

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 16 February | Music Friday night |
| Thursday 22 February | Film Club |
| Sunday 25 February | Pot Luck Dinner |
| Friday 1 March | Darts night |
| Thursday 14 March | Book Club |
| Sunday 17 March | St Patrick's Day |

COMINGS & GOINGS

I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the Holiday period, whether at home or away – we certainly did!

Good luck to our youngsters moving to new schools, study or jobs! Molly Janes is on an Exchange in Amsterdam, while Bridget has a Scholarship with the NZ Navy. Stella Hill is off to study in Christchurch.

Welcome to Senan, who has joined Emma, Steve & Tadhg.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024-25!

Our thanks to those who've already paid their Subscription. For everyone else:

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](#).

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!*

POT LUCK ORGANISERS 2024

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| February: | Regan / Janes | March: | O'Toole |
| April: | Hanlon | May : | Hill / Mahoney |
| June : | Gahan / McLure | July: | Bignell / Rynne |
| August: | Christensen / Bazalo | Serptember | Duffy |
| October: | Murray | November: | Lake |

Download the [CHECKLIST](#)

HELP TADGH

You may have heard of young [Tadhg Giles](#), currently in Auckland receiving intensive care for viral encephalitis which developed from influenza A. If you are able to provide some assistance, please visit his [GiveALittle page](#).

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 Antrim / Contae Aontroma

Province: Ulster

County town: Antrim

Area: 1,192 sq mi (3,086 km²)
(Rank: 9th)

Highest elevation (Trostan):
1,808 ft (551 m)

Population (2021): 651,321 (Rank: 2nd)

Motto(s): Per angusta ad augusta (*Through Trial to Triumphs*)

Website: [Discover Northern Ireland / Antrim](#)



EARLY OPENING

We're happy with the results of our trial of opening early on Fridays. We think there is a (limited) demand for it. The next steps are to arrange "staffing" for the early period. We'll let you know details next month. Keep an eye out for updates.

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.

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Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press

Atbhliain faoi mhaise
taduibh!

(Happy New Year to you!)

February, 2024

XMAS PARTIES

I was overseas all of December, so wasn't able to be at any of our Christmas functions. What little I have heard tells me they were all successful, and enjoyed.

But the Club also doesn't have any record of what happened at any of the functions, so I'm looking for photos from anyone who attended and took pictures. [Email me](#) with photos attached or, if you have too many, ask for advice about how they can be passed on.

GET ALONG TO GFHA EVENTS!

The GAA guys & gals have organised a **Golf Day** for Saturday, 17 February at Manor Park. Contact pro@wellingtongaa.com if you want to enter – it may not be too late.

They also have a “**Club Day Out**” planned for Saturday 4 March. It involves a visit to Le Gra Vineyard. Should be fun.

This year's **NZ Championships** are being held in Queenstown over the weekend of **16-17 March**. So if you're in that part of the country, set aside some time to catch the games.

ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2024!

2024 is a Leap Year, and St Patrick's Day is a SUNDAY!

The last time that occurred was 2019, and we had a bumper turnout, with lots of families spending at least part of the afternoon at the Club. And many of those groups took up station under canopies outside in the carpark.

I know it seems a *LOOOONG* time away, but I'd encourage you to think ahead, and mark your nice new 2024 Calendar with a ring around the date!

And because it is a Sunday, perhaps you should be thinking of making it a “**friends & family day**”, and get a group together to come to the Club.

SO WHAT'S ON AT HVIS?

The Management Committee are finalising the arrangements, but a few things are already settled:

- ✦ We'll be open **ALL AFTERNOON** as well the **EVENING**
- ✦ There will be **CANOPIES** up **OUTSIDE** for shade
- ✦ **Kids GAMES** will be available
- ✦ **The BAR** will be open inside
- ✦ Food **AT DINNER-TIME** – stew, potatoes, cabbage & bacon
- ✦ **KIDS PERFORMANCES** – singing, recitations
- ✦ **IRISH DANCING** demonstration



✦ Live **MUSIC** – *Shindig* will do their thing!

AND ELSEWHERE?

Golf Tournament: The **Annual St Patrick's Day Golf Tournament** is being held at Judgeford Golf Course; Registration from **8am**, with Shotgun start at **9.30am**. Entry costs **\$45** (includes a light lunch). Contact match@jgc.nz or phone (04) 235 7633. Download the attached [Flyer](#) and [Entry Form](#).

Parade: Wellington Irish Society are staging a **St Patrick's Day Parade** again this year, albeit a somewhat smaller affair than previously, and on a different route because of the “Homegrown” music Festival being on the same day.

They are keen to hear from anyone who would like to carry their County Flag in the Parade. If that's you, email president@wellingtonirishsociety.com, and be sure to specify the County & your contact details.

As in previous years they welcome people joining in, so in particular if you have kids, why not give it a go?



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



HVIS runs on the efforts of **VOLUNTEERS**. So we're always looking for people to help out. Which means it is time for you to ask yourself: **What can I do to help?** Working in the

Kitchen, cleaning, catering, helping with events, music, opening up, lighting, publicity, social media management, maintenance, governance. Any / all of the above? Do you have an idea for a specific event? Can you organise it?

Could you help out on the **Management Committee?** Catriona, our Treasurer is going to Ireland for 3 months shortly, and so has reigned from her role. Could you be her successor? All positions from President to Committee Members are up for election at the **AGM** in June. Give it some thought!

What about **helping behind the Bar?** We have a small group of volunteers, but “the more the merrier!” We'll be employing staff for St Patrick's Day, but there is plenty of scope to help at other times, especially **Fridays**, & other **Functions**.

Let us know [how you can help](#).

ROSE OF TRALEE

The Rose event is a celebration of young women of Irish birth or descent. In NZ, regional Societies hold selection events over the next few months, and the Roses selected will then go the National Final, in Invercargill in early June, at which a NZ Rose will be selected to represent the country at the International Festival in Tralee, Co Kerry, in August.

The entry criteria are on the [Rose website](#).

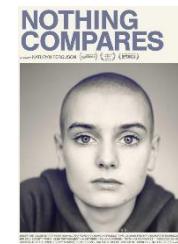
If you, or someone you know would like to enter, [get in touch](#).

NZ FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

If you're a Shakespeare buff, or interested in the effects of dementia (do those 2 things naturally go together?), **Lost Lear** may interest you. The play, by Irishman **Dan Colley**, is told from the point of view of Joy, a person with dementia, who is living in an old memory of rehearsing *King Lear*. ([More...](#))

It is on **14-17 March**, and tickets and you'll [need to book](#).

FILM CLUB



The light has dimmed for two stars of the Irish Music firmament in recent months, so we will mark their passing by looking at their lives.

Often ridiculed, always provocative, usually challenging, invariably misunderstood, O'Connor was a seminal figure in modern Irish popular music whose legacy deserves to be (re-) examined. **Nothing Compares** (2022)

is a clear-eyed look at O'Connor's career and her decision to use her fame as a platform to speak out on a number of controversial issues, which shifted her narrative from global stardom to worldwide condemnation.

The next screening will be on **Thursday 22 February** at 7.30pm. As usual the Bar will be open, there is no cover charge, and all members and their guests are welcome.

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 March**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **Boy Swallows Universe** by **Trent Dalton**. 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.



PRE-SCHOOLERS MUSIC

Last year local Musician and Teacher Jhan Lindsay ran a series of music classes specifically for **Pre-schoolers**, focussing on songs and poems from the “the Isles” – Pasifika, Māori, Irish. Before committing to a further series we need to know if there is interest. So if you &/or your youngsters are keen to join in, let me know ASAP at bryan@huttirish.org.nz or txt: +64212667602.

