

## Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Friday 20 February	Music Evening
Sunday 22 February	Pot Luck Dinner
Friday 27 February	Family History Evening
Friday 6 March	Darts Evening
Friday 6 March	Irish Musicians 4 Palestine
Thursday 12 March	Book Club
Friday 13 March	Cards Evening
Sunday 15 March	St Patrick's Day Parade
Tuesday 17 March	St Patrick's Day

### COMINGS & GOINGS

**Mary Regan** passed away in early February, in her 99<sup>th</sup> year! We send our condolences to her family, especially **Trish, Mandy, and Helen** and their respective families.

I hear that **Christy O'Toole** is home for a brief visit – hopefully long enough for him to stop in at the Club to say hello!

February is **back to school** month. Spare a thought for those youngsters starting out at school, or at a new school, and for those who have moved on from school to University or some other form of training. Our **best wishes** to you all. Go well – we're all proud of you!

### ROSE OF TRALEE

**Who will put their hand up to succeed Ciara Jo Hanlon?** Does HVIS have any aspiring entrants? Think about potential candidates and have a quiet chat with them about entering the Rose? If you know of anyone, encourage them to get in touch with [rosecoordinator@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:rosecoordinator@huttirish.org.nz).



The likely date for the 2026 NZ Rose selection is the first weekend in May. But the earlier candidates identify themselves, the more assistance we can offer.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025-26!

HVIS' Financial Year ends on 31 March, which means, of course, that your subscription for the new year is past due. 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 DINNER HOSTS - 2026

The Mulligan family are on Pot Luck Dinner duty for February. But we still need a couple of **VOLUNTEERS**, especially for October, and to help out in September.

### COUNTY GAZETTEER

#### Vital stats for each Irish County

**County** **Monaghan** /

*Contae Mhuineacháin*

**Province:** Ulster



**County town:** Monaghan

**Area:** 500 sq mi (1,295 km<sup>2</sup>) (Rank: 28th)

**Highest elevation (Slieve Beagh):** 1,224 ft (373 m)

**Population (2022):** 65,288 (Rank: 28th)

**Nickname:** The Farney County

**Motto:** "Dúthracht agus Dícheall" *Diligence and Best Endeavour*

**Website:** [Monaghan County Council](#); [Monaghan Tourism](#)

#### Notices:

*Find us at:*

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

**Keep in touch at:**

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

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/huttirish](http://www.facebook.com/huttirish). On Instagram, look for

[huttirish](#).  
[huttvalleyirish](#)

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

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*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*

*Bionn siúlach scéalach.*

*(Travellers have tales to tell.)*

February, 2026

## CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTIES



2025 was farewelled in HVIS's usual exuberant style – music, food, dance, games, gift exchanges, and a visit from Santa – great craic in other words. And young **Senan** was on hand to say 'Hello' with poise and style! Our thanks to **Alan, Mark, Rixanne, Lynn**, and the ever-reliable **Shirley**.

We were entertained, amusingly, albeit with some grumpiness, by a group of



outright enjoyment.

[See the evidence](#) for yourself!

## FAMILY PICNIC



It is said that nostalgia is a wonderful thing. And whoever said that, knew a thing or two!

The idea for an 'old fashioned family picnic' grew from some of our long-time members reminiscing about 'the early days'. They were encouraged to 'make it happen'. And so it was 'all on' at Trentham Memorial Park at Waitangi weekend.

The weather was part of the plan, as it was a gloriously sunny and warm day, and quite a number of families got themselves organised – rugs, chairs, food, drinks, and games equipment.



Of course there was an intrepid photographer, to capture the fun and games, and some of the absurdity.

[See for yourself!](#)

## NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The New Year is almost here, and we have been working on a busy programme of events and activities for the year ahead.

We'll make sure you are kept well advised of what's coming up, but keep an eye out, especially, for events to mark St Brigid's Day, and in the leadup to St Patrick's Day, "Telling Family Stories" evenings, Quiz Nights, and Golf Tournaments. And we're continuing the usual Pot Luck dinners and Friday evening sessions.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2026

The day that is the 'centrepiece' of our year is now just a month away. There are TWO key events I hope you're making your plans around.

### Annual Parade

Wellington Irish Society have plans well in hand for their annual PARADE, and the CONCERT which follows. Again it will be along the Wellington Waterfront, ending 'under sails' at Queen's Wharf. So you should be planning on setting aside at least the whole afternoon to get along on **Sunday 15 March**.

**HVIS** will be open from about 5pm if you decide you need a wee 'rest' (perhaps for fish-'n'-chips?) on the way home.

### Open House at HVIS

HVIS will be open as usual on **Tuesday 17 March** from late afternoon.

There will be food, dancing display, recitations by some of our youngsters, live music, and the chance to catch up with friends and family. It will go on until we close, and you're welcome to bring friends along – after all, "It's never too late to be Irish."

## VOLUNTEERING

A day like St Patrick's Day doesn't happen by itself. It takes work by many. And we're always keen to have **Volunteers**

**Maureen, Margaret, and Pat** were the chief instigators, and took command for the games and races.

They thoroughly deserve our **THANKS!**



put their hands up. There's plenty to do: putting up decorations, collecting glasses, cooking (at home), serving/prepping in the Kitchen, performing, putting up Canopies outside, welcoming Guests, driving Seniors to-and-from the Club.

Tell us how you think [you can best help](#).

## MAKING SENSE OF FAMILY HISTORY!

A couple of us have decided to offer help to anyone who has questions about researching their family history.

So no matter if you enjoy researching your family history, and like talking about it to like-minded people, or you're stuck by a 'brick wall' and unable to see where to look next, or just want to begin your own search, you can bring your curiosity along to the Club on the **fourth Friday** of the month. Many minds can help where one alone gets lost.

We'll be at the Club on **Friday 27 February**, in fact!

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Travelling overseas by yourself can be a daunting prospect. Recently retired Tony O'Connor is beginning to plan a bit of travel, and wondered if there was anyone else also considering it who might appreciate a bit of friendly company during those awful airport lay-overs. Interested? [Drop us a line](#).

And that started me wondering if there was anyone interested in being part of a '**Tour Group**', along the lines of the group who visited Ireland in 2016 – you've probably seen the Book of the Tour. Is it time for another? If you're interested, [drop me a line](#).

## IRISH MUSICIANS FOR PALESTINE

Top local Irish musicians - **Em Griffiths, Paddy McCann, Parcel of Rogues, Pat Higgins, Sláinte, Adham, Aedeen Boadita-Cormican** - play Vogelmorn Upstairs in support of humanitarian aid for Palestine.

There will be some of your favourite Irish songs, along with songs of justice & peace, original music and a poem or two.

See [Irish Musicians For Palestine](#) for more details.

## 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 12 March, 2026**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **Tell The Wolves I'm Home** by *Carol Rifka Brunt*. 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.

