

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Friday 17 April	Music night
Saturday 25 April	Anzac Day
Friday 24 April	Family History evening
Sunday 26 April	Pot Luck Dinner
Friday 1 May	Darts night
Thursday 14 May	Book Club

COMINGS & GOINGS

A special call out to two special members: **Anne O'Carroll** and **Alice Paul** have both been having some health challenges in recent times. We wish them both a swift return to good health, and we look forward to seeing them at the Club again soon.

One of the pleasant part of belonging to HVIS has always been welcoming new members. Occasionally those same members have to 'move on'. **Maria** is in that position, and so we say good-bye to her and wish her safe travels.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026-27!

Membership subscriptions are now due. Our thanks to those who've already paid their Subscription. If you haven't paid yet, NOW is a good time to renew your membership for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026:

1. See the [website for Subscription rates](#)
2. Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number **06-0529-0416815-00**. (Use your **family name** as the reference (or your phone number if you have to use numbers)
3. Tell us you've paid by [completing the Renewal Form](#).

Have you thought about making your payment by AUTOMATIC PAYMENT? Save yourself the bother of wondering "Have we paid our Subs yet?" Setting up a one-time auto-payment gives you certainty, and provides the Club with a better view of the likely income stream.

In the past, we tended to turn a blind eye to the occasional missed annual payment. But the legislation governing Incorporated Societies (such as HVIS) means that if a member fails to pay their subscription for a couple of years, they **CEASE TO BE A MEMBER**. And that means, if you want to be a member, you have to apply and be approved all over again.

POT LUCK ORGANISERS 2026

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to 'host' one of monthly Pot Luck Dinners. These remain one of our most popular events. If it's your 'turn', you can download the Hosts' [CHECKLIST](#)

GUESTS

You're of course welcome to invite friends to the Club, but when you do, why not suggest they join up? Especially if they are more or less 'regular' visitors. We have forms at the Club for new members, and the subscription rates are **LOW!** And an **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT** is Easy as ...!

REMINDER

If you're meeting friends or guests at the Club, they need to sign the Visitors' Book when they arrive.

COUNTY GAZETTEER

Vital stats for each Irish County

County Offaly / Contae Uíbh Fhailí

Province: Leinster

County town: Tullamore

Area: 773 sq mi (2,001 km²) (Rank: 16th)

Highest elevation (Arderin): 1,729 ft (527 m)

Population (2022): 83,150 (Rank: 24th)

Motto(s): *Esto Fidelis* ("Be Faithful")

Nickname: The Faithful County

Website: [Offaly County Council](#); [Visit Offaly](#)



Notices:

Find us at:

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

Keep in touch at:

On Twitter, look for [@huttirish](#).

On Instagram, look for [huttirish](#).

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/huttvalleyirish

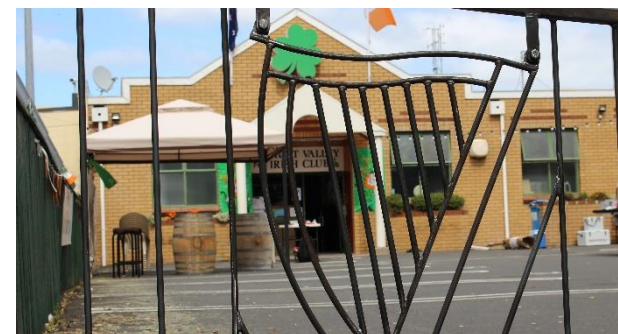
Remember the Hall is available for Hire to members. All this helps your Club financially, so recommend us to your friends.

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

Published by: Hutt Valley Irish Society,
12 Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt, Phone: (04) 569-6139

info@huttirish.org.nz

Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press

*Is doimhin é poll an
amhraí*

(Deep is the hole of doubt.)

April, 2026

ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2026!

It's now almost a month since St Patrick's Day, and I can't believe how quickly the time has flown! The memories are starting to fade (or is that just my advancing years? Probably!)

But it's fun to think back and remember what makes the Day so special for so many of us.



See [all the pictures](#) for yourself.

RAFFLE

Tickets for the magnificent **Gift Basket**, donated to us by **Margaret Ricketts** were snapped up!

Not least because of the sterling sales effort of **Alena McClure**, we raised almost \$400. That's money we wouldn't otherwise have!

Oh, you want to know who the winner was? Let's just say the **Bignall** family were delighted to receive their prize!



VOLUNTEERS



YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

HVIS is run by Volunteers, and we all benefit from their efforts. But we are always in need of fresh volunteers to help with a myriad of tasks.

Could you help out on the **Management Committee**? All positions from President to Committee Members are up for election at the **AGM** in June. The Committee generally meets one evening a month, or as required. And within the

Committee there are various 'roles' – the obvious ones of President, Secretary, & Treasurer, but also a Bar sub-Committee, Welfare, Kitchen, Events management, or Maintenance. Oh, and "publicity"! What about taking over the Newsletters, or social media, or publicising events like Quiz Nights?

What about **helping behind the Bar**? We have a small group of regular volunteers, but "the more the merrier"! There is plenty of scope to help at Pot Lucks, or **Fridays**.

Give it some thought! And then [GET IN TOUCH](#).

IRISH FESTIVAL @ BREWTOWN

I'm sure you recall last year's Irish Festival at Brewtown. Well, we're going to do it all again!

The plan was always that, if the first one was successful (achieved!) we would repeat it, and try to 'grow' the event.

And if we're to grow it, we need your suggestions for what else we could do, and your help in various ways, whether that's putting up posters & hoardings, to running an activity (baking bread?), to setting up or packing up, to leading a Ceilidh.

So [GET IN TOUCH](#) and let us know what you can do for it.

PAISTI POST

The latest magazine from the **Christchurch Irish Society** is at the Club.

They are placed conspicuously on the table by the door, and you're invited to **take a copy for yourself**, at not cost to you or to HVIS!

So whether you have youngsters who may be interested or you'd like to take a little time seeing for yourself what gems they contain, please do so, and give a 'Go raibh maith agat' to **Christchurch Irish Society**.



HVIS LIBRARY?



Have you had a look at the Library recently?

We have done a small 'cull' of books which appeared not to be of any interest to members. We have also invested some money in buying a number of books written for specifically children.

In case you're not sure, **ALL** of the books on the shelves are available to be borrowed, and returned (of course!) All we ask

is that you make a note in the notebook of your name & contact details, the title borrowed, and the date borrowed.

ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day this year is a Saturday. We will be represented by a group of youngsters who will lay a wreath on our behalf in memory of Irish men & women who lost their lives in armed conflict.

I think it is also worth us all remembering that:

New Zealand population approx. 1.1 million (1914)	Ireland population approx. 4.38m (1911)
Gallipoli: 8,556 landed	Gallipoli: 4 specifically Irish regiments
2,721 killed	3,411 killed or missing
100,000 New Zealanders served overseas 1914-18	Approx. 206,000 Irishmen served 1914-18
Around 18,000 New Zealanders died	Approx 49,400 were killed

I believe those who died in our name deserve to be remembered because they gave their lives doing what **they believed** was right or necessary.

BOOK CLUB

"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while." - Malorie Blackman

The Book Club is holding its next meeting on **Thursday 14 May**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **All That We Know** by **Shilo Kino**. If you're interested in joining the group, or maybe starting your own, get a copy of the book to read, and just turn up to their session.



ONLINE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



Each week I receive an email reminding me that there have been additions to an extensive collection of published photographs held by the National Library of Ireland.

Their online collection is called "[National Library of Ireland on The Commons](#)" and you can subscribe to it yourself.

Have a look – it's brilliant!