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

April 2024 Your President's Message

Shillelagh Brothers,

Congratulations to our new Executive Board and Trustees led by President John I want to wish our new board all the best these next couple of years. This is an outstanding group that has some veterans who have done great things for the club over the last several years and younger Shillelagh leaders that are key to the club's future success. John will make a strong President and knows as much as anyone about the background stuff to make this club run. Good luck to all. And thanks again to those that chose to run for office. Contested elections can only make us stronger.

I also want to thank each of you for the support you gave me during my Presidency. Its been overwhelming. We have a special place here and it has been an honor to be the President of this incredible Club. We all try to keep raising the bar to another level. I am confident the next board will continue to raise the bar some more. We are in a strong financial position where we are paying down our mortgage rapidly, while increasing our charitable donations significantly helping more individuals, families, and local organizations at the Jersey Shore. We also have further solidified our partnerships with the Borough of Belmar and Lake Como. Another thing that has been great to see is the number of younger members joining the club and participating as volunteers.

Congratulations again to our Dinner Dance Honorees! We look forward to honoring Irishman of the Year Richard Mackay and Shillelaghs of the Year Billy Aker, Tony Falcone, Mike Kahrer, Mark Mastowski, and Bill McCusker.

Thanks to Ryan and Mary Lavender and Nick Lanier for running the Blood Drive on 4/14. We had almost 100 members and friends donate blood again working with the New York Blood Center. Anthony Aldorasi has also done great work in running our Thursday Dart League as another outstanding season comes to a close. Our Shillelagh Softball Team is off to a 3-1 start in the Wall Softball League. The Corn Hole League and Golf League are set to start as well. We are in need of Plungers for our 3rd Annual Shillelagh Plunge for Autism on 4/27. Water temps look to be a balmy 47 degrees. Please join us for a great cause if able to.

I've really appreciated the support of this Executive Board, Trustees, and former Presidents. I'll never forget it. And won't forget the idea sharing conversations with Matt Sharin as well. The last several years we'd engage at the club later in the evening and talk about things to help the club improve further. He was a always thinking about the future and where the club goes. He had great vision and helped steer this ship as President and as President Emeritus. His loss has hurt. Prayers to the Sharin family.

Prayers go out also to the families of John Dillon, John Dorsey and Joe Meyer. They were loved by all and are gone too soon.

Slainte'

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Father John M. McCrone

Legal Advisor

Tom Ehrlich

NEWSLETTER STAFF Ryan Lavender Kevin Giblin



Saturday April 20th • Shillelagh Dinner Dance
Saturday April 27th • Shillelagh Plunge for Autism
Wednesday May 1st • FSOS Monthly Meeting
Monday April 22nd • Cornhole League Starts
Friday April 26th • Strictly 60's
Saturday May 4th • Chad's Annual Cinco de Derby
Saturday May 11th • Emilio Jeanette & Son
Saturday May 18th • Colm McAuley Band
Friday June 21st • Shillelagh Golf Outing
Thursday June 27th • Cigar & Whiskey Night

Brotherhood:

an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade

In memory of our brothers who have passed.

Matt Sharin John Dillon John Dorsey Joe Meyer



We proudly support the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh of Belmar.

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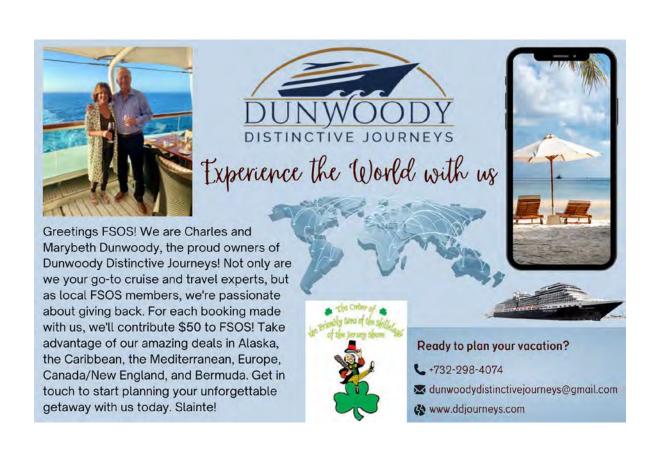
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Irish History #113

Arbour Hill, the Resting Place of 14 Caster Rising Leaders Executed by the British Army

Three days after Padraig Pearse, commander-in-chief of the Easter Rising rebels, surrendered to British Army General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, the execution of leaders of the 1916 Rising began. All had been taken prisoner in Dublin and convicted by court-martials held in secret. Pearse was the first to face the firing squad. He was shot at dawn on May 3 in Stonebreaker's yard at Kilmainham Jail. The executions of Tom Clarke and Thomas MacDonagh quickly followed. Clarke fought alongside Pearse at the General Post Office (GPO), and MacDonagh commanded the rebels at Jacob's Biscuit Factory. The 3 men had signed the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

General Maxwell ordered the military to immediately take their bodies to Arbour Hill Prison, bury them in a mass grave, and cover them with quicklime to hasten decomposition. A priest conducted funeral services, but families were not notified. This rushed procedure set the pattern for what was to follow for the others. In the end, contrary to its goal of eliminating any public expression of support for the men, the inhumane process turned them into patriotic martyrs whose names lived on in Irish history.

On the next day, Edward Daly, who led the rebels in the Four Courts area, was shot to death at Kilmainham, taken to Arbour Hill, and buried. Also executed by firing squad that day at Kilmainham and buried at Arbour Hill were Joseph Plunkett, William Pearse, and Michael O'Hanrahan. Plunkett had signed the Proclamation and

fought at the GPO. William Pearse was aide-de-camp to his older brother Padraig. O'Hanrahan fought at Jacob's. John McBride also fought at Jacob's. He was executed at Kilmainham and buried at Arbour Hill on May 5.

The executions resumed on May 8 after a 3-day respite. Eamonn Ceannt, Con Colbert, Sean Hueston, and Michael Mallin were shot by firing squad at Kilmainham and buried at Arbour Hill. Ceannt had singed the Proclamation, and he commanded the rebels at South Dublin Union; Colbert was second-in-command at Marrowbone Lane; Hueston led the rebels fighting

at the Mendacity Institution; and Mallin commanded the rebels at St. Stephen's Green.

Four days later, Sean MacDermott and James Connolly were executed by firing squad at Kilmainham, then buried at Arbour Hill. They had signed the Proclamation and fought at the GPO. Connolly, who had been wounded, was taken from his hospital bed, transported to Kilmainham, and propped-up in a chair to face his firing squad.

The British completed the executions in a span of 10 days. The men were buried in a mass grave without the respect and comfort of a family member's presence. The 7 men who had signed the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on behalf of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic were dead. But their dream of an Ireland as a separate and independent nation had not been extinguished. Their bravery and sacrifice lit the lamp of Irish freedom, and the executions made it burn brightly.

Today, Arbour Hill remains the resting place for all 14. It is located in Dublin's Stoneybatter section, just north of the Liffey River and behind Collins' Barracks. In May, the annual State Ceremony commemorating the Easter Rising and the executed 1916 leaders is held here. The Irish President lays a remembrance wreath, and a requiem mass is conducted at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart which abuts the cemetery.

Arbour Hill became a national monument in 1955. The gravesite is surrounded by cut limestone panels with the



names of the 14 leaders inscribed in Irish and English. A wall to the north bears the Proclamation of the Irish Republic inscribed in Irish and English. There is a gilded crucifix in the center. There is also a limestone memorial plaque inscribed with the names in Irish of some of the



others who died in the Rising. While the photos taken on a Saturday afternoon in the fall fail to capture the majesty of the site, my hope is that you get a sense of its elegant simplicity and tranquility.

One person who was moved by a visit to the site was President John F. Kennedy. He went to Arbour Hill during his famous 1963 trip to Ireland. With family roots in Co. Wexford, the trip marked his "coming home."

Irish Taoiseach Sean Lemass accompanied President Kennedy to Arbour Hill. Lemass was an Irish Volunteer and 1916 veteran. He knew many of men buried there. President Kennedy laid a wreath in front of the crucifix, and he walked around the sacred burial ground reading the name of each man executed.

An Irish tricolor hanging at half-mast was raised as "The Last Post" was played. The Irish Army Cadets rifle drill team professionally and perfectly performed a series of drills, including the Queen Ann drill that is "used at funeral and remembrance services to honor the dead." President Kennedy chatted with them after the ceremony.

Reflecting on the event, Taoiseach Lemass said President Kennedy's visit to Arbour Hill carried great emotional significance for us. "He was the first head of state ever to go through the ceremony honoring the executive leaders of the 1916 Rising . . . The fact that he, President of the United States, the greatest nation in the world [witnessed] the ceremony had to have a tremendously emotional effect on the Irish people," he said. Still today, a picture of President Kennedy is proudly displayed in many homes in Ireland.

Later, it was clear just how deeply President Kennedy was impressed by cadets. the He said: "For me, the highlight [of the trip] was the ceremony at Arbour Hill. Those cadets were terrific. I wish I had a film of that drill so that we could do something like it at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" in Arlington National Cemetery.

Little did anyone know then that 5 months later, Jackie Kennedy would place a call to the Irish Ambassador in the U.S. to request that the Irish Army Cadets rifle drill team attend her husband's funeral at Arlington. She felt her husband would have wanted it. Taoiseach Lemass immediately approved her request.

24 cadets flew into Idlewild Airport (later renamed JFK) with other members of the Irish delegation. The cadets were driven to Virginia. When it came time for them to commence their drill, commands in Irish echoed over the cemetery. The cadets solemnly performed the Queen Ann drill just feet from the President Kennedy's grave. They then fired 3 volleys over his grave and into the sky. RIP - God bless - Amen!

References: Dermot McEvoy, "Arbour Hill, Dublin's Forgotten Memorial to the Men of 1916," Irish Central News (April 18, 2021); Ray O'Hanlon, <u>Unintended Consequences</u>, Merrion Press (2021); Ryan Turbridy, <u>JFK in Ireland</u>, Lyons Press (2011).

The author extends heartfelt congratulations to Craig Coyle for his thoroughly terrific job as FSOS President. I'm sure the entire club joins with me in expressing sincere appreciation for Craig's leadership these past 2 years. Going forward - there is no doubt - that the club will be in great hands under the leadership of incoming President John Padgett. All the very best John!

Slainte, EMN







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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore April 2024

We had the most fun this year in the parades and events throughout March! The sound was awesome (the best we have ever sounded in March) and the crowds were outstanding!

It was truly an honor to lead the club along main street again this year! The after party at the club was a packed house once again! Thank you to the club security personnel that kept things under control and allowing the band to get thru the crowd to perform!

It was easy to see Craig Coyle soak it all in as he walked thru the band when we split at the end of the parade. Congratulations and thank you Craig, for all you have done for the club and the band throughout your presidency!

Congratulations to Matt Dougherty for being elected Corresponding Secretary, Chuck Healey as First Keeper and Chris Celiberti as Second Keeper in the club election! Congratulations to incoming President John Padgett, Vice President Ryan Lavender, Recording Secretary Kevin Giblin and Treasurer Rich MacKay!

We performed in Asbury and had a good showing of club members marching with us! Quite a crowd at the Cross and Orange where we performed afterward. We also performed in Seaside and unfortunately was rained out for Keyport.

We led the Shillelagh's in the parade in North Myrtle Beach which was an incredible parade! The weather was great, the crowd was huge for t3he entire length of the parade! The show of support from the Shillelagh's for the performance we gave after the parade at the festival was outstanding! Thank you!

In April, we will be performing at the Dinner Dance and the Autism Plunge again!! Come out and support this worthy cause!!

There are performances and parades set for May and into the summer months that will be listed here soon.

PDJS Q&A:

1. Do you take a month off after parade season?

We take a week or so off after parade season. We are back at it in April since we have many events throughout the spring, summer and fall. We will be learning new music and keep working to improve our sound.

2. How do I get a bagpiper or a group to play at my event? Easiest to contact information for our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski 732-233-6136. Feel free to reach out to Marko anytime for pricing and availability. You can also reach out to any band member and we will give your information to Marko as he is the point of contact for events/parades for the band.

3. Does the band pay for its members to go to Myrtle Beach for the parade?

No, for every event and parade, we are on our own to get to and from the location. Driving, flying, hotels, food, drink - its all on the band members to pay on their own. Sometimes the band will provide a stipend to offset costs of transporting our instruments as this can be expensive.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here! Email me: pdjspiper@ hotmail.com or text 732-685-9232

Do you want to learn to play?

Growth is key the band's future. It would be great to see more club members (and your families) join the band! Remember the band is not just for club members and lessons are FREE!!!

Did you read that? FREE LESSONS!

Reach out and contact me 732-685-9232 or our band manager Mark Mastowski 732-233-6136 so you can get started with 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 to 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.

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 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!

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

Slainte,

Ray Spengler

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 be nefit 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.

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, May1st, 2024 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

> Contact Ned Barrett at njbarrrett63@gmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at Irish0361@aol.com

Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

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

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