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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

July 2025 Your President's Message

Shillelagh Brothers,

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July—and hopefully got to enjoy a hot dog (or two) with an ice-cold brew!

JUNE RECAP

We closed out June with a packed calendar:

- Annual Golf Outing at Pebble Creek and Cruz Farms The weather was perfect, and the BBQ—thanks to Mike and Gary Miles and their outstanding kitchen crew—was a hit at Cruz Farms. A big thank you to Ray Barnes and Mike Kahrer, along with the entire staff, for organizing another top-notch event.
- Irish Heritage Night at Blue Claws Stadium Appreciation goes to Ryan Lavender for putting this together. From what we've heard, the party may have outshined the game!

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Though July is typically a slower month, we kept the spirit alive:

- Live Weekend Music brought to us by Mark Chadwick
- A fun Pop-Up Event at The Irish Exit

Thanks to everyone who came out to show their support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 6th – Monthly Meeting (Under the Tent) Shout out to the Tent Committee for making this happen!

AUGUST 7th – Joe Kelly's Famous Bingo Night Theme: Gilligan's Island Will Joe arrive as Skipper, Gilligan, or perhaps in drag as Maryann or Ginger? You'll have to show up to find out. Either way—it's always a fantastic night!

AUGUST 9th – Carbon Place Project (Live Performance) Don't miss Friday night's music event at the club.

AUGUST 10th – 18th Annual Fluke Tournament Thanks to Ryan Lavender, Billy Clohosey, and the Fluke Committee. Grab the Best T-Shirt of the Year at the August meeting—limited supply, so don't wait.

• Summer Super 50/50 Drawing will be held at the Fluke After-Party Special thanks to Rosco and Snuffy for their work on this.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

September 10th – Cigar & Whiskey Night Proceeds go to Tunnels to Towers – mark your calendar and come support a great cause!

September 13th – Annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party Featuring music from The Snakes – don't miss it!

Enjoy the rest of this beautiful season with your friends and family. We hope to see you at some—or all—of the upcoming events!

Salantie '

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President, FSOS Jersey Shore

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NEWSLETTER STAFF Chuck Healey Rob Coman



Wednesday, August 2nd • Slick Aguliar Band

Wednesday, August 6th • FSOS Meeting Night

Thursday, August 7th • Joe Kelly Bingo

Friday, August 8th • Carbon Project Band

Saturday, August 9th • Fluke Tournament

Saturday, August 9th • Super 50/50 Drawing

Sunday, August 17th • Enda Keegan

Wednesday, September 3rd • FSOS MeetingNight

Wednedsay, September 10th • Cigar and Whiskey Night

Saturday, September 13th • Half Way to St Patrick's Day w/ The Snakes

Friday, September 19th • Trivia Night w/DJ DON

The Foundation will be accepting requests for scholarship applications in July. The process is open to full time students taking a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate college credits, six graduate credits or the trade school undergraduate equivalent during the Fall 2025 semester. The applicant cannot receive a full tuition scholarship from any other source. Interested students may request an application by sending a stamped self addressed envelope to:

FSOS Foundation PO Box 627 Belmar, NJ 07719

Note:

If the request is not accompanied with a <u>STAMPED</u>, self-addressed envelope, it will not be considered.

All Requests must be returned and postmarked no later than July 31, 2025.

Thanks, Foundation



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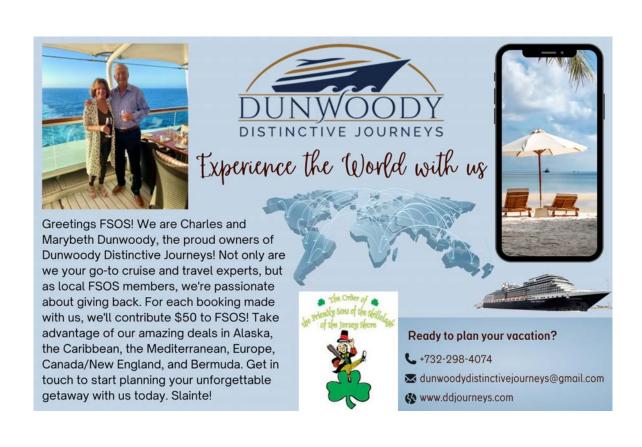
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Irish History #126

A Norman Controversy in Ireland

2027 will be the "European Year of the Normans." Organized by the Normandy Regional Council in France to celebrate the 1,000-year anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror (more about him later), countries - including Ireland - will join the commemorations.

The Irish government's plan to commemorate the anniversary has stirred a fierce debate. Sinn Fein TD Aengus O'Snodaigh said it was "offensive" given "the legacy of William's successors invading and subjugating Ireland in the name of the English crown." He accused the government of "scraping the barrel of colonialism, imperialism, and English royalism" for the sake of tourism.

Historian Conor Kostick disagrees with O'Snodaigh assessment. He agrees that the Normans came to conquer Ireland - after they had conquered England - and they wanted control over the nation's wealth. But he notes, they desired to "stay" and did so. They married locals,

sought respect in the community, and settled in Ireland. They kept the wealth in Ireland rather than send it back to England.

Although I knew about William the Conqueror, the controversy over the so-called Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in the late 12th century flummoxed me and forced me to look back at that era. Here is a bit of what I learned about the period.

A century earlier, William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, crossed the English Channel and led his army to victory over Anglo-Saxon forces at the Battle of Hastings. A 70-meter-long embroidered cloth, known as the Bayeux Tapestry, depicts 58 separate scenes of the Norman conquest of England. The tapestry is displayed in the Bayeux Museum in Bayeux, Normandy, which is not far from the Normandy American Cemetery.

On Christmas Day in 1066, William was crowned King of England. He was the first Norman King of England, and those who have sat on the throne since then are descendants. Hence, O'Snodaigh's derision of the commemoration in Ireland.

Over the next century, the English became socalled Anglo-Normans, which supplanted their Old English term, Anglo-Saxons. When Ireland was invaded in 1169, it was referred to as an Anglo-Norman event. In truth, it became the English invasion of Ireland.

Before the invasion, regional Gael Chieftains controlled Ireland. They ruled their respective

territories as Irish Kings. An Irish High King claimed lordship over the other kings. The Hill of Tara in Co. Meath served as the High King's seat. Rivalries for that position often led to internal conflict.

Rory O'Connor, King of Connacht, defeated Dermot MacMurragh, King of Leinster, to win the crown of Irish High King in 1166. MacMurragh left Ireland but was intent on returning. He begged English King Henry II to help him regain his throne. In return, he swore loyalty to Henry and promised to become his "liegeman" in Ireland.

Henry gave MacMurragh permission to recruit mercenary Normans from Wales. MacMurragh promised them land if they joined him in battle. In 1169, a joint force comprised of Welsh Normans and MacMurragh's men landed in County Wexford. The force included knights, archers, and men-at-arms. They attacked area towns like Wexford and New Ross and took control of them. Victorious,



MacMurrough was restored to the Leinster kingship.

Henry had never been to Ireland. But he had received a Papal Bull ("Laudabiliter") from Pope Hadrian IV, - an Englishman - that conferred on him the title "Lord of Ireland."

Henry had successfully lobbied Hadrian by representing to him that religion in Ireland had become extinct among a barbarous population and he, Henry, would invade Ireland to take control and reform the Church there. In hindsight, there is a word for a Pope giving the Catholic Church's support to a man who called for the death of Canterbury Archbishop Saint Thomas Beckett. Scurrilous!

Historians debate whether Henry's words - "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" - was an order to kill Beckett. Nevertheless, 4 knights who heard Henry's outburst went to Canterbury. There, they shouted, "where is the traitor to the king and the kingdom?" After they found Beckett, they struck him down with their swords.

In 1170, Richard de Clare, the Earl of Pembroke (also known as Strongbow), led a force of Anglo-Normans, comprised of knights and soldiers, to Ireland. They captured Dublin. When MacMurragh died the following year, Strongbow succeeded him as King.

This concerned Henry. He feared Strongbow was going to set-up an independent kingdom in Ireland's east. Henry decided to bring a large army to Ireland.

Late in 1171, Henry landed in Waterford with 500 mounted knights and 4,000 men-at-arms and archers. This was a full-scale invasion. He proclaimed that he had the support of the Papal Bull.

Henry was the first King of England to set foot on Irish soil, and his venture marked the beginning of England's claim of sovereignty over Ireland. Henry sought to subjugate both the Anglo-Normans and the Irish by making leaders in both groups bend the knee to him.

The Norman lords affirmed their loyalty to Henry by handing him control of the Irish lands they had won in battle. "Dublin, Wexford, and Waterford" - in Ireland's east - were declared Crown land. Fifteen Irish Kings also submitted to Henry, hoping further Norman incursions would not expand into their territories. The Irish church hierarchy submitted to him too. To counter Strongbow, Henry awarded Meath to a close confident, Hugh de Lacy.

Henry returned to England a year later. Despite the submissions, fighting between Anglo-Norman leaders and Gael Chieftains continued in much of Ireland. An attempt to bring about a cessation of the conflict - the 1175 Treaty of Windsor, which recognized Henry's lordship over the east - failed to bring peace.

In 1177, Henry declared his youngest son John the "Lord of Ireland." The territories held by the Anglo-Normans became known as the "Lordship of Ireland." Henry was attempting to pave the way for his son to become King of Ireland, but that never happened. John did become King of England, and he is thought to have been the person who gave the order to build Dublin Castle in 1204.

Instead of peace-making, Henry encouraged further Anglo-Norman conquest into western and northern areas of Ireland. Battles between Anglo-Normans and Gaels continued. By the end of the century, three-quarters of Ireland had fallen into Anglo-Norman hands, with the English monarch claiming sovereignty over that territory.

When you read that "the Irish suffered under the British yolk for 700 years," it is a reference to the era between the Norman invasion and the English handover of power in Ireland (26 Counties) to Michael Collins and the Irish Free State in 1922.

It is fair to say that the Gael Chieftains were beaten "but never conquered." Starting in the second half of the 13th century, they fought back regionally. Although their individual campaigns never unified, by the beginning of the next century, Gael Chieftains had recovered much of the territory lost during the Anglo-Norman conquest. That is a story for another day.

Finishing where we began is something about the European Year of the Normans on the Slugger O'Toole website. O'Toole accuses Sinn Fein of giving us a "pity party." He said they missed an opportunity to make a point about Irish unification. He asserts that we should be open: "to examine the rich and sometimes challenging contributions of the Normans to Irish history. Like the Vikings, medieval Old English, and the Anglo-Irish, who were once separate polities in Ireland, and are all today part of the one Irish nation, they have lessons to teach us about the constitutional future of the island." Well said.

Slainte, EMN

(The photo was taken on a dreary day at Glendalough monastic site in Co. Wicklow. There is an Irish round tower in the background. It was built around the time of William the Conqueror. The roof was repaired during the 19th century.)

References: Eoghan Dalton, "Sinn Fein Blasts 'Offensive' Government Plan," The Journal (May 20, 2025); Seamus MacManus, The Story of the Irish Race, The Devin-Adair Company (1921); F.J.M. Madden, Understand Irish History, The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. (2005); Ronan McGreevy, "The Truth behind the Normans and Ireland: They Abolished Slavery," Irish Times (June 2, 2025).





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:

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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore July 2025

What a Spring and start to Summer! Quite a few bbq's, beach days, rain, sunny days, a few scorching hot/humid days already and we are just getting started!

There is a really good vibe around the band and has been for quite sometime now. We are learning, growing in repertoire and in number of members, performing music really well and most of all having a lot of FUN!!

We participated in a few events over the past month or so:

ALPS High School Graduation

Annual Irish Night at Blueclaws

Quarterly Jersey Shore Piping Society Meeting

Manasquan 4th of July Parade

A fun time was had by all that performed in these events!

The Jersey Shore Piping Society has been around for a few years now,. It is a gathering of pipers and drummers from all over the area to play a few tunes. Our band had quite a showing at the past meeting in June lead by two of our younger members Preston (piper) and Matthew (drummer) playing a set to a standing ovation! All skill levels are invited to perform and basically anything goes as far as music selection. There are many people locally that play pipes and/or drums. Some belong to band and some do not. Some compete and some do not. We all have one thing in common, we play for fun! This event is open to anyone that wants to listen or to come and learn more about bagpipes and drums.

Over the next month or so, I am not sure we have any confirmed events. We are holding beginner lessons and rehearsals weekly to learn new music and improve our skills for the events in fall and next year. This is a fun time to watch and hear the band improve each week.

Whether we perform at a rehearsal/event or teach beginners, We really love what we are doing, where the band is going as we keep moving forward!

Piping and drumming is a hobby for all of us. We all have the same family & work responsibilities that you all have daily. We work hard to provide good music for your entertainment. We are non-profit and all money we receive from our performances, whether it be parade, fundraiser or other event, goes to help pay for our instructors, uniforms, maintenance and other equipment. All band members pay their own way to get to and from events both local and 'road trips' for band performances.

PDJS Q&A this month are once again repeat questions from club members:

1. Why didn't our band only play at Irish Night at Blueclaws?

Some events are open to all bands for the performance. We call this massed band as explained in one of the questions asked last month. Sometimes this occurs for funerals (mainly for fallen firefighters or police) as well as other events.

2. You always play in the kilt/uniform?

Yes, the majority of the time, we perform at events in kilts as it is part of our uniform.

3. I have seen you play events without a kilt or uniform. Why?

On a rare occasion, uniforms are not required to perform at certain events. The annual Reilly Fundraising Party comes to mind.

Need a piper or the band to play at an event?

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 bbg's and more!

Did you know some of us have played at golf outings, polo matches, bar crawls, curling matches and many other events?

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

Want to find out more about our band? 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. 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!

Thank you and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Rick McKenna at rkmckenna@aol.com.com

or Ray Spengler
pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at Irish0361@aol.com

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Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

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

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