

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Saturday 14 March	Ceilidh at Vic University
Sunday 15 March	St Patrick's Day Parade
	HVIS Open post-Parade
Tuesday 17 March	St Patrick's Day
	Golf @ Judgeford
	HVIS Open Day
	Welcome to Minister of State
Thursday 19 March	Celebrity Debate
Friday 20 March	Welcome GAA Champ guests
Sunday 29 March	Pot Luck Dinner

COMINGS & GOINGS

Colleen Hession has been visiting Ireland recently. I hope the current activity in Iran, and the wider Mid-East, doesn't interfere with her travel arrangements unduly.

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 2026

The March Pot Luck Hosts are Maureen McLoughlin & Rixanne Fergusson. We still don't have volunteers to Host the October Pot Luck.

Download the Hosts' [CHECKLIST](#)

EASTER RAFFLE?

Don't forget to get your tickets for our annual **MONSTER CHOCOLATE RAFFLE!** They cost \$5 or you can get 3 for \$10, but you **CAN ONLY BUY THEM** at HVIS.

The glorious collection of Easter Treats was generously donated by **Margaret**



Ricketts, so when you see her on St Patrick's Day, pass on our thanks for her generous support of the Club.

VINYL RECORDS AVAILABLE

We have been contacted by Ken Frankton, a Petone resident, who is looking to find a new home for his collection of **Irish LP vinyl records**. He has approximately **30 LPs**, including around **22 albums by The Clancy Brothers** and other Irish artists. Ken can be contacted directly on **04 5898444** for further information.

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 Kildare / Contae Uíbh Fhailí

Province: Leinster

County town: Tullamore

Area: 773 sq mi (2,001 km²) (Rank: 24th)

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

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

Motto(s): *Esto Fidelis* (Latin)
" 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.

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Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press

Is Glas iad na croc i
bhfad uaimn

(Distant hills look green)

ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2026!

Just in case you've not yet noticed, St Patrick's Day this year is on next **TUESDAY!** But that doesn't mean the fun doesn't start before then.

IRISH CEILIDH

Victoria University Folk Club is holding an Irish Ceilidh at **Northland Memorial Community Centre** on **Saturday 14 March**. Entry will cost you \$15 (cash at the door). All dances will be walked through by our callers so absolutely no experience is required.

Doors open 6.30pm with dancing from 7pm to 10pm, with plenty of breaks in between and a break for snacks halfway through (snacks provided).



PARADE

Wellington Irish Society is staging their annual Parade on **Sunday 15 March**.

Like last year's successful event, the Parade **begins** about **12.45pm FROM Te Papa**, and will wend its way to **Queens Wharf**, under the Sails.



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

The **Concert** starts about **1.30pm**, and will go on until about 4.30pm, with a wide range of performances, including our own **HVIS Children's Singing Group** and Kieran Hegarty's 'other' group, **Slainte**.

It concludes with the singing of 'Fields of Athenry' and the Grand Prize Draw.

Of course, they need helpers throughout the day, so if you're able to lend a hand, [contact them](#) ASAP.

And if you feel in need of refreshing drink afterwards, or want somewhere to feed Takeaways to the family **HVIS** will be **open** throughout the evening.

SO WHAT'S ON AT HVIS?

A State Visitor

We are welcoming **Minister of State Noel Grealish** at HVIS about 4.30pm on **Tuesday 17 March**. Noel is from Galway West, and has responsibility for Food Promotion, New Markets, Research and Development.

He plans to spend an hour or two at HVIS and is keen to meet a cross-section of our Members. So come along and help him get to know the vibrant Irish community in our part of the world.



The Day Itself

We'll be open from **3.30pm** right through the **EVENING**

- ✦ There will be **CANOPIES** up **OUTSIDE** for shade weather permitting
- ✦ The Carpark gates will be closed for safety
- ✦ **Kids' GAMES** will be available
- ✦ **The BAR** will be open inside
- ✦ Food **AT DINNER-TIME** – stew, potatoes, cabbage & bacon, etc.
- ✦ **KIDS PERFORMANCES** – singing, recitations
- ✦ **IRISH DANCING** demonstration
- ✦ Live **MUSIC** – *Shindig* will do their thing!



AND ELSEWHERE?

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 **\$50** (includes a light lunch). Help them out with catering & player numbers by registering with match@jgc.nz or call (04) 235 7633.

St Patrick's Day Golf Tournament at Judgeford



The prestigious **Wellington Cup** will be presented to the winner at HVIS during the evening.

CELEBRITY DEBATE

On **Thursday 19 March**, WIS is staging a **Celebrity Debate** on the motion "**That the Irish are no good at bowling**", starting at **7 pm** at the **Wilton Bowling Club**, 122 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND GAA CHAMPS

The Wellington/Hutt Valley GFHA is hosting the 2026 New Zealand GAA Championships on **Saturday, 21 & Sunday, 22 March 2026**.



They expect to host nearly 500 athletes across four codes: Men's and Women's Gaelic Football, Hurling, and Camogie. HVIS will be opening our doors to them on Friday evening, but you should make a point of getting along to at least some of the games, at Hutt Park, Lower Hutt (opposite the Round-about!).

ROSE OF TRALEE

We are still keen to hear from anyone interested in entering the Rose of Tralee – an event which is a celebration of young women of Irish birth or descent. Entrants will go the National Final in May, 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](#).

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 9 April**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **The Girl on the Train** by **Paula Hawkins**. 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.

