



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*November 2021*

**Brother Hibernians** \_\_\_\_\_



We hope everyone had a peaceful and healthy Thanksgiving. November was a whirlwind of activity and December promises to be equally busy.

Our next division meeting will be held **in person this Friday, December 3rd at 8:00pm**. At the meeting, we will conduct elections for all Division Offices and there are several upcoming events to discuss. This will be the last regularly scheduled meeting for 2021.

As mentioned, there were many events since the last meeting. It all started on all Hallows Eve – a great time was had by all and congratulations to Sean Walsh, Dennis Madigan and the entire team that put the Halloween Howl together. Thanks to those members who made the time for the Major Degree ceremony held in Monroe. Many thanks go out to all those who supported the Night at the Races event to help raise money for our Family Fund – congratulations to Eddie O'Dea and his team.

Right on the heels of that event, we once again, held our Senior Luncheon – thanks to Larry and a long list of volunteers, plus thank you for the touching tribute to Jack O'Connor. And in that spirit of restarting old events, the first Pot of Gold party was a great success – many thanks as always to Bill Lee and team for their efforts around the raffle, and chef Sean Walsh and his many sous chefs for the great food. Pictures and write-ups on these events follow.

Big upcoming events to look for in December (see following articles):

- Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Special Needs 'Reverse Parade'
- Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – Second Pot 'O Gold drawing party
- Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – Wren Night – traditional Irish music/dance/story

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jimmy Notarfrancesco's mother, Ann Notarfrancesco – may she rest in peace. Also keep in your prayers Jim Whelan's lovely bride, Joanne Whelan, who is hopefully on the mend. And continue to keep our law enforcement professionals, healthcare workers and members of the armed services in your prayers.

As always, we pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

**Chuck Parnow**

## Events



**Ground Zero – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance** – See below for a great ‘too late to publish’ photo from the late September state AOH ceremony and Mass at Ground Zero. Our Rockland County Pipe & Drums were the centerpiece of the event at the site with spectators from so many nations taking pictures and videos of them as they marched. The below picture was taken outside FDNY Ten House – right next to those hallowed grounds – it was a stunningly beautiful day.



*After the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony for those AOH and LAOH lost members. Pictured are the band and participants in front of Fire House 10 near Ground Zero.*

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**Seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon** - The Thanksgiving luncheon was back with a bang, with over 100 seniors attending. The day featured all the traditional fare for a PR AOH luncheon – plenty of good food, great entertainment by Teddy Herlihey and the young Irish dancers and musicians, all capped by Irish soda bread and a sip of Irish crème liqueur for those who wanted. Many thanks to the many members who helped with the day, along with the many tween and teen volunteers! *(Pictures follow)*





*Just a portion of the seniors' audience looking on, captivated by the Irish musicians.*



*At the end of the Senior Luncheon, Kathy O'Connor and the entire O'Connor family were there for special recognition of Jack and his many years of contributions to the AOH.*

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**Night at the Races** – was held on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to benefit our Family Fund and was highly successful. The night included six televised races, a wheel of fortune and final drawings on a bevy of great prizes including Jet Blue tickets to anywhere they flew – along with the usual great craic. Congratulations to Eddie and the volunteers who pulled this all off in short order.  
(Picture below)



*Our photojournalist on the scene, James Gallagher, was there with volunteers as the night began.*

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## Pot O' Gold



We held our first Pot 'o Gold drawing party on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> with roughly 200 tickets sold by 'game day'. As usual, chef Sean and team provided far more food than the crowd could handle, and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to the winners announced that day. Note that if you didn't win, you still are in the running! So, make sure to get a ticket (or another one!) so you can be eligible for the big \$10,000 prize prior to the final drawing party to be held on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

***Make sure to get a ticket! We hope to see you there on December 19<sup>th</sup>!***

## Special Needs Christmas



**Special Needs Reverse Christmas Parade** – Saturday, December 18th- 11am  
OMM Soccer Field Parking Lot

Anyone who helped at the parade last year can tell you how rewarding it was to see the joy on our visitors' faces as they wound their way through the parking lot enjoying the goodies, costume characters, fire trucks, and Santa of course.

We need volunteers once again and ask that they arrive by 10am for set up. This is an excellent time for the kids to rack up community service hours.

We also would appreciate it if anyone can lend us decorations and/or inflatable figures to help us turn the parking lot into a winter wonderland.

If you would like to volunteer or lend us Christmas decorations, please contact Dermot Moore at [dermot.moore@gmail.com](mailto:dermot.moore@gmail.com) or 646-302-5111.

## Wren Night



Our Wren Night celebration is once again on this year. The day after Christmas, St. Stephen's Day in Ireland, we will be getting together for some traditional Irish song, music, dance, and storytelling. This is a great evening of fun for the whole family upstairs at the Hibernian House.

Specifics: It will be held on **Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00pm**. The day after Christmas, put the hecticness of the season behind you and come out for some great craic! Look for the fliers at the pub soon.

## Ski Trip



We will try to resurrect our annual Ski Trip to Belleayre Mountain this year. The tentative date we have is Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. After many years of helping, Dan Peterson has stepped down from helping run this, so we need a co-leader for this trip. This isn't a one-man job, so if you're up for helping Chuck (mainly pre-planning -booking bus and the lift tickets), give him a call at (845) 664-8183. Dan will lend us his well-earned "institutional knowledge".



## Ladies' AOH



The LAOH Division hosted a Juke Box Bingo event on November 12th at the Hibernian House which was a huge success. Now as we all prepare for the Holiday Season, May God continue to Bless you and your families.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
**Teresa Hartey-Adametz, President**

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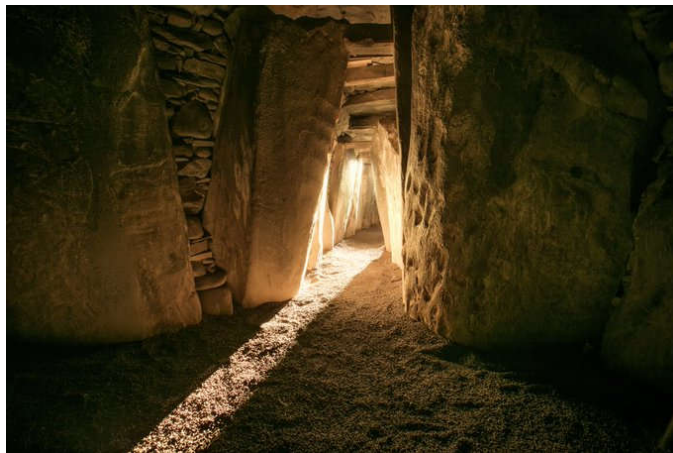
## A Little-Known Wonder of the Ancient World: Newgrange, County Meath

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In the Boyne Valley of County Meath stands one of the most significant archeological finds and wonders of the ancient world: the megalithic passage tomb of Newgrange referred to as Brú na Bóinne, "The Palace of the Boyne," by the ancient Irish.

Though there was always a long Irish Folk tradition hinting at a tomb at Newgrange, it wasn't until 1699, when workers removing stone from the site to make a road discovered the entrance. Constructed of fitted stone and without the use of mortar, the burial mound is some 250ft across and 40ft high. Within the tomb is a passage and chamber complex 79 ft long. The central chamber has a "corbelled" or arched roof that is some 20 feet high, which is considered one of the finest examples in Europe. Despite its great age, the roof is both intact and remains waterproof.

The tomb is decorated throughout in spiral and lozenge patterns that are considered some of the world's finest examples of megalithic art. It is estimated that Newgrange is comprised of 200,000 tons of materials, and it would have taken a workforce of 300 men some 30 years to build.



**NEWGRANGE AT SUNRISE ON THE WINTER SOLSTICE (PHOTO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IRELAND)**

However, Newgrange's greatest marvel is that it proves the ancient Irish's sophisticated understanding of astronomy. In the central chamber is a small window that leads to a structure called a roof-box. The roof-box is precisely aligned so that on the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice, a beam of light will flood the usually dark center chamber with light, focusing on an area where cremated remains have been found. At the time of its construction, the passage would have been filled with light at the precise moment of the sunrise on the Winter Solstice.

One can well imagine the dramatic effect that a dark chamber being suddenly flooded with light would have on prehistoric people living in a world where darkness was much more familiar. Astronomers and Archeologists agree the alignment is too precise to be an accident; it was the builders' intent and part of the original design of the structure.

All of this is impressive, but one fact makes Newgrange unique: carbon dating shows that Newgrange was built in approximately 3500 BC. Newgrange is the oldest known intact man-made structure on earth. It predates the pyramid of Djoser in Egypt by at least 500 years. It was recording the Winter Solstice for a thousand years before Stonehenge.



While one can find considerable material on the impressive Egyptian pyramids, the ancient observatory at Stonehenge or the Mayan Calendar, Newgrange sits in relative anonymity, eclipsed in books, TV specials, and curricula by these late arrivals. The question we should ask ourselves is why?

The department of Public Works, Ireland, live streams video from Newgrange each year on the day of the Solstice showing the effect of the roof-box, which for 2021 will be Tuesday, December 21.

