

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Thursday 23 July	Book Club gathering
Sunday 26 July	Pot Luck Dinner
Thursday 30 July	Film Club gathering

I am also lead to believe plans are afoot to hold a **Quiz Night**, possibly in July, but as this Newsletter will be distributed before the new Committee has its first meeting, I'm not able to provide any details. Keep your eyes open for updates.

COMINGS & GOINGS

None to report this month!

POT LUCK DINNER

A special **'Thank you'** to Kathryn Gahan for hosting our Mid-Winter Xmas Pot Luck last weekend. The mulled wine was most welcome, and up to your usual high standards.

And thanks to those who made an effort to bring along "Xmas" food – great craic!!

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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

As you're aware we are now sending an email most weeks to act as a 'reminder' of upcoming events.

But that's not the only way to keep in touch:

If you are a Twitter user already, or have been thinking about opening an account, look for [@huttirish](https://twitter.com/huttirish).

We also have an Instagram account, using the handle [huttirish](https://www.instagram.com/huttirish).

And of course, we also have a presence on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/hutt.irish>.

And, finally, these newsletters are available on our [website](https://www.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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonGFHA).

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/>

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.

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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12 Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt, Phone: (04) 569-6139

info@huttirish.org.nz

Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press

*Ní féidir an seanfhocal
a shárá.*

(A proverb can not be refuted.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Our AGM was held, as advertised on the last Sunday of June.

The following were elected to the Management Committee:

- President: John O'Toole
- Vice-President: Lynn O'Toole
- Secretary: Shirley Duffy
- Treasurer: Sonia Christensen
- Committee: Desiree Mulligan, Marysia Raffan, Brian Gahan.

They will be assisted by Murray Hill (Executive Officer), and Bryan Mulligan (Public Relations Officer).

To general acclaim, our Patron, Anne O'Carroll, proposed Brian Gahan be appointed a Life Member.

There was worthwhile discussion of a number of matters relating to the on-going management of the Society, which gave the Committee some useful guidance on future directions and activities.

BUILDING/MAINTENANCE

We have had a problem with the roof for a while now, and while it is not putting the premises at risk, there are a number of issues needing to be addressed. A challenge for the incoming Management Committee.

FINANCIAL

The Club's finances remain in a healthy state, although there are a few clouds about.

The OSCAR after-school programme at Eastern Hutt have terminated their use of the premises, as demand for their service has declined. This was a source of revenue for HVIS and they were good tenants. We're sorry to see them go.

Counter-balancing that, however, all of the carparks are fully leased, providing a predictable and regular revenue

stream. We are fortunate to have a waiting-list of prospective users.

Bar-trading has also held up well, although the impact of the COVID lockdown will be felt.

Copies of the financial statements are available at the Club for members to read if you weren't at the AGM.

WHO DO YOU RECOGNIZE?

Well, that stumped everyone! No-one approached me about my challenge. So I thought I'd better help you all out.

My challenge to you was: Identify the year, and which of the people shown are Anne and Margaret.



The year was **1961**. Both are in the back row; **Anne** is at the left, and **Margaret** is 2nd from the right.

LOOKING BACK

And speaking of historical photos, I have had a wee look at a collection of photos of St Patrick's Day parades from 20 years ago, and Maureen Lange has been good enough to pass on a few gems. So, come on the rest of you! Share the memories!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club also advises their next choice is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky.

Their next gathering will be on Thursday July 23 at the Club, so you're welcome to get hold of the book, read it, and join them for a discussion about it at the Club from 7.30pm on the 23rd. Note that their gathering is a week later than usual because of the school holidays.

Desiree will be in touch with the 'regulars', but if you're interested but haven't yet been to one of the evenings you're

welcome to send her a message at desiree@huttirish.org.nz or call her on 021 727 835.

FILM CLUB

A group of us gathered at the Club on the fourth Thursday of June to watch *Sing Street*.

To accommodate the Book Club, the next Film Club evening will be Thursday 30 July from 7:30pm.

The film will be *Shadow Dancer*, from 2012. Set in 1990s Belfast, it tells of an active member of the IRA who becomes an informant for MI5 in order to protect her son's welfare. If that sounds interesting, feel free to come along & join us.

Stars: Clive Owen, Andrea Riseborough, Gillian Anderson.

SINGING CLASS

A feature of our activities over the last few years has been the time given to our youngsters by Desiree Mulligan and Alice Paul.

Alice has advised that she is 'losing' a number of boys from her singing class, as they increase the time given to sport.

BUT: she is happy to welcome new members – male or female.

The focus of this group is developing familiarity with traditional Irish folk songs while having fun singing in a group. She tells me the time commitment isn't large and the effort needed isn't onerous. So if you have school-age children (or grand-children) why not take them along to one of Alice's sessions? The next one is **Sunday 5th July at 3pm** at HVIS.

If you'd like to know more, or can't get along this Sunday send an [email to Alice](mailto:alice@huttirish.org.nz)

CHALLENGING TIMES!

No – I'm not talking about pandemics this time!

You will recall reading in the April Newsletter (of course you remember – don't you!) about Brian Gahan's plans for a Quad-activity Tournament involving HVIS and the local GAA.

The plan was four events:

Darts, Bowls, Cards, & Golf, with competition spread over 2 weekends, culminating in a special prizegiving, and the presentation of a specially commissioned trophy at a monthly Pot Luck Dinner.

It had to be postponed as the COVID requirements impacted on arrangements and scheduling, but, I believe Brian is keen to progress it as soon as practical. Details are still being negotiated, and it's likely to be during September. I'll be passing on the details as soon as they are confirmed.

When they are, we'll be calling on all members to "step up" to the challenge! So sharpen up your skills and hone your techniques, it will be your time to shine for **your** Society.