanted to help us make this dream come true. Fundraising for these dreams is always a challenge, so this unexpected and generous donation is more than appreciated. This will cover the entire trip to Hawaii for Riley and her family, including airfare, hotel, food, transfers to the airport,

and spending money for the family. This is certainly a group of individuals with big hearts. We (DFJS) are all touched by their compassion."

After the check was presented, the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh delivered hundreds of children's gifts to Jersey Shore University Medical Center and the Madonna House in Neptune.

The DFJS plans to send Riley and her family to Hawaii in the Spring of 2023. Since 2010, DFJS has made over fifty dreams come true to local ill children, between the ages of 3-18.

For more information on DFJS, visit their website at www.dreamsjerseyshore.com or contact them at 833-373-2665.

The Dream Factory. is an all-volunteer, mission driven organization that makes dreams come true for critically and chronically ill children ages 3-18.

Dream Factory of the Jersey Shore
PO BOX 1273
Wall, NJ 07719

The Order of The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore



about us:

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023

7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact
information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at
nbarrett@deltec-ny-com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at
Irish0361@aol.com

or

Ray Spengler at
PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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