



# Amhrán na Wien



Hello and welcome to the first edition of Amhrán na WIEN!

The idea for this Irish Newsletter, like all the great ideas, was conceived in a quiet corner of a bar one night by people assuming it would be forgotten by the morning. It wasn't, and in the end this first edition was the product of a lot of fun and its concept, design and content will hopefully reflect that. We created Amhrán na Wien to be a light-hearted guide for the Irish and anyone with an interest in the Irish ex-pat community living in Vienna. We have written these pages as if we are writing for friends and hope that this unofficial guide can help both new members of the Irish community and long-termers enjoy Viennese life that little bit more.

This first edition is very much experimental and we can only build upon this issue with your help. Amhrán na Wien needs your comments, recommendations and ramblings to keep running. Please contact us with your suggestions at [irishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:irishnewsletter@gmail.com). Vienna is a beautiful and fascinating city but we are not experts on life here, any advice will be warmly received.

Amhrán na Wien will be a bi-monthly newsletter. If, like us, you don't exactly know what that means (we had many arguments on it), this little gem will be sent out every two months. Send us your contributions now and make it into the New Year edition.

Thank you for reading Amhrán na Wien and we look forward to hearing from you!

Slán go fóill,  
AnWienTeam

## Embassy of Ireland

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1010 Vienna  
Tel: +43 1 7154246

Monday to Friday, 09.30-11.30 and 13.30-16.30  
Telephone hours: Monday-Friday 9.00 to 17.00

To warm up on a snowy day...

**Weltcafe** – Schwarzspanierstrasse 15, 9.  
[www.weltcafe.at](http://www.weltcafe.at)

Their chilli hot-chocolate is reason alone to head here. This laid-back café is the ideal hangover cure, with the double loungers, foreign newspapers and friendly staff. And with everything on the menu being fair trade you can feel better about yourself when you eventually leave the comfy atmosphere.

**Pe-nuts Cafe:** Greinergasse 36-40, 19.  
[www.pe-nuts.at](http://www.pe-nuts.at)

Are you still searching for the right Xmas present? In the heart of Nussdorf, there is a small souvenir shop full of reasonably priced gift articles selected attentively by a charming young Viennese lady. And to make up for the cold weather outside, tea, coffee, prosecco, body painting chocolate or whatever else you may need to warm up are also available!

## Selection of Upcoming Gigs, Operas, Theatre

Kid Rock	6 Dec	Stadthalle
Public Enemy	10 Dec	Gasometer
Die Toten Hosen	12 Dec	Stadthalle
Flook – with Boris Grebenshikov	15 Dec	Stadthalle
Everlast	21 Dec	Arena
Live from Buena Vista	26 Jan	Konzerthaus

<b>Staatsoper</b>		
Madama Butterfly	13 Nov – 22 Jan	
La Boheme	18 Dec - 3 Mar	
Tosca	29 Nov - 25 Apr	
Il barbiere di Siviglia	5 Dec - 14 Apr	

<b>Volksoper</b>		
Ballett: Der Nussknacker	29 Nov - 13 Dec	
Carmen	7 Dec	

Rocky Horror Show	27 Nov -11 Jan	MQ
Mamma Mia	15 Jan - 22 Feb	Stadthalle

Vienna's English Theatre - Josefsgasse 12, 8.  
Charley's Aunt (Brandon Thomas): Nov 3 - Dec 19

Vienna's International theatre – Porzellangasse 8, 9.  
A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens): Nov 17 - Dec 31



# Christmas and New Year in Vienna

The AnWienTeam tried to make extensive research on the Christmas Markets in Vienna in the hope of recommending our favourite. Unfortunately, no real agreement was found as research rarely extended past the Glühwein stand. That being said, for a slightly different take on the traditional market, we enjoyed the atmosphere at the altes AKH (ninth district) where yummy Punsch over twinkly lights in among the trees had us in fine festive spirit!



Another tip would be the Biedermeier district of Spittelberg, where the cobbled streets and courtyards add a more cosy feel. This market is especially good for children, with regular Santa visits, Kasperl performances in the Spittelberggasse House No. 22, Fredy the Blacksmith showing kids how to forge on an open fire and Santa's workshop where kids create their own fun arts and crafts. Be warned though, this market is not in an open area and while we like the layout it can get extremely busy during peak hours.

**Irish Christmas Festival**  
**17 & 18th December, 20:00**  
**Metropol**  
**Hernalser Hauptstr. 55, 17.**

**Christmas in Vienna – Konzerthaus -**  
**12 December - [www.konzerthaus.at](http://www.konzerthaus.at)**

A hugely popular classical Christmas season event broadcasted and recorded by more than 30 TV stations worldwide.

“Christmas in Vienna” is one of the traditional highlights of Vienna’s cultural and social life.

**There is a beautiful singer in all of us....**  
**Christmas Sing-along 21 December**  
**Konzerthaus - [www.konzerthaus.at](http://www.konzerthaus.at)**

**New Years Eve - If you are not yet sure how you wish to spend the start of 2009, here are a few examples for all budgets:**

- Imperial Ball in the Hofburg Palace: [www.kaiserball.at](http://www.kaiserball.at)
- Banquet in the Kunsthistorisches Museum: [www.gerstner.at](http://www.gerstner.at)
- Die Fledermaus at the Staatsoper: [www.wiener-staatsoper.at](http://www.wiener-staatsoper.at)
- Aboard the Majestic Imperator (“Palace on rails”) train with a Gala Dinner and music: [www.imperialtrain.at](http://www.imperialtrain.at)
- Sail with the Twin City Liner on the “New Year in Bratislava trip”: [www.twincityliner.com](http://www.twincityliner.com)
- Climb Kahlenburg with a rug and a bottle of Sekt and watch the fireworks from above
- Join an expected 700,000 visitors on the New Year’s Eve Trail in Vienna’s Old Town and sample as many of the 80 refreshment stands as you can

**The health-conscious reveller knows that exercise is the only way to get ready for New Year’s partying! Join the New Year’s Eve run (Dec 31 at 11am from the Ringstrassengalerie) and enjoy the sights in the 5.3km journey!**

**[www.lcc-wien.at](http://www.lcc-wien.at)**

**Don your winter woollies and hit the outdoor skating rink with the family.**  
**Wiener Eislaufverein, Lothringerstrasse 22, 1030**  
**[www.wev.or.at](http://www.wev.or.at)**

**For a cultural day out with the kids –**

**The mobilkom austria children's opera tent on the roof terrace of the Vienna State Opera will be showing Wagners Nibelungenring (The Ring of the Nibelung) based loosely on characters from the Norse sagas and the Nibelungenlied.**

**Then take the little darlings for some Kinderpunsch in the Disney-esque Rathausplatz markets before boarding the Santa train!**





The Austro-Irish Society was founded in 1969 in response to the needs created by an influx of Irish people coming to work for Semperit, Aer Lingus, the UN organisations, the Irish Trade Delegation, etc. It had its origins in the “Irish Club”, set up in the 1950s. The Society provided a point of contact for the Irish at a time when there was no resident Ambassador in Vienna, and long before the pubs started to appear on the scene.

The long-term aim of the Society was to promote cultural and economic ties, as well as ties of friendship and understanding between Ireland and Austria. This was achieved by the organisation of lectures, slide shows, social get-togethers and most importantly, by a student exchange programme “English in Ireland”, a very successful language study scheme for Austrian students in Ireland.

The Society continues to provide a meeting point for both its Irish and Austrian members and

friends, the Irish Meeting Point, which usually takes place on the second Tuesday of every month at Molly Darcy’s Irish Pub, Teinfaltstrasse 6, 1010 Vienna. (see Homepage)

On these occasions Pub Quizzes, Ballad Sessions/ Sing Alongs, Dart Competitions, Slide Shows, etc. are held. Further activities organised by the Society include wine tasting, city walks, trips to the Opera in Bratislava, as well as musical evenings in association with other clubs. For an up-to-date list of activities, please visit [www.austro-irish.at](http://www.austro-irish.at)

The Homepage also includes a Membership Form, should you wish to become a member.

Contact: [office@austro-irish.at](mailto:office@austro-irish.at) or Phyllis Frauenberger, 0699 1 26 27 028

**The Austro-Irish Society's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER will take place at Restaurant Prilisauer, Linzerstasse 423, 1140 Vienna.**

**Yet another great evening of music, entertainment, super tombola prizes, good food and good fun!**

## Austro-Irishness, Leprechauns & Curry Chips

Being on time, well organised and a little clinical are just a few stereotypes Austrians seem to perfectly fit into, and that one will have to deal with when living in Austria. But how does one live with both Austrian and Irish blood pulsing through his/her veins?

The best delineation for this inner struggle is picturing yourself with a little leprechaun sitting on one shoulder whispering that it is all right to be late, while there is this strict “voice” in the back of your head telling you to be perfectly organised and dead on time, or even early. In addition the leprechaun develops a craving for Curry Chips and other common habits of Irish nightlife on the weekends, so you are constantly reminded of what you would do if you were at home.

However, besides an inner struggle one has regarding where to refer to as “home”, and having an addiction to tea, dual citizenship of these two specific countries offers several advantages, but should be handled with the thought of obligatory military service, which is actually a great experience and fun to a certain degree, but worth thinking about.

As a final statement I should point out that being Austro-Irish is the best thing that could happen to anybody, although it appears that I have won the jackpot with being from Cork, but that’s a different story...

Robin Kienzl

A big thankyou to Phyllis and Robin for being the first to contribute to Amhrán na Wien!  
So keep those recommendations and articles coming in by sending us an email!

# Vienna Gaels GAA Club

[www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at)

The Vienna Gaels GAA Club was founded in 2004 by members of the Irish Community in Vienna to promote Gaelic Games and Irish Culture. It has grown from strength to strength and our team is the **most international of all European Gaelic football teams**, with a mixture of Irish, Austrian, French, English, Bosnian, American, Canadian, Pole, Spanish, Bulgarian, and even Columbian!



Vienna Gaels is a member of the European GAA. Other European clubs include such cities as Maastricht, Budapest, Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Pamplona, Brussels and Paris. **Tournaments** are organised regionally and over four pan-European Championship & Shield rounds to facilitate additional teams. Seven different venues host Ladies Football European Championship rounds. In June 2004, the Vienna Gaels hosted their first European Gaelic Football tournament at the Hohe Warte. Since then we have participated in many European tournaments including Budapest, Munich and Barcelona.

**Training during the summer months** is every Wednesday from 20:00 in ASKÖ Sportszentrum (Atzgersdorf). Outdoor training will resume in March 2009. The **Membership** fee for the VG's is €30 per year (€15 for students). For further details please see our website: [www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at)

## Social Events

The VG's are more than just a football club. During the year we try to participate in other sporting events, particularly charitable events. The Vienna Gaels girl's team took part in the **SUSA soccer tournament**, which was organised to raise money for SOS Kinderdorf. Four of our team members took part in the **Er&Sie Lauf** in the Prater in November. Our Chairman stole the show by completing the 4km run in an impressive 17 mins!

The Vienna Gaels Committee invite you to join the fun at the **annual Christmas Party** in Flanagans Irish Pub on 12 December from 8pm  
(more info at: [www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at))

The club is represented at most Irish related social events in Vienna especially the huge contingent that attend the **annual GOAL Irish Ball**. We have also organised a number of fundraising events, such as the Jameson pub quiz, which was held in Charlie Ps. Keep an eye on our website for upcoming events, we are planning a bowling night, a small badminton tournament, an outing to the Christmas markets and much more. (Keep an eye out for the distinctive **red "social kit"** sported by team members on outings!)

No ideas for Christmas presents??  
How about an exclusive Vienna Gaels jersey - order yours now by emailing [viennagaelsclub@gmail.com](mailto:viennagaelsclub@gmail.com)



The Vienna Gaels train all year round. **Indoor training** during the winter is taking a break until after Christmas but keep an eye on our website for more information.

The training is a mix of circuit training with Leigh Tueart and football techniques with our coaches Brendan McGuire and Desmond Reilly. Circuit training is a great workout and a great way to keep fit over the winter.



## Winter hunger

Cote Sud - Schleifmühlgasse 8, 1040  
[www.cotesud.at](http://www.cotesud.at)

A small family run French cafe/restaurant hidden on the Schleifmühlgasse in the fourth district. The family, originally from Vorarlberg, provide a friendly, personal service. Delicious food at reasonable prices and the opportunity to rent out the cafe and cook for your friends! Also provides outstanding catering for private events. Closed Sunday & Monday.

Jonathan Und Sieglinde - Riemergasse 16, 1010  
[www.jonathan-sieglinde.com](http://www.jonathan-sieglinde.com)

This place is a haven for all those potato and apple fans out there (should cover a lot of us!). Sit in the warm atmosphere and enjoy the friendly service whilst savouring the numerous potato and apple combinations. Try the weekly menu choices for under €6.

## Winter thirst

Motto - Schönbrunner Straße 30, 1050  
[www.motto.at](http://www.motto.at)

Behind a steel door in a non-descript building in the fifth district is the trendy, friendly Motto. Recently refurbished (the babies on the ceiling are a little distracting...) this bar has not lost any of its charm and the food quality and service remain excellent.

Sly & Arny - Lackierergasse 5, 1090  
[www.foodbar.at](http://www.foodbar.at)

The ANWienTeam seem to enjoy steel doors, having opened yet another into the Sly & Arny. This (dubiously named) bar is a great start to a night out thanks to the yummy cocktails with names that had us giggling as we ordered from the very attractive waiter! Please note that the "Mexican Asshole" is always a bad choice...

Santo Spirito - Kumpfgasse 7, 1010  
[www.santospirito.at](http://www.santospirito.at)

For classical music fans, head to the Santo Spirito where quality food and excellent wines accompany the cosy atmosphere and constantly played classical music that gets louder

## GOAL Irish Ball

The Irish Ball is an annual charity event that raises over €20.000,- each year for the renowned Irish charity GOAL ([www.goal.ie](http://www.goal.ie)).

The evening consists of a cocktail reception and three course meal, followed by dancing, a raffle, an auction, etc. Organisation is already underway for the 2009 10th Anniversary Irish Ball, to be held in March. Specific details have not been finalised but we will provide updates as the months go on.

For further details, our website will soon go live at: [www.irishball.at](http://www.irishball.at)

### What the committee did over the past month

- Hearing Mogwai's excellent new album live at the WUK
- Scottish Ceilidh dancing and subsequently limping from muscle fatigue
- Drinking Mexican Assholes
- Queuing in the cold for Van Gogh
- Wondering where the fourth ANWienTeam member is in the world...

Don't forget to keep us busy over the next two months with all your recommendations/ramblings to:

[irishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:irishnewsletter@gmail.com)

