



Amhrán na Wien



Hello and welcome to the end of 2009 edition
of **Amhrán na WIEN!**

It may be two months until those dreaded New Year's Resolutions but the AnWien team has taken them a bit early. Indeed, in a strive to make this newsletter more accessible, while we thank you (and your inboxes) for being patient with us, we have been looking for a suitable alternative. A huge thank you must be given to the Vienna Gaels Football Club for kindly donating web space for us to use for all editions of AnWien. Please go to <http://www.gaavienna.at/anw.html> and check out our back catalogue and upcoming news. In addition, we have created a Facebook page where readers can join our expanding fanbase. We will be posting regular updates on this site and would love if you posted comments or suggestions to us or, if you must, helpful criticisms! You can find us at www.facebook.com/pages/Amhran-na-Wien/190081030906 (not so succinct!).

Vienna was recently voted the best place in the world to retire to, according to a Forbes magazine survey. Its only drawback was noted as the lack of Mediterranean joie de vivre. Instead, lets bring some colourful Irish "joy of life" to the Viennese cold days with the many upcoming events planned in the run up to Christmas.

As ever, the AnWienTeam thank all those who contributed to this edition and ask all readers to send suggestions to irishnewsletter@gmail.com for future editions.

Slán go foill,

The AnWienTeam

Selection of Upcoming Events

Grizzly Bear	16 Nov	WUK
Electronic Dictionary	16 Nov	Chelsea
The Sleeping Years	18 Nov	Haus der musik
Gossip	20 Nov	Gasometer
Editors	26 Nov	Gasometer
Placebo	27 Nov	Stadthalle
Deichkind	9 Dec	Gasometer
Biffy Clyro	10 Dec	Flex
Regina Spektor	16 Dec	Gasometer

Vienna's English theatre – Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kessel
2 Nov – 22 Dec 2009, 7.30pm daily ex. Sunday

International Theatre Vienna - Porzellangasse 8, 1090
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
Nov 16 – Dec 31, 7.30pm daily ex. Sundays

Feed your colds...

Planter's Club – Zelinkagasse 4, 1010
www.planterclub.com

Enjoy some of the finest cocktails in Vienna in one of the luxurious, super comfy arm chairs in the colonial style Veranda and "Sitting Room" of Planter's Club. In order to secure one of the lusted after leather armchairs in this very stylish bar, go during the week or early at the weekend – it can get pretty hectic on weekends. Overflowing with some of the most beautiful people of this city – it's the place to be seen. The adjoining Restaurant Livingstone serves delicious Asian, American food and is also recommendable!

Planter's Club is an experience – a warm atmosphere to counteract the chilly days!

Der Wiener Deewan - Liechtensteinstraße 10, 1090
www.deewan.at

Der Wiener Deewan is the all-time student hangout - a cool eatery with a range of Pakistani dishes (including daily vegetarian options) in an all-you-can-eat buffet style with the added bonus that you can pay as much as you want. The AnWienTeam love the simple but funky interior and the buzzing atmosphere. With live music played occasionally, this is an affordable and unique place to go and our sheepish smiles when handing over an experimental small(ish) stack of coins was met with friendly banter from the staff.

Shebeen - Lerchenfelderstrasse 45, 1070
www.shebeen.at

Ever have those weekend mornings where all you dream about is the smell of bacon and sausages wafting in from the kitchen? Then head down to Shebeen International Pub, which now serves an excellent full Irish (or English if you prefer!) breakfast, from 12 to 3, for the very modest price of 6.90. And if ever you're already working on fitting into that New Years Eve dress, then go for the healthy version, on offer for the same price.

Embassy of Ireland

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18, 5th Floor, 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



If the thought of Christmas away from the island is getting you down, let our Austrian Christmas tips and traditions bring you back into the festive spirit...



On the 6th of December, Nikolaus comes to reward children (and certain AnWienTeam members) for their good behaviour throughout the year by filling their shoes with chocolates and sweets...however, like the much feared lump of coal in the stocking, there is always the chance that Nikolaus will leave a lump of coal in your shoe, so start behaving in November!



Austrian tradition also recognises another character likely to frighten the bejesus out of the best of us; Krampus, a devil-like figure with horns who carries a chain, was said to be Nikolaus' helper who would punish bold children by threatening to beat them with a rod or put them in a sack and even throw it in the river. In certain parts of Austria, people still dress up as Krampus on the 6th of December and take part in parades.

The most important day of Christmas (let's not forget there are 12 of them!) in Austria is 24 December – on this day the Christkind (Christ child) flies in through the window leaving the decorated “Christbaum” (christmas tree) and presents and bringing smiles to the faces of the country's children (and adults :-). As in Ireland, children write letters to the Christkind describing the presents they would like; these letters are left on the windowsill during advent where they mysteriously disappear overnight.



After the Christkind has been and gone, the novelty of snapping away with that new digital camera has worn off, Granny has been thanked 1,000 times for that gorgeous new jumper and the batteries of that new gameboy have died, it's time to get down to the business of stuffing your face full of Christmas goodies! While all of us know and love the traditional Irish Christmas dinner and treats, some AnWien readers may be interested in trying out the more traditional Austrian goodies. If you should find yourself fed up of turkey breast and stuffing (how could you??), why not try the traditional Austrian-style baked fish – Karpfen - with different types of potato salads – Erdäpfelvogerlsalat or Erdäpfel-mayo-salat. For those of you with a sweet tooth, keep away from the Cadbury's Roses, dust off that apron and get the oven heated up for a few traditional and delicious Austrian Weihnachtskekse. Our favourites are the Vanilla Kipferl und Kokos Busserl!

AnWien's favourite recipe for Vanilla Kipferl

You will need the following – available at your nearest Billa:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla sugar
- 7/8 cup butter
- 2 1/8 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups ground almonds
- 1 pinch salt

You are 9 simple steps away from enjoying the infamous Austrian Vanilla Kipferl. Now throw on that apron and off we go...

1. In a large bowl, combine the salt and flour. Add the butter in cubes.
2. Mix everything together - your hands will do for this.
3. Add the sugar, the egg, the vanilla sugar, and the ground almonds to the flour mixture.
4. Place the dough in the fridge for 30 minutes.
5. Divide the dough into several parts. Make rolls that are approximately 1 inch thick.
6. Cut the rolls into 1 inch pieces, and bend the pieces into the shape of a semicircle.
7. Place the kipferl on a baking tray, and leave them in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.
8. Bake at 200 degrees C for 10 to 15 minutes. When done, remove kipferl carefully from the tray.
9. While still warm, dip the kipferl in a mixture of confectioners' sugar and vanilla sugar, to make them nice and vanilla-esque!

Well done – now all that's left to do is enjoy!



And if the baking is a flop, pop down to the Christmas markets for a huge selection of these Weihnachtskekse or Lebkuchen. Serve up on a plate and no one will know that they are not homemade!

Wash the lot down with a good old seasonal Bock Bier or Glühwein and fall into bed with a smile and a belly Santa would be proud of!





Vienna Gaels GAA Club

www.gaavienna.at

The first snowflakes have fallen, and Vienna Gaels are about to start their long winter's nap... A well-deserved one though as neither the last few training sessions in freezing snowstorms nor the last match of the season in Prague were easy tasks!

Indeed, on the first weekend of October, 12 Gaels and 6 cheerleaders headed down to the Czech capital to play (and support) the first official Gaelic football game ever to be played on Czech soil. The sun was shining, the fans were cheering and the match was very close, only to see the Vienna Gaels unfortunately lose by one point. However, the fun party put on by the Prague Hibernians in the Dubliner pub more than made up for it and we look forward to welcoming this new team to our tournament next Spring.



So that's it for playing until the flowers begin to blossom. However, with Christmas just around the corner, the Vienna Gaels Committee are glad to announce the yearly festive party which will take place on Friday 4th December in Flanagans Irish Pub - wear your seasonal red tops and come meet the athletes!

All details to be found on www.gaavienna.at.

To continue the Sports page....

Why wait for Christmas to shop?

Shopping with Lucie!

"Shopping with Lucie" is a personal shopping tour of the best in modern Austrian designer clothing, accessories, jewellery, house wares and more, all under the guidance of a friendly, expert fashion stylist from New York! Lucie will guide you through the streets of Vienna and share her expert insider knowledge about the city's hidden shops and boutiques.

As well as having worked for years as a wardrobe and fashion stylist for advertising, editorial, television, and catalogues, Lucie also worked as a travel agent making her the perfect shopping guide! As an added bonus on her tour, Lucie's shoppers will also receive a number of exclusive discounts on purchases. There will also be short stopover at a traditional or trendy Viennese Cafe to allow shoppers to reenergize during the 3-4 hour tour.

The AnWienTeam really recommends this tour for anyone searching for unique fashion choices or special gifts. Whether or not you are new to Vienna, there are many places to discover and Lucie makes for the ideal (English speaking!) guide. To find out more about Lucie's shopping tours and how to book, check out: www.shoppingwithlucie.com



Need inspiration for Christmas pressies and fancy a change from Mariahilferstrasse?

Why not head to the designer outlet in Parndorf. Just past the airport and less than an hour from Vienna lays the magical little village of Parndorf - every shopaholic's dream. Parndorf offers designer wear at discounted prices. Get there early to beat the Christmas crowds!

www.designeroutletparndorf.at

If the throngs of people get to you in Parndorf, and the purse strings hanker for less attention, hop back into you car and head further down the road to Bratislava. Not only are the prices more reasonable but you will also find some UK chains, such as the goliath Marks & Spencers, Next and Tescos, in any of the five major shopping centres. The Avion Shopping Park on Ivanska cesta is close to Bratislava airport- www.avion.sk -while the Shopping Park Aupark is the nearest shopping centre to Austria in Einsteinova 18.

www.aupark.sk

If you are prepared to spend a few more Euros, stick to the more expensive city centre, where you will be overwhelmed by the choice of beautiful Slovakian antiques and souvenirs.

Exhausted after all that shopping enjoy a coffee in the picturesque little city, for example in Café Antik just off the Main Square on Sedlarska where we discovered the excellent coffee!



GOAL Irish Charity Ball

The GOAL Irish Charity Ball Committee is putting their heads together to get the 2010 GOAL Irish Charity Ball underway. Discussions with potential venues are ongoing.

If you have any ideas on how to make the GOAL Irish Charity Ball 2010 the best Ball ever, please contact the Committee at:

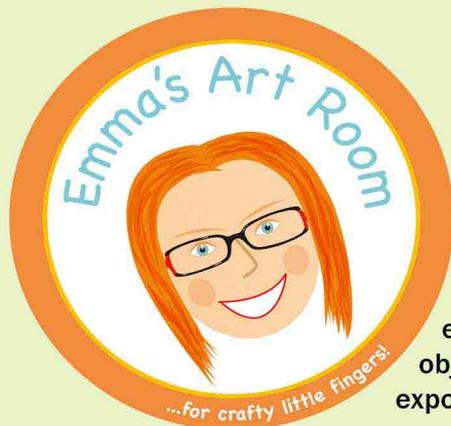
irishballvienna@gmail.com

Watch this space for ongoing updates on next year's Ball!

Irish Christmas Festival

16-17 December

This year will mark the **14th Guinness Irish Christmas Festival** in Vienna at the Metropol. The event, entitled "Dancing in the Future", has two top Irish music acts performing. "Trad Lads and Green Steps" will perform jigs, reels and slides on fiddle, banjo, bodhrán and guitar accompanied by hard shoe dancing. Also appearing will be Slide, a band described by the Irish Time as being a "powerhouse quartet of traditional musicians with attitude.... bringing drawing room grandeur and high spirits together". Surely that's enough to get us all in the Irish festive spirit!



Emma's Art Room

Give your child the chance to explore their artistic genius and have fun painting, drawing, sculpting and designing, all under the guidance of an experienced designer and native English speaker. At Emma's Art Room, all classes are taught through English and are small in size, giving Emma the chance to work with each child individually, demonstrate techniques and encourage creativity and exploration. As Emma says on her website, "The main objective is for your child to have fun, creating something wonderful while being exposed to the English language."

A fellow islander from the Isle of Man, Emma has years of experience in designing for the fashion and home furnishings industry as well as teaching English to children, and she has now combined her two loves of teaching and design to create Emma's Art Room!

Emma's Art Room classes are open to children aged 4-12. Apart from offering 4-week courses, Emma also offers special art themed birthday parties and seasonal classes for Halloween, Christmas, Easter etc. For more information about classes, go to www.emmasartroom.com

Blue Bird Festival

The annual **Blue Bird Festival** takes place this year from 19 to 21 November in Porgy & Bess (Graf Starhemberg Gasse 1a, 1040 Wien). Meteor award-winning Irish singer Gemma Hayes appears on the first of three nights of top acts in this intimate venue. Full details can be found at:

www.myspace.com/bluebirdvienna



The Society's Annual Christmas Dinner will take place on 5 December at Restaurant Prilisauer,

Linzerstrasse 432, 1140 Vienna, including excellent food, live Irish music and the traditional Tombola.

For full details, email office@austro-irish.at

What the committee did over the past months

- * Remembered why we love WienerLinien after waiting for a night bus in London for 1.5 hours
- * Contemplated losing one committee member if the Ireland playoffs on 14 & 18 November do not go our way
- * Wondered why it took so long to put AnWien on the web
- * Realised that Sturm is not to be consumed too liberally

The AnWienTeam would like to thank all those people who encouraged us to keep writing and who helped bring us to this first year anniversary edition.

We also want to wish everyone a happy festive period and New Year!

