



## March 2015 Newsletter

Greetings everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2015. We hope the year has started well for you all.

There is already a long list of great events and regular happenings on our calendar, so please have a good read through the following then grab your diaries to write in everything that interests you to ensure you don't miss out!

- **Sundays 2.00pm – 3.00pm Irish Dancing Lessons for beginners** at the Wellington Irish Society. First class is free so you can try it out and see if it's for you. For further information contact Rosemary on 027 346 0133 or email [sullivan.rosemary@gmail.com](mailto:sullivan.rosemary@gmail.com). You can also check this out on Facebook – Kildunne School of Irish Dance
- **Wednesdays, 8.30pm – 11pm, Ricardo's Milonga** at the Wellington Irish Society. Come and enjoy a Buenos Aires Milonga setting with great tango music. \$10 entry, non-alcoholic drinks and snack platters provided all throughout the evening. Tango lessons available (contact Sharon on 021 215 1222)
- **8 March, 8.00pm Merchant of Venice play, free preview** for members at the Wellington Irish Society. This is a preview of the play that will perform at the Irish Society from June 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and then 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. More information later in this newsletter.
- **13 March, 7.30pm Sing-along with 'The Piano Man' evening number 1**  
Here is your chance to perform with a live pianist. Do you want an opportunity to perform in front of a live audience of peers and public or just listen and enjoy a live performance? This is not a karaoke, but a totally live performance that will be run by the pianist and 3-4 local talented vocalists. Registration of interest to perform on the night is essential. Email [hayden0223@gmail.com](mailto:hayden0223@gmail.com) (Held at the Wellington Irish Society over three nights)
- **17 March, St Patrick's Day golf** at Te Marua Golf Club, 9.00am arrival for a 9.30am start. \$35 for the game, breakfast available before the game \$15. Last date to enter 14 March (no late-comers). Please phone Bernie Breslin on 526-9835 asap
- **17 March, St Patrick's Day 5pm until late, Live Music with the Celtic Ramblers** at the Wellington Irish Society. A big pot of Irish Stew and soda bread will be available for sale.



- **21 March, 7.30pm until late, Ceilidh featuring The Jimmies** at The Wellington Irish Society. The Jimmies (formerly The Jimmy Cook Band) are Wellington's longest-running Celtic Music group and the city's leading ceilidh and barn-dance band. This will be a great night out! More information near the end of this newsletter.
- **17 April, 7.30pm Sing-along with 'The Piano Man'** evening number 2
- **19 April, Senior Citizens afternoon**
- **2 May, 7pm, Bingo night**
- **15 May, 7.30pm Sing-along with 'The Piano Man'** evening number 3
- **10 – 14 June and 17 – 20 June, Merchant of Venice performances** at the Wellington Irish Society.
- **14 June, Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner**
- **28 June, 4.00pm, Annual General Meeting**

*Time for a bit of trumpet-blowing! ...*

*We had an eventful last year and are very pleased with the improvements that were carried out at our clubrooms such upgrading of the room behind the bar so we can have a little kitchen, maintenance (painting of the fire stairs and outside area, windows and doors repaired, plastering work, guttering work and various other jobs completed), updating of safety procedures, carrying out of a safety evacuation and successful completion of a fire system check, and upgrading of our beer lines system (which is working very well). We have on tap a craft beer from Parrot Dog which is proving to be very popular!*

*And not only that, we held a host of very successful social events such an excellent Christmas dinner (with close to 90 people attending, lots of good food and plenty of catching up time), a Christmas family get-together which was thoroughly enjoyed, and 'The Playboy of the Western World' which attracted a huge number of people to the club, so pushing Irish culture in a positive way. Very importantly too, we carried out some valuable support work in the community by helping the families of two very sick Irish People in intensive care.*

*You might be interested to know that the GAA are using upstairs as their meeting room and our clubrooms as facilities for fundraising, and we've recently had some enquiries about the use of the hall for home school drama and a free show for members – it's great to maximise the use of our facilities.*

## **Planning for the Future**

*We've already put some thought into some plans for future development at the club such music systems, upgrading of the entrance area, making upstairs a place to rent and downstairs an easier area for members and wheelchair access.*

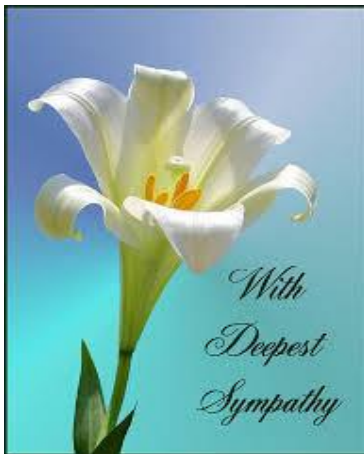
*We're also looking at future events and some ideas we have had include: Irish speaking classes, adult dancing lessons, fish and chip evenings/'meet other families' gatherings and possibly a Halloween party for kids and adults. We would appreciate your input on these as well as any other*

ideas for things you'd like to see happening at the club – these ideas can be collated for our next newsletter. We want our newsletters to be an informative and entertaining way of communication so will also be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute items and ideas for future newsletters. To do this please email me on [murraypaul58@gmail.com](mailto:murraypaul58@gmail.com) and I'll look forward to hearing from you.

We've put together a real mix of information, articles, humour and recommendations in this newsletter, so please read on and enjoy!

Cheers  
Paul Murray

## **MESSAGES**



### **Bereavements**

*Our deepest sympathy goes out to the following families on the loss of loved ones:*

*The Dorricott family on the death of Harry.*

*The Talty family on the death of Michael.*

*The Carson family on the death of John.*

### **Best of luck**

#### ***From Ireland to New Zealand to Abu Dhabi***

*Wellington Irish Community would like to wish Eimear O'Donnell (Tipperary) and Etaoin Friel (Donegal) representing Wellington and Hutt Valley GAA on the Australasian ladies Football team at Abu Dhabi the best of luck at the tournament this month.*

## **LOCAL SPORT**



### **New Zealand National Gaelic Football and Hurling Club Championship**

#### **14 and 15 March at Awakairangi Park in Upper Hutt**

The Irish Government Minister, Alex White TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, will officially open this tournament which will kick off on **Saturday the 14th of March at 10am**. The Upper Hutt Mayor and the Irish Consulate General, Rodney Walsh, will also be attending. 11 teams from different clubs around the country (including teams from Canterbury and Auckland) will be part of this two day tournament, playing all four codes men's and ladies football, hurling and an exhibition game of camogie.

### **Australasian Gaelic Games**

Wellington and Hutt Valley GAA will host the Australasian Gaelic Games in October. Over 600 competitors will arrive in Wellington and the Hutt Valley!

## **OVERSEAS SPORT REPORTS:**

### **Football**

#### **Keith Higgins still has faith in Mayo**

Captain wants the players to keep taking responsibility under the new management

Few teams captured the strangely unexpected openings of the [Allianz Football League](#) more than [Mayo](#). After rolling over All-Ireland championship Kerry in Killarney, they then got rolled over in Castlebar by Tyrone, who themselves had been rolled over by Monaghan in the opening round.

So to round three, where Mayo host Monaghan (also on one win, one loss) and with that chance to established a little more consistency. For new Mayo captain [Keith Higgins](#) it's all part of the league process, although there is still a heightened sense of not letting slip the consistency that was developed under [James Horan](#).

"We've certainly been very up and down," says Higgins, "and I wouldn't read too much into it just yet. The first game against Kerry was very open, then against Tyrone we came up against a very defensive system.

"It's the time of year you can't get too worked up about it. Like after winning below in Killarney, you can't get too far the other way either, when you lose. It would be worse if it was the summer, and you weren't able to get around it then.

"Tyrone are always a tough team to play against, although we didn't expect them to go that defensive. It worked for them on the day, and we can't have any complaints. As Donie Vaughan said in an interview, you learn more out of defeat than you do out of victory."

## Cricket

The Irish cricket team has had some spectacular wins. The win against West Indies was spectacular. In this video, this giant-killing team talks about their favorite things to do and places to visit in Ireland.

Youtube: [The Irish Cricket Team Talks Ireland](#)



Tuesday 3 March, South Africa vs Ireland, 4.30 pm, Manuka Oval, Canberra

Saturday 7 March, Zimbabwe vs Ireland, 4.30pm, Bellerive Oval, Hobart

Tuesday 10 March, India vs Ireland, 2.00pm, Seddon Park, Hamilton

## TIME FOR A JOKE

### **Texan Visits Galway**

The Texan paid a visit to Galway, Ireland. He enters a pub and raises his voice to the crowd of drinkers. He shouts, 'I hear you Irish are a bunch of drinkin' fools. I'll give \$500 American dollars to anybody in here who can drink 10 pints of Guinness back to back.'

The room is quiet and no one takes of the Texan's offer.

Paddy Murphy gets up and leaves the bar. Thirty minutes later, he shows back up and taps the Texan on the shoulder. 'Is your bet still good?' asks Paddy.

The Texan answers, 'Yes' and he orders the barman to line up 10 pints of Guinness.

Immediately, Paddy downs all 10 pints of beer, drinking them all back to back. The other pub patrons cheer and the Texan sits down in amazement. The Texan gives the Irishman the \$500 and asks, 'If ya don't mind me askin', where did you go for that 30 minutes you were gone?'

Paddy Murphy replies, 'Oh, I had to go to the pub down the street to see if I could do it first.'

## **TRAVEL – TO IRELAND OF COURSE!**



### **The Mountains of Munster**

Most of the roads in Ireland go to meet other roads. But the byway to the Nire Valley in the heart of the Comeragh Mountains goes nowhere else. People spend days wandering around these beautiful hills – but the valley also makes a very good base for discovering exciting parts of the neighbouring counties of Tipperary and Waterford. Our route takes a day and a half to explore seaside, mountains and the historic towns that go with them. Having set out from Dublin we started the circuit in Clonmel but people coming from southern ports could begin by the seaside in Dungarvan Ardmore.

Clonmel is clearly signposted from the M9 motorway. An ancient town with an ancient street layout, the best way of visiting it is to make your way to one of the riverside car parks – and walk. What makes it especially exciting is the survival of a substantial piece of the 15th century town walls together with a selection of buildings from most of the centuries in between. And it's a thriving, busy bustling town with a peaceful riverside walk and a view to the south to the mountains.

The highlights are clustered around the centre within the old walls and you don't have to be especially energetic to find them. In particular look out for the 17th century Main Guard, which houses a helpful Tourist Office, the 14th century town walls with their restored West Gate and the rebuilt Franciscan church which contains brilliant modern stained glass and a particularly fine 15th century effigy.

The old town was built entirely on the left bank of the River Suir but it spread southwards across the water in the 19th century. Take the most downstream of the three bridges that cross it and follow the R678 road which takes you high up into the Comeragh Mountains. Four miles out of town look for a signpost which encourages you to go even higher and find the way to Hanora's Cottage. It is the second of two such signposts. Both lead to wonderful hilltop roads, but the second is even more wonderful than the first. They take you into the very heart of the mountains, past sheep pasture and then through heather moorland before going downhill again into the Nire Valley.

Dungarvan. This ancient seaport lies at the head of an immense shallow bay where the tide falls to reveal sand flats spreading for miles. Like Clonmel, it is a place to park your car and walk around. There is a castle claiming to be a foundation of the 13th century King John of England and a 17th century market house.

Take the coast road from Dungarvan for two miles and then turn left to find the village of Ring and the little harbour of Helvick Head. Ringville, officially An Rinn, is the centre of a remarkable outlying area of Gaelteacht, where Irish survived as a living language and remains the preferred means of communication of many people, both old and young. It houses Irish-speaking schools and enjoys a great influx of students attending summer courses. Farther out is the remote headland of Helvick with its busy little fishing harbour and a stone obelisk commemorating the heroes of the Fenian Rising of 1867.

## **A BIT OF NEWS FROM IRELAND**

Nurse hit by falling Weetabix boxes awarded €135,000

Christina Butler suffered soft tissue injuries after incident at Limerick Tesco outlet

A psychiatric nurse who was injured when boxes of Weetabix breakfast cereal fell on her in a [Tesco](#) store has been awarded more than €135,000 in damages.

[Christina Butler](#) of [Crecora](#), Co [Limerick](#), was shopping at Tesco in the Crescent Shopping Centre in Limerick when the incident occurred on May 2nd, 2008.

The mother-of-three was in the grocery section of the store when a number of boxes of Weetabix fell on her. This caused her to jerk away from the boxes before falling to the ground. She suffered soft tissue injuries mainly to her neck, back and right shoulder.

After two days of evidence at the [High Court](#) in Limerick, Mr Justice Paul McDermott said it was clear that while soft tissue injuries normally resolve themselves, “sometimes this doesn’t happen”.

### **Shoulder pain**

A medical examination carried out in August 2013 confirmed Ms Butler was suffering from dizziness and residual shoulder pain. Six years after the incident, she still had difficulties at work as well as trouble sleeping, the court heard.

Mr Justice McDermott said there was no evidence to indicate Ms Butler would fully recover from her injuries and it was “a tribute to her that she did not exaggerate her injuries and has taken every step to ensure that she could stay at work”.

She had embarked upon physiotherapy sessions, reiki and acupuncture to cure the pain. She swapped shifts at work if she was in pain and would make up her hours when the pain subsided.

Stating that the onset of anxiety was a “major intrusion on her life” and further surgery could be required, Mr Justice McDermott said it would be appropriate to award Ms Butler damages of €135,588.35, including medical expenses.

She was also awarded her legal costs.



## **RECIPE SECTION**

### **Perfectly Moist Irish Wheaten Bread**

#### **Ingredients**

1 cup of bread flour  
2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups whole wheat flour  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons salt  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons white sugar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup margarine  
2 cups buttermilk  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vegetable oil  
1 tablespoon buttermilk  
1 teaspoon white sugar

#### **Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Prepare a shallow baking pan with cooking spray.
2. Sift together the bread flour, whole wheat flour, salt, baking soda, and 2 teaspoons sugar in a bowl. Cut the margarine into the flour mixture until pieces are nearly indistinguishable. Make a well in the centre of the mixture and pour in the oil and buttermilk. Stir with a spatula until dry mixture is completely moistened. Move the dough to a lightly-floured surface. Lightly knead the dough for no more than 1 minute. Place the dough into the prepared pan; pat down and around to form a round loaf. Cut a cross into the top of the loaf with your finger. Brush the top with 1 tablespoon buttermilk; sprinkle 1 teaspoon sugar over the top of the loaf.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C); rotate pan and bake another 30 minutes.
4. Allow loaf to cool on a wire rack before slicing.







## **Don't miss this on Youtube!**

Barman John Horgan sings behind the bar in Co Cork. John doesn't even break his stride as he pulls pints. Not to be missed.

Youtube: Barman John Horgan singing Bright Blue Rose

## **DETAILS ON UP-COMING ENTERTAINMENT**

*We're really fortunate to have an impressive variety of entertainment coming up at the Irish Society over the next few months, and here is a little more information on some of what's on offer:*

**Merchant of Venice** *preview on 8<sup>th</sup> March to whet your appetites followed by full performances in June!*



*Money is Freedom. Debt is bondage. The Lord Lackbeards Touring Company bring their innovative rendition of The Merchant of Venice to the Wellington Irish Society. With only six actors playing more than twelve roles, this fast-paced, engaging and fresh production will show you Shakespeare as fun as it was in 1596.*

*With thrust staging and direct interaction with the audience, The Lord Lackbeards tour Shakespeare productions that connect directly with those watching. In The Merchant of Venice, the Lords will explore questions of privilege and wealth, issues that are as real today as they were in Shakespeare's time.*

## **Ceilidh with The Jimmies**

*As briefly outlined on page 1, our **Ceilidh on 21<sup>st</sup> March (7:30 until late)** will feature The Jimmies who have been at the core of Wellington's Celtic music scene for about 25 years.*



*Anyone going to a Jimmies' ceilidh or barn-dance can be assured of a rollicking good time. You will get to learn dances from the Irish, Scottish, American, New Zealand and Australian traditions which the band will teach and then call as you step them out, to the accompaniment of fired-up jigs, reels and polkas.*

## **A BIT MORE HUMOUR**

### **Paddy Counts His Rabbits**

Paddy wanted to be an accountant, so he went and took the Irish accountancy exam.

Examiner: If I give you two rabbits and then I give you another two rabbits, how many rabbits do you have?

Paddy: Five.

Examiner: No, listen carefully again. If I give you two rabbits and then I give you another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Paddy: Five.

Examiner: Let's try this another way. If I give you two bottles of beer and then I give you another two bottles of beer, how many bottles of beer have you got?

Paddy: Four.

Examiner: Good! Now, if I give you two rabbits and then I give you another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Paddy: Five.

Examiner: How on earth do you work out that two lots of two rabbits is five?

Paddy: I've already got one rabbit at home!



## **REVIEW**

*And finally for this newsletter, we've received a review from Dean Arnott that he wanted to share about his excellent experience at Alistair's Music Shop, Cuba Street:*

"If you are buying a musical instrument in Wellington, you should buy it from Alistair's Music Shop (215 Cuba Street, Wellington, phone 917-4487), no question. Excellent selection of new and vintage instruments, top quality and Alistair is a top man. I bought a sweet, vintage 1970's steel strung acoustic for 200 dollars, unfortunately a couple of the frets needed levelling, which Alasdair was more than happy to take care of but I was going down to the south island for a month the next day so he let me have a 1974 yamaha steel string, which was a little bit more expensive for the same price! I played the guitar for the year and when leaving Alistair then bought the guitar back from me for 60% of the original"

