

## Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Friday 11 May	Govt Decision re Level 2 or 3
Thursday 14 May	Book Club gathering
Sunday 31 May	Pot Luck Dinner (maybe!)

### COMINGS & GOINGS

Clearly there have been few given the current restrictions.

Conor Paul and Anna Clare became parents for a second time on Saturday 18th April. I'm assured little Hugo Finbarr has brought a real ray of sunshine into the extended Paul bubble, and Mum & baby are doing well.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE!

Have you paid your membership subscription for the 2020-2021 year yet? It's never too early. Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number: **06-0529-0416815-00.**

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

**NB:** Please pay by Direct Credit, making sure you 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](mailto: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.

There are no specific proposals, although the initial talk has been of a 2-week bus tour, as in 2016, but this time around Scotland, perhaps beginning in Dublin. It will, of course coincide with a Rugby World Cup to be staged in France. But that's just a coincidence, I assure you!

Email [trip@huttirish.org.nz](mailto: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, or online at <https://www.accessradio.org.nz/capital-irish.html>.

Our own Alice & Eddie Paul and Finbarr Murray are amongst the presenters of the weekly half-hour show. It is worth trying to catch it Live at Mid-day every Sunday, but if you miss that slot, listen online at your leisure.

### 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](http://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. Of course they are suspended just at the moment, but, 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.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

If you are a Twitter user already, or have been thinking about opening an account, look for @huttirish.

We will be tweeting reminders about upcoming events, or if we need to get in touch urgently.

### Notices:

Find us at:

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

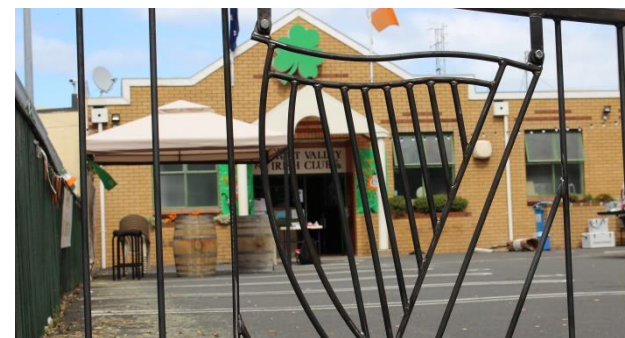
Remember the Hall is available for Hire to members. All this helps your Club financially, so recommend us to your friends.

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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[info@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:info@huttirish.org.nz)

# Hutt Valley Irish Society



### The Irish Press



Is doimhin é poll an  
amhrais

(Deep is the hole of doubt)

May, 2020

## COVID-19 AND HVIS

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This is a strange time for those of us in New Zealand!

You will be aware by now that the Club is closed.

The Management Committee have considered a possible reopening date, in the light of Government requirements.

At this point, we await a decision by the Government on a change from Level 3 to Level 2, due about 11 May. Consequently, it is likely that first "event" at the Club will be the Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday May 31.

Decisions about Friday evenings, and Book Club or Film Club nights also await clarity about Level 2.

## COVID-19 AND HVIS MEMBERS

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The Management Committee are also keen to remind members that if they are facing difficulties during this period, you are urged to get in touch with either [John O'Toole](#) or [Shirley Duffy](#). They will arrange for you to get the help you're needing.

You will recall we established an Assistance Fund, targeted at Irish citizens stranded in NZ, and referred to us by the Embassy. While we haven't yet had any call on this Fund, the Management Committee are conscious that we aren't yet "out of the woods" and it may yet still be needed. Members are invited to make a contribution to this Fund by making a deposit to account # 06-0529-0416815-03. Please use your name as your reference.

## A 'VIRTUAL' QUIZ NIGHT

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A couple of weeks ago, I ran a 'virtual' Quiz Night. I got a number of our members to provide questions on a range of Irish topics – sports, literature, geography, people, music, etc – and then put them all into a page on our website. Then on Friday evening, I invited members to look at each section in turn and record their answers, which they then emailed to me at the end of the evening.

I was pleased by the number of entries, and surprised by how well most did! As always, there was a single winner: Siobhan Cotter (perhaps with the rest of her 'bubble' assisting!). But it was a close-run thing with the 'Gilly-Duggans- Bruce Heller Buddy Group' just 4 points adrift.

In case you're interested in having a go yourself, I have republished all of the questions at <http://huttirish.org.nz/virtual-quiz.html>, and, Yes, the answers are there as well!

So the next step is to present Siobhan with her Cup at the next Pot Luck Dinner (hopefully not too far in the future!)

## FILM CLUB

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So much for a 'film evening'! The pandemic put paid to that as well! But we'll try again once we're out of 'lockdown'.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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Putting together the Virtual Quiz recently, got me to wondering, about favourite films, music groups, albums, etc.

So I thought I'd see what others think, and share the results with you next month.

Have your say at: <http://huttirish.org.nz/tell-us.html>

## SO WHAT TO DO WITH YOURSELVES, AT HOME?

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Many are now 'working from home. Others are merely 'confined to quarters', and kids are already on extended school holidays. So how to occupy yourselves?

You can do better than just binge-watching reruns of TV series or playing online games.

Between 1848 and 1950 over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland. Over 2.5 million departed from Cobh, making it the single most important port of emigration. Cobh Heritage Centre tells the story of this mass emigration. And you can [have a look at it online](#).



## BOOK CLUB

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The Book Club is unable to meet, in the present circumstances. But, they're still reading, and keen to discuss this month's book, so on Thursday 16 April, they a 'robust discussion' (at least that's how it was described to me!) on their recent book.

The next choice is called *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. It is available for purchase on [Amazon](#). They also have an 'extra read' called *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker, also available on [Amazon](#).

Their next gathering is scheduled for Thursday 14 May, but they don't yet know if it will be at the Club, or online via Zoom.

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](mailto:desiree@huttirish.org.nz) or call her on 021 727 835.

## IT'S TIME TO SORT OUT YOUR PHOTOS

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While we're spending so much time "confined to quarters" at home, I thought it would be a good idea for you to get to grips with all those boxes of hard-copy photo prints in our wardrobes or garages, and phones with large collections of photos on them that you've been meaning to "sort them out".

So my challenge to you all is: get out those boxes of photos and spread their contents around the table, and if there

are any which relate in any way to The Club, put them to one side and let me know.

I will want a scanned/digital copy of the photos. If you don't know how to arrange that, or can't do the scanning, I will arrange to do that for you. And, the end-point will be an addition to the Club's History, probably in the form of a book, such as we already have.

If you have digital photos already (for example on your phone) don't email them to me. Let me know you have them, and we'll arrange how best to transfer them from your phone to me.

And, of course, this "sorting out" of photos may lead to a solid dose of nostalgia, and a feeling that you should "tell your family story" to children and grand-children. I'm happy to help you do just that.

## GAA PHOTOS

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Our local GAA Club has also added a selection of old GAA photos to their [Facebook account](#) which go back a good number of years. But they're keen for more.

If you have GAA photos please either post them on Facebook or email [Dave Rynne](#).

## HIDDEN TALENTS

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Some of our members still have the ability to surprise us. An example:

### A Farmer's Dream

No cows to milk, No pigs to feed,  
Staying inside all day, with books to read,  
For me just now it's not so bad  
But when I watch the news, it's all so sad,  
This corona virus has brought the world to a halt,  
Thank God we have tea bags, bread butter and salt,  
we are heading for a recession so the economists say,  
Things are not looking good, from every which way,  
But look on the bright side, and muster a smile,  
Things will get better, it might take awhile.

*Joe Coffey, 2020*

## SOME NEW MUSIC

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If, like me, you enjoy listening to new bands or groups out of Ireland, you might be interested in having a listen out for two groups I've encountered recently.

**The Murder Capital** are an Irish post-punk band based in Dublin. Led by vocalist James McGovern, they tackle social equity issues in their hometown in an uncompromising fashion.

In similar vein, **Fontaines D.C.** are sometimes confronting, which makes the success of their debut album, *Dogrel*, somewhat surprising. But both deserve to be heard, as they clearly speak to their generation.