

# Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF  
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## November 2021

### *Your President's Message*

President's Letter – November 2021

Brother Shillelaghs

November is here. Happy Veteran's Day to our members who have or are currently servicing our country.

Just a reminder we are entering the cold and flu season. Please do not come to the club if you are not feeling well. Do not come to the club if you are experiencing flu like symptoms, have any of the Covid symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. Thank you all for your continued cooperation.

On Sunday October 17th, the club held a Blood Drive. Thank you to all those who donated. Thanks to Ryan and Mary Lavender and Moira Horan for organizing this.

On Sunday October 24th, the club held an outdoor tailgate party and pig roast for football. Thanks to John Padgett and Craig Coyle for organizing this event. Thanks to Dave Matteo for bringing the FanVan. We had a great crowd and thanks to the kitchen crew who provided some great food. We would like to thank Benny from Mossuto's for getting to the club at 4am to cooking the pig as well as a few other items.

On Saturday October 30th, the club held our annual Scaryoke party. We had some great music from DJ Don and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. Thanks to Craig Coyle and John Padgett for organizing this event. Thanks to Rich MacKay for hanging the lights and a special thanks to Ryan and Mary Lavender for putting up the decorations.

It is time for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Like last year, we will not be collecting donations of food. If you would like to donate to the food drive, you can send a check made payable to the FSOS Foundation and indicate Food Drive in the memo field. Mail to FSOS Foundation PO Box 627, Belmar, NJ 07719 or if you would like to donate by debit card or credit card, please go to our website under club support and go to the foundation page. <https://www.friendlysonsoftheshillelagh.com/fsos-foundation>. Click on the paypal logo. Indicate Thanksgiving Food drive. Dave Jaffe is the contact for any questions.

On Sundays during NFL football, the club will be selling food. Come out to the club to enjoy games and have some food.

We also will start gearing up for the Christmas Toy Drive. We will once again be partnering with the Belmar Police. The first date to remember is Monday November 15th. We will be rapping the collection boxes starting at 6:30pm. A list of all the other dates for the toy drive is within the newsletter. John Carr is the contact. Questions email him at [fsossanta@gmail.com](mailto:fsossanta@gmail.com).

The club will also be having it's annual Super 50/50 drawing. 400 tickets will be sold for \$100 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the adult Christmas party. More details to come. Rosco Quirk and Snuffy Smith are the contacts for the Super 50/50.

I would like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all members and their families! Enjoy!

Bill "Mumbles" Ryan

President FSOS Belmarw



**Thursday, November 11th • Veterans Day Lunch 2-5pm**  
**at the Shillelaghs**

**Wednesday, December 1st • Membership Meeting**

**Saturday, December 18th • Kids Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 18th • Adult Christmas Party**

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## about us:

We invite you to show your support, honor friends and family, to remember loved ones, or commemorate special occasions by purchasing tribute bricks to be placed in the walkway and landscaped area in front of The New Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Clubhouse in Belmar. Best of all, your brick purchase will help the new FSOS clubhouse, which in turn helps the FSOS continue its mission of celebrating Irish- American culture and helping countless members of our community who are less fortunate or in need.

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# Irish History #86

## Peace Negotiations and the Debate over Why De Valera Failed to Lead the Irish Delegation in the Treaty Talks

As plenary sessions during the peace negotiations continued, the Irish delegation raised tricky topics like the fate of Ulster and external association. As a negotiating tactic, Arthur Griffith linked the two issues in discussions with the British.

Griffith pressed British Prime Minister David Lloyd George hard on the fact that Great Britain acted illegally in creating a Northern Ireland Parliament and dividing Ireland. In response, Lloyd George ruled out using “coercion” to force Northern Ireland to re-unite with the rest of Ireland, but said Great Britain would “stand aside” and offer “benevolent neutrality” to any efforts by the Irish to induce Ulster to unite. Griffith and Michael Collins proposed there be a plebiscite in which the people in the north could determine their own fate and suggested the creation of a Boundary Commission.

As for external association, Lloyd George wanted to know what it meant. Did it mean “allegiance to the King” and association like other Dominion nations in the British Empire? Griffith responded not quite. He said “[W]e should be associated with you – outside [of] that a free people.” Griffith went on to say, “we will accept the Crown as head of the association” and be “permanent allies.” He also called for ‘reciprocal citizenship’ saying: “We should be Irish, and you would be British. And each would have equal rights as citizens in the country of the other.” The British team challenged Griffith again and again on this issue, but Griffith held his ground. It was association, not Dominion membership, and Ireland would consider association only in exchange for gaining “essential unity,” meaning Ulster.

As British pressure continued, the Irish delegation agreed to include a sentence in a letter about the negotiations sent to both Downing Street and Eamon de Valera that read Ireland was willing to have “free

partnership with the other States associated with the British Commonwealth.” Again, this was conditioned on essential unity.

When Northern Ireland Prime Minister James Craig refused to join an “all-Ireland Parliament” and “refused to change the Six-County area,” the British delegation resurrected the Boundary Commission idea as a way to delimit Northern Ireland and adjust its border. After all, two of its counties held Catholic majorities. The proposal read: “a Commission shall be appointed to determine in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants the boundaries between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland. And the boundary shall be determined by such a Commission.” Both sides felt the Boundary Commission would resolve Ulster’s future satisfactorily. For Ireland, history proved otherwise.

Related to the external association debate was the symbolic issue of a loyalty oath to the King. The phraseology was crucial. For the Irish, an oath had to be “phrased inoffensively” so they could claim Ireland was an “Externally Associated Republic” and not a British Dominion.

It was now time for both sides to place concrete propositions on the table. The peace conference was nearing its climax. The negotiations’ dramatic ending will be reviewed in a future chapter.

As readers of these historical chapters will attest, I am a Collins-man. For that reason, de Valera receives a fair share of criticism in these pages. That has

been especially true in the past few chapters dealing with the period between the truce and the beginning of the peace talks.

What was de Valera’s motivation for refusing to lead the Irish delegation during the negotiations in London? The question still resonates today, as historians debate the answer. For me, his decision was craven. It

was his attempt to avoid responsibility for making the compromises that were necessary to achieve a treaty and assure peace.

Others view the decision differently. In an October 11, 2021 article posted on the BBC News NI website ("Why did de Valera refuse to attend 1921 treaty negotiations?" by Eimear Flanagan), Professor Diarmaid Ferriter posits that de Valera made a tactical decision to remain home. Four decades after the decision, de Valera described the reasoning for making it. He said it was to strengthen the position of the Irish negotiators by building delay into decision-making on critical points. That is, the plenipotentiaries could not sign-off without gaining approval in Dublin. Also, de Valera said his presence at home was needed to convince the public and hardline republicans to support a deal if one was reached. Professor Ferriter acknowledges, however, that de Valera miscalculated. His tactic backfired leading to spectacular failure.

In his biography of de Valera, Ronan Fanning writes de Valera's opposition to the treaty negotiated by Griffith and Collins was "not because it was a compromise, but because it was not his compromise." Ferriter concurs with that assessment, saying "vanity and 'a lot of ego' played a part in de Valera's mishandling of the talks." Ego and jealousy of Collins (See Chapter 65 for what de Valera said about Collins to Batt O'Connor when he returned to Ireland from the U.S. in December 1920) may indeed be the nub of it.

De Valera scapegoated Collins and Griffith for the Treaty. When it was approved by a 64-57 vote in the Irish Dail, he resigned as President. De Valera and his followers walked out of the Irish Parliament, and a bloody civil war ensued.

De Valera and other republicans on the losing side in the Irish Civil War formed a new political party, Fianna Fail. Within years, they entered the Dail after taking oaths of allegiance to the King. The Treaty's oath requirement to enter Parliament had been a major cause of the republican split. De Valera dropped his opposition to that requirement so Fianna Fail members could take seats as TD's. By the 1930's, de Valera and Fianna Fail were in charge of the Irish Free

State government.

Collins called "the free Ireland obtained by the Treaty . . . the greatest common measure of freedom obtainable now and the most pregnant for future development." It was his opinion that the Treaty "[gave] us freedom, not the ultimate freedom that all nations desire, but the freedom to achieve it." As for Ulster, Collins passionately desired "national unity above all things." Post-Treaty, he viewed re-unification as an "evolutionary" process and articulated a stepping-stone strategy to achieve it. He called for winning Ireland's north-east "in a peaceful way" by convincing their people "of our good will towards them." Once in power, de Valera adopted Collins' strategy for unifying Ireland.

In this century, Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein also accepted Collins' stepping stone-strategy as the road to a united Ireland. They embraced the principle of consent set forth in the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) as the "peaceful, democratic way" to change Northern Ireland's constitutional status. The GFA ended the Troubles.

Under the GFA, the Irish people have a right to determine their own future through a majority vote in a unity referendum, which must be held when it appears likely to the Northern Ireland Secretary of State that "a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form a part of a united Ireland." That day is approaching.

Sources: Frank Parkenham, *Peace by Ordeal*, Pimlico (1992); Michael Collins, *The Path to Freedom*, Roberts Rinehart Publishers (1996).

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all Shillelaghs and their families. Slan, EMN

## 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](mailto:Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com).

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# The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore -

## November 2021

Congratulations to Craig Coyle and Amanda Cregan for being selected Grand Marshals for the Belmar/Lake Como St Patrick's Day Parade in 2022!! They both have been active volunteering in our community for a long time. It is good to see that the committee recognized both Amanda and Craig!! Well deserved and we are all looking forward to celebrating with you both!!

This is a fun time to be a part of the Pipe Band! We have performed at quite a few events over the last few months and that will continue with performances on Veteran's Day at a few locations locally!

For the many new club members out there, you can join the band to learn to play bagpipes and/or drums. We provide free, yes FREE lessons! The band is not just for club members. We encourage anyone out there that wants to learn to play to visit us on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, upstairs at the club.

This is a great way to be involved and do something fun! ANYTIME of the year is a good time to start learning!

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](mailto:band@jspipesanddrums.com) which can be accessed by visiting our website at [www.jspipesanddrums.com](http://www.jspipesanddrums.com) or talk to any band member for information. Please contact the Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136) if you would like the band, a small group or a single bagpiper to perform. We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings,

ceremonies, graduations and more! We always try to accommodate all requests.

Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control). We appreciate the continued support from all of you!

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me [pdjspiper@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjspiper@hotmail.com)

Thank you!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



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Brother Shillelaghs,

The 7th Annual Shillelagh 5k and Mile Walk took place on Saturday October 2nd.

We had a great turnout of 290 Runners and Walkers. Congratulations to Shillelagh members Terry Davidson who came in first overall and Patrick D'Alessandro who came in second overall.

The day was a great tribute to Pat Magovern who was a beloved member of the club and an original member of the race committee.

Thank you to the Belmar Police for setting up the course and for sending an honor guard for the start of the race. Thank you to Lauren McLaughlin who sang the national anthem before the start of the race.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help on Friday night and Saturday morning.

Thank you to Danny Reilly and Geoff Ernst for bringing their golf carts that day to help drive volunteers out to their posts on the race course.

Thank you to St. Rose students for working the water stop.

Thank you to the members of the 5k race committee.

Thank you to John Finnegan and Jim Mulholland from the foundation for paying the bills and depositing the funds.

Thank you also to all of our sponsors and those that donated gift cards.

Please support the 5k sponsors!

Thanks,  
Bill "Mumbles" Ryan  
President  
FSOS Belmar

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**A Special Thanks to Bar Anticipation. Thank you Reggie Hyde and Joanne McEvilly. You have been great to us since we started this race!**

***Support them, because they support us!***

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Shillelagh 5K



In Memory of Pat Magovern





# 2021 TOY DRIVE SCHEDULE

**Monday, November 15th - 6:30 pm**  
Donation box wrapping at the club.

**Thursday, December 2nd - 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
Belmar Police Officers Association Drive in Toy Collection  
Dempsey Park (Across the street from the club).

**Thursday, December 9th**  
Deadline for Gift Cards for the 180 Turning Lives Around.  
Such as: Target, Walmart, Best Buy, Amazon, Food Stores etc.

**Saturday, December 11th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
Pet Photo's with Santa Paws in the Irish Exit  
Monetary Donations to Rebuilding Warriors will be accepted

**Saturday, December 11th - 7:30 pm**  
Patrick's Grille, 62 W. Sylvania Ave., Neptune City  
Featuring BAADOOS.

**Tuesday, December 14th - 6:00 pm**  
Wrapping the Gifts for the children's Christmas party, upstairs at the club.

**Friday, December 17th - 9:00 am**  
Toy Shopping - Volunteers needed to storm Walmart again. Meet at the club.

**Friday, December 17th - 6:00 pm**  
Collecting more Toys at Bar A with HOLME. Volunteers needed.

**Saturday, December 18th**  
The Children's Christmas parties at the club. Details to follow.

**Saturday, December 18th - 6:00 pm**  
The Shillelagh Christmas Party and Super 50/50 drawing in the evening.

**Monday, December 20th - 10:00 am**  
Toy Delivery Day. Meet at the club.  
Lunch/Cocktails for Santa and all helpers back at the club.

If you can help our with any or all of these events, must show up!  
Or e-mail: [fsossanta@gmail.com](mailto:fsossanta@gmail.com)

*Thank You & Merry Christmas!*



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

### THE 2021 GREEN PAGES

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# Upcoming Meetings

## Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact  
information to update?

Contact Craig Coyle at [coyfive@aol.com](mailto:coyfive@aol.com)

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at  
[Irish0361@aol.com](mailto:Irish0361@aol.com)  
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