

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Thursday 6 August	Grupa Comhra gathering
Friday 7 August	Open Mic evening
Thursday 13 August	Book Club gathering
Friday 21 August	Cards & Music evening
Thursday 27 August	Film Club gathering
Saturday 29 August	Brew Night
Sunday 30 August	Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday 12 September	HVIS v GFHA Golf

COMINGS & GOINGS

None to report this month! Where are my spies??

POT LUCK DINNER

These appear to be increasingly popular, post-COVID. Please feel free to offer to help out on the evening.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE!

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

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) and then complete the attached Renewal Form and email to 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.

Email trip@huttirish.org.nz if you're interested in either finding out more, or joining the discussions.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND

The Embassy has launched a new [website](#) with the aim of increasing the reach of the Irish community within New Zealand and connecting with more of the diaspora (that's you & me!).

Over the last few weeks, they've been profiling [Friends Of Ireland](#) from all over Aotearoa. If you would like to participate, send a message to info@friendsofireland.co.nz.

CAPITAL IRISH RADIO

A wee reminder that Wellington has its own "Irish" radio programme. You can find it on air at 106.1 FM every Sunday at mid-day, or online at <https://www.accessradio.org.nz/capital-irish.html>.

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, or on Twitter at [@WellingtonGFHA](https://twitter.com/WellingtonGFHA), or you can find them on [Facebook](#).

GAA TRAINING & COMPETITIONS

I hope you're keeping up with the GFHA schedule? They have Training sessions at Ian Galloway Park on Tuesdays & Thursdays, as they gear up for their Social Gaelic Football season which will run from November 2020 to February 2021.

And keep an eye open for news of the sessions designed for kids. They are a great introduction to the games.

TRAD MUSIC SESSIONS

Do you miss those music sessions in Irish pubs? Well, fear not! Wellington's Welsh Bar has been hosting weekly sessions for some time now, and you're welcome to drop in. Especially if you're a player, you could find some inspiration on their website <https://wellington.session.nz/>

Notices:

Find us at:

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

Keep in touch at:

On Twitter, look for [@huttirish](https://twitter.com/huttirish).

On Instagram, look for [huttirish](https://www.instagram.com/huttirish).

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hutt.irish

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

Bíonn sach daine go lách
go dtéann bó ina sharraí.

(Everybody is good natured
until a cow goes into his garden.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following is an extract from the President's Report to our recent AGM.

President's Report

The past year has certainly been a historical year given the global pandemic and our national lockdown.

The year started off well with the club as a whole functioning and prospering.

Our regular events were being well attended and some events were gaining support.

COVID hit - out the door went our annual St Patrick's Day Our club was closed late March until recently when lockdown restrictions were lifted....

My motto in life is "out of bad comes good". This year we lost momentum, revenue and OSCAR. If re-elected I and the new committee will endeavour to stimulate the momentum we have back as seen previously. ...

Our society has faced head winds in the past and we have always endured. We will continue to do so through participation in club activities and reaching out to those in need. ...

We are in good hands.

Slan agus saol fada

RAISING THE ROOF

One of the matters discussed at the AGM was the state of the roof over the Club. It is need of repair, and perhaps replacement, so we have launched a campaign to 'Raise the Roof'. This will consist of a series of fund-raising events which will go a long way to weather-proofing the Club.

The first such event was our recent Quiz Night – which was an outstanding success on all levels.

CHALLENGING TIMES!

You will recall Brian Gahan's plans for a Quad-activity Tournament involving HVIS and the local GFHA.

The original plan was four events: Darts, Bowls, Cards, & Golf, culminating in a prizegiving at HVIS, and the presentation of a specially commissioned trophy.



It had to be postponed as a result of COVID-19.

But as we're up & running again, we've scheduled the Golf Tournament, open to all HVIS & GFHA members & friends. It will be held on **Saturday 12 September**, at Manor Park Golf Course. It starts at 1:00pm, will cost \$50 / head, and finish at the specially designated **19th Hole at 12 Raroa Road (HVIS)**.

So get out your clubs for YOUR Club and get practising!

GRUPA COMHRA

This **Thursday, 6 August**, the Wellington Grupa Comhra will be meeting at the Hutt Valley Irish Society. The Grupa Comhra (literal translation: conversation group) is an informal gathering of a group of people interested in the Irish language. They use as much Irish as possible to discuss what's going on in the world.

You don't need to be fluent to attend, and all are welcome. There's usually tea and biscuits too! Get in touch with [Finbarr Murray](#) to find out more.

OPEN MIC NIGHTS

We're keen on fostering talent, so we have the return of 'open mic' evenings on the first Friday of the month. We're generous and supportive of those who aren't used to 'performing' in public. Sing a song, recite a poem, tell us a joke, it's your choice, just give it a go!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club also advises their next choice is **All The Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr.

Their next gathering will be on Thursday **13 August** at the Club. You're welcome to get hold of the book and join them for a discussion about it at the Club from 7.30pm on the 13th.

You can also get touch with [Desiree](#) about joining them, or to collect a copy of the book, or call her on 021 727 835.

FILM CLUB

We've had two entertaining comedies and a political thriller so far this year, but this month we'll be watching something quite different. **Song of Granite** (2017) celebrates the music of legendary seannós singer Joe Heaney, while painting an unflinching portrait of Heaney, the man. If that sounds interesting, feel free to come along & join us – Thursday 27 August at 7:30pm.

SINGING CLASS

Alice Paul is once again running singing classes, and is happy to welcome new members – male or female. Once a fortnight she holds Irish singing classes at the HVIS, Sunday 3pm-4pm. Children from 5-13 are welcome. The children learn popular Irish songs and get the opportunity to perform for the Irish

community. There is no charge. To find out more, [email Alice](#) or call 021 228 8293.

WHO DO YOU RECOGNIZE?



I continue to receive photos of past events from members, for which my thanks!

This month I have a 'before & after' pair.

First up is a delightful snap of a young member 'watching' a St Patrick's Day parade one evening some years ago. The same member, now **much** more grown-up, was also spotted at the [2020 Parade](#) event.

BUYING ONLINE FROM IRELAND

If you're planning on buying products from Ireland for delivery to NZ, or family/friends in Ireland are thinking of sending you items (Xmas isn't that far off, you know!), you might need to think again.

An Post publishes a list of countries to which they are currently despatching mail. This list may change so you should check it. New Zealand is **NOT** currently on it. Have a look at [www.anpost.com/Covid-19/](#)

COVID-19 & HVIS

Without wishing to be smug or complacent, Victoria & Ireland give us reason to pause & to think about what we need to do to be able to continue attending functions at the Club.

Victoria of course continues to battle a resurgence of Covid-19 and significant areas of Melbourne are locked down.

The Irish government has deferred re-opening pubs until 10 August over concerns about the increase in new Covid-19 cases. Taoiseach Micheal Martin has announced the country will not move into the next phase of the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

So please remember, if you're meeting friends or guests at the Club, they need to sign-in, and provide contact details.

RAISE A GLASS TO RAISE THE ROOF

You may recall we held a 'Brew Night' at the Club in 2018.

Carl Hayes of Te Aro Brewing has been prevailed upon to run another one on **29 August**. He will provide the brewing equipment, recipes & ingredients. You provide the labour & pay a small per-head charge to cover costs.

Numbers will be strictly limited, so the first people to email their name to [brewnight@huttirish.org.nz](#) will be allocated the available spaces. Anyone else is welcome to join us as observers.

