

## Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Friday 24 April	Decision re Opening date
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### COMINGS & GOINGS

Clearly there have been few given the current restrictions.

Although Jayne Mulligan has returned from the UK, and is in isolation as I write this.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE!

Have you paid your membership subscription for the 2020-2021 year yet? It's never too early. Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number: **06-0529-0416815-00.**

Family membership (includes children <b>under 18</b> )	\$35.00
Single membership	\$25.00
Pensioner (single)	\$20.00
Pensioner (couple)	\$30.00

**NB:** Please pay by Direct Credit, making sure you use your **family name** as the reference (or your phone number if you have to use numbers) and then complete the attached Renewal Form and email to [membership@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:membership@huttirish.org.nz).

### 2023 TRIP

A group of HVIS members are already talking about the possibility of a trip to Ireland and Scotland in 2023. The idea is to repeat the immensely successful 2016 trip.

There are no specific proposals, although the initial talk has been of a 2-week bus tour, as in 2016, but this time around Scotland, perhaps beginning in Dublin. It will, of course coincide with a Rugby World Cup to be staged in France. But that's just a coincidence, I assure you!

Email [trip@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:trip@huttirish.org.nz) if you're interested in either finding out more, or joining the discussions.

### AND SPEAKING OF TRIPS ...

It is now 4 years since a group of HVIS members went to Ireland for the 1916 commemorations and then onto a tour of the island of Ireland. Seems like it was just yesterday!

I'm sure you've looked through the Book of The Trip at the Club, but you can also look back online, at the [diary](#) of what the group got up to and where they went, and the [photos and videos](#) they took.

### DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

A quick reminder of this annual event, which this year will be on May 9, along the Wellington waterfront.

It raises funds for the fight against suicide and self-harm.

### YOUR LOCAL GAA CLUB

The Wellington/Hutt Valley Gaelic Football & Hurling Association is a growing and active group drawing members from the whole region. All ability levels welcome, with both social and competitive leagues played. Check them out at [www.wellingtongaa.com](http://www.wellingtongaa.com), or on Twitter at [@WellingtonGFHA](https://twitter.com/WellingtonGFHA), or you can find them on [Facebook](#).

### CARDS OR MUSIC NIGHTS

Do you enjoy a game of cards? There's one on at the Club on the first Friday each month. Call **Catriona** on **022 0454 209** to check dates, times, and other arrangements. Or come along on the third Friday of the month for our music session. No arranging needed – just turn up!

### PEANUT-FREE

We have a couple of members who have an allergy to peanuts. So we ask that anyone who brings food to an HVIS function makes sure it does not contain peanuts.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

If you are a Twitter user already, or have been thinking about opening an account, look for @huttirish.

We will be tweeting reminders about upcoming events, or if we need to get in touch urgently.

### Notices:

Find us at:

<http://www.huttirish.org.nz>

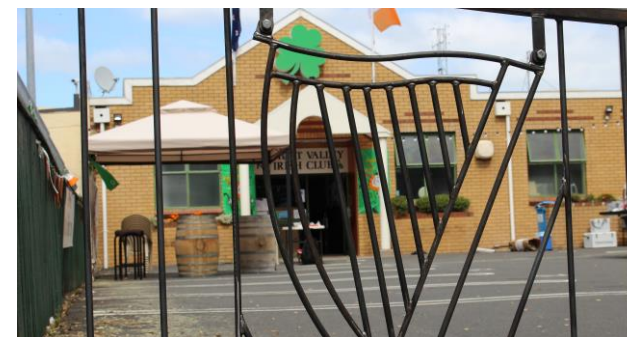
Remember the Hall is available for Hire to members. All this helps your Club financially, so recommend us to your friends.

Don't forget the Club is open every Friday 7.30 p.m. to 1 am, and at other times by request.

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# Hutt Valley Irish Society



## The Irish Press



## Is iomaí lá sa chll ORAINN

(We are in the Churchyard (grave) many a day)

## COVID-19 AND HVIS

This is a strange time for those of us in New Zealand!

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been immediate and comprehensive.

You will be aware by now that the Club will be closed until AT LEAST FRIDAY 24 APRIL and all events until that date are therefore CANCELLED.

The Management Committee will decide on a re-opening date, and what if any events will occur, during the week ending 24 April.

It doesn't stop there, however. If members are facing difficulties during this period, you are urged to get in touch with either [John O'Toole](#) or [Shirley Duffy](#). They will arrange for you to get the help you're needing.

Additionally, the Club has established an Assistance Fund, a cash pool to provide help to those not necessarily HVIS members who are struggling. The intention is to have at hand a means to help those Irish citizens referred to us by the Embassy needing help as a result of being stranded in NZ, or who have lost their jobs, and therefore their income.

Members are invited to make a contribution to this Fund by making a deposit to account # 06-0529-0416815-03. Please use your name as your reference.

## WHERE TO GET COVID-19 INFORMATION

During this period, we all need information that is accurate, authoritative and reliable.



I would urge you to focus on the official Government sites: In New Zealand that is [covid19.govt.nz/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/). In Ireland that is [covid-19-coronavirus/](https://www.covid-19-coronavirus/).

Additionally, if you are Irish in New Zealand needing support or assistance to get back to Ireland, contact the [Irish Embassy](#).

Conversely, if you're a New Zealander concerned about your kids or friends needing support in Ireland or help getting home to NZ, contact the [NZ Embassy](#).



Both these sites provide links to official advice for their citizens travelling, and perhaps most importantly, contact details for Embassy staff.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY @ HVIS

**The Parade returned!** Small, but nonetheless ...! The first time since 2005, the Wellington region had a St Patrick's Day Parade. It was a beautiful day beside the Waterfront, and both participants and spectators thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our congratulations to Teresa Ryan, Parade Director, and her band of willing helpers, especially those from the Embassy. Great craic!

Our youngsters, expertly wrangled by Alice Paul, performed with distinction and won the hearts of those watching.

And so, as is our wont, we have [pictures](#) and [videos](#) on our website to capture the day for posterity.



**"The Day" itself.** Because of the growing threat posed by COVID-19, we decided to cancel all of the official St Patrick's Day events at the Club.

Despite this, a few hardy souls got along for a quiet and subdued evening.

And that was St Patrick's Day – the second year in a row outside events have impacted on 'our day'!

## ST PATRICK'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Tournament was held, although numbers were down, not surprisingly.

The Team competition was won by HVIS, and the individual title went to Mike Maloney, a long-time sponsor of HVIS events. Congratulations Mike.

And, of course, a big Thank you to Bernie Breslin for all of his hard work making it all happen.

## A CHALLENGE ISSUED



Former President, Brian Gahan, has issued a 'challenge' to the Wellington/Hutt Valley Gaelic Football & Hurling Association. HVIS is challenging the GFHA to a 4-event Tournament in April.

The four events are:

Darts, Bowls, Cards, & Golf, with competition spread over 2 weekends, culminating in a special prizegiving, and the presentation of a specially

commissioned trophy.

It has been postponed at this point, but, when the time comes, we'll be calling on all members to "step up" to the challenge! Sharpen up your skills, hone your techniques, it will be your time to shine for **your** Society.

## SO WHAT TO DO WITH YOURSELVES, AT HOME?

Many are now 'working from home'. Others are merely 'confined to quarters', and kids are already on extended school holidays. So how to occupy yourselves?

You can do better than just binge-watching reruns of TV series or playing online games.



How about a 'tour' of Dublin visiting scenes of the 1916 Easter Rising? This site uses the power of Google Maps, along with excellent contemporary photos, and

unobtrusive commentary (by Dubliner Colin Farrell) to provide a [guided tour of the Rising](#).

I have visited some of the sites, but the perspective of this Tour has whetted my appetite to return & do it more thoroughly.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is unable to meet, in the present circumstances. But, they're still reading, and keen to discuss this month's book, so on Thursday 16 April, they intend to hold a 'virtual' evening, using a tool like Zoom, or Skype, or Houseparty, so get ready!

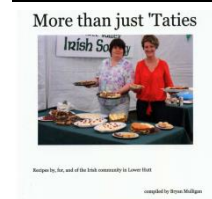
Desiree will be in touch with the 'regulars', but if you're interested but haven't yet been to one of the evenings send her a message at [desiree@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:desiree@huttirish.org.nz) or call her on 021 727 835.

## FILM CLUB

So much for a 'film evening'! The pandemic put paid to that as well! But we'll try again once we're out of 'lockdown'.

In the meantime, you might like to [read these suggestions](#) for Irish films to look out for on Netflix.

## MERCHANDISE



We have our own recipe book available for just \$25.

It's packed full of favourite recipes which are sure to conjure memories of meals 'at home' – wherever that may be!

Send [me an email](#) to get your copy.