

Amhrán na Wien

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

In the January cold the AnWienTeam found a warm fire and drafted what we hope to be another helpful edition of Vienna's Irish Newsletter. We were hugely encouraged by the feedback and recommendations for articles that we received after the first edition. Thank you to those who emailed.

Amhrán na Wien is a bi-monthly newsletter but we have decided that the celebrations around St. Patrick's Day in March warrant a special edition. We will send this out to our mailing list by the end of February. Please continue to send us your recommendations and articles at irishnewsletter@gmail.com.

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

Slán go fóill,
AnWienTeam



Vienna First Irish Film Festival – 13 to 15 Feb
VOTIV KINO - www.votivkino.at

The Irish Embassy and the VotivKino are bringing this exciting new event to showcase Irish film talent.

Friday 13 Feb	Sunday 15 Feb
18.15: THE SNAPPER	12.00: BLOODY SUNDAY
	14.15: O'DONOGHUE'S OPERA
Saturday 14 Feb	FLEÁ CEOIL
20.00: ONCE	RED MIST
22.00: Short film night	

www.votivkino.at/irishfilmfestival/

To warm up your tummy on a snowy day...

Breakfast Club – Schleifmühlgasse 12-14, 4.
Not just the name of a classic 80s' film this cosy café offers some of the best breakfasts to be found in Vienna at the cheapest prices (3- 6 euro)!
Breakfast club caters for everyone's taste, offering a huge range of breakfasts from Irish style bacon and egg breakfasts, to waffles, yoghurts and fruits for the more health conscious. You have to be lucky to get a place as Breakfast club is popular and always full to the brim. If you don't manage to get a place, pop two doors up to "Point of Sale" – another great tip for a hung-over brunch!
Breakfasts in Breakfast Club: weekdays 9 - 14, Saturdays & Sundays 6.00 - 15.00.

Ra'mien - Gumpendorferstrasse 9, 6.
This is a great place for anyone who misses "Wagamama" style Asian restaurants back home. The prices are reasonable (7 – 10 euro) and the fresh-pasta soup dishes ("ramien") are a must!
Watch as the chef makes fresh pasta before your eyes which is then served up in a big bowl of soup with a choice of vegetables, beef, chicken, duck or seafood. Perfect food for a cold winter's day!
Tuesday - Sunday: 11:00-24:00

Le Bol - Neuer Markt 14, 1.
If you're looking for an inviting café/restaurant with hearty salads, excellent wine and stacks of magazines then this is the place for you. One AnW team member particularly enjoys sitting at the huge shared table where she shamelessly practises her French while eyeing up other loners across the table...

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

In celebration of the expansion of Irish film into Austria, Jameson's will be attending the showing of the Snapper (Friday) and the Short Film Night (Saturday) to provide free Jameson's Irish Whiskey long drinks to all valid ticket holders.



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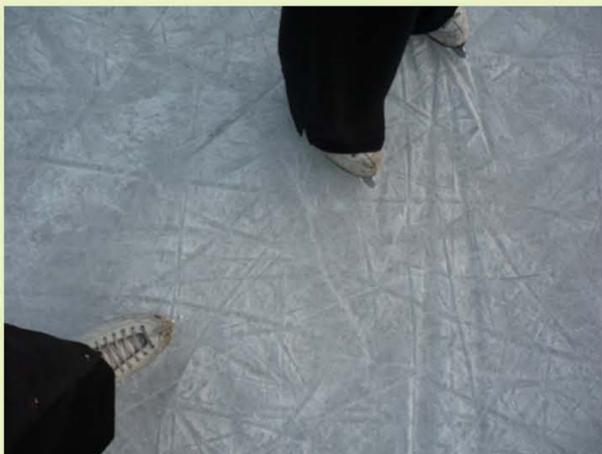




The AnWienTeam are always willing to make extensive research in the name of our Newsletter. However, Valentine's day leaves us with a hint of a puckered brow (no, not bitterness) and so we gave each other the challenge of finding the best Valentine's day date for under €5. Vienna is a romantic city with a multitude of activities for the high-flyers among us, but a miser with an empty pocket needs to show real flexibility.

Date Number 1 for €5 – A date at the Opera

Experience the romantic atmosphere of the Vienna “Staatsoper” or the Volksoper with your loved one for just €2 - 3.50, leaving you just about enough money to grab a glass of wine before the opera and still be within range of our Amhrán na Wien special €5 dates! There is a downside to these “stehplaetze” (standing) tickets - the clue is in the name...that's right, you have to stand! For the first act you will hardly notice the fact that you are standing, so enraptured will you be by the dramatic music, elaborate costumes and breathtaking stage scenery. While it does get tiring by the third act, this is a good opportunity to get closer to your beloved by taking it in turns to lean romantically against each other. Occasionally you can even spot a free seat and grab it at the beginning of the next act! You can't book these standing tickets online – just show up an hour or so before the opera starts and ask for “stehplaetze”. Be prepared to queue - another good chance to get to know your date, so have those funny stories and that charming wit ready!



Date Number 2 for €5 - Ice Skating on the Old Danube

Now this option requires just a bit of organisation – make sure yourself and herself have ice skates or borrow them in time otherwise you may go with option one or three.

Whisk her off on the U1 to the “Vienna International Centre” stop and enjoy an afternoon of romantic skating around the infamous Gänsehäufel, the biggest Freibad in Europe. When she is all skated out, take a romantic winter stroll to the Oberen Alten Donau 6, which boasts the tasteful French restaurant La Creperie. (www.lacreperie.at) A la Creperie you can either snuggle into one of the many nooks and crannies or sit outside with a thick blanket enjoying the sound of the water lapping up around you.....depending on your budget enjoy a hot drink, a tasty crepe or indulge in any of the numerous highly recommendable dishes on the menu – Bon Appétit!

What you get up to afterwards is entirely your own business.....

Date Number 3 for €0– A Walk

While date number 1 and 2 are indeed inventive, I believe in the splendour of “A Walk” and will defend its merits. Walks can be carried out with a special someone in many Viennese endroits. One does not need to be dressed up for the aforementioned walk. In fact, scruffier clothes can often suggest a more avid walker thus allowing for delight from one's partner at the thought of you as an “outdoor, fit and healthy” sort. Conversation is necessary on “a walk” and failure to impress during the required walking distance avoids future wasted spending on follow-up dates. Finally, “a walk” is conducted outdoors. Outdoors can get cold and a cuddle is the best way to fight the Viennese chill! I think I win...The picture is from a recent walk in Potzleinsdorf.



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



and friends, the Irish Meeting Point, which takes place on Tuesday 10.02.2009 from 19:00 onwards at Molly Darcy's Irish Pub, Teinfaltstraße 6, 1010 For an up-to-date list of activities please visit www.austro-irish.at



Irish born singer-songwriter Mark Geary made his name playing in New York venues such as Sin É after emigrating to the US in 1992. He will be

appearing in Vienna in February –

5 Feb – Gasthaus Vorstadt, 1160 Vienna, 20.00 www.vorstadt.at

Selection of Upcoming Gigs, Operas, Theatre

Crystal Stilts supported by M185 (friend of AnW!)

	3 Feb	Rhiz
Tina Turner	7/8 Feb	Stadthalle
Kaiser Chiefs	7 Feb	Gasometer
Vonda Shepard	9 Feb	Gasometer
Pussycat Dolls	23 Feb	Gasometer
Oasis	26 Feb	Stadthalle

Guys and Dolls	27 Feb	Volksoper
The Merry Widow	18+26 Feb	Volksoper
Nabucco	23+26 Feb	Staatsoper

Vienna's English Theatre - Josefsgasse 12, 8.

The Price (Arthur Miller): Jan 26 - Mar 6

Vienna's International theatre – Porzellangasse 8, 9.

Shirley Valentine (Willy Russell): Jan 20 - Mar 21

... and warm up your liver!

Schikaneder - Margaretenstraße 24, 4.
www.schikaneder.at

Check out this alternative bar if you are looking to have a laugh, consume lots of beer and meet young Austrians. On the Schikaneder website, the bar is described as “an area of communication, projection, audition, vision, artistic presentation and alcohol consumption”, and it really is all that! For anyone complaining that they have trouble meeting Austrians, this is the place to go. Schikaneder also has a cinema located in the same building.

Historical fact: When everyone else had turned their backs on Mozart towards the end of his career, theatre owner Emanuel Schikaneder offered him his theatre to premiere his popular opera “The Magic Flute” in 1791, just a couple of months before Mozart's death.

Pessoa Lounge - Favoritenstrasse 7, 4.
www.pessoalounge.com

The friendly and extremely charming Portuguese staff give this place a holiday feel. Go for breakfast or a coffee and read the daily newspapers or enjoy the tasty lunchtime menu. We particularly love the Pessoa Lounge in the evening; a the mixed tapas plate in one hand and the fantastic Portuguese wine in the other....those waiters just get more good looking as the night goes on!

The cosy atmosphere makes this place ideal for an intimate birthday celebration or a team building business event.



Austro-Irishness, Leprechauns & Curry Chips



There is an Irish pub in every corner of the world. Everywhere you go, there are people who claim to be Irish or at least want to be a tiny bit Irish and hang out with the genuine Irish folks. I myself belong in the latter drawer. I live with an Irish girl, I follow her out to the pub and put on a fake Irish accent whenever possible. I was born with a talent for all of the above: I'm Viennese. Irish and Viennese. these two breeds have lots in common. Both like their drink, can recognise sarcasm when they hear it and never articulate the vowels.

Still there's a cultural gap, and there are many examples of Austrian behaviour that the Irish find rather odd or “European”. Driving on the right (no pun intended!) side of the road, allowing animals on public transport and leaving the pub earlier than closing time just to mention a few. Irishness comes with a number of perks for the standard Austrian. Breakfast is one of them. I once brought a selection of sausages to Dublin. Really fatty smoked sausages which had cheese inside them and a diameter of 3 cm. In Vienna this is considered to be a dinner that you shouldn't have too often, as it's heavy and what we call “unhealthy”. The Irish don't hesitate. They have them for breakfast.

Axel Beer

A big thankyou to Axel for contributing to Amhrán na Wien! !

irishnewsletter@gmail.com



Vienna Gaels GAA Club

www.gaavienna.at

In the first edition of Amhrán na Wien, we introduced the Vienna Gaels, briefly describing who they were and what they did. In the next editions of Amhrán na Wien, we shall simply describe, and partly illustrate, what the Gaels have been up to and what their plans are. Because, yes, despite the cold and dreariness outside, the Gaels are staying active, at least on the dance floor, and are getting fit again for the upcoming season.

If you happened to be in Flanagan's on a Friday night in December and caught a glimpse of a whole group of Santa elves dressed in red tops, then you probably saw the famous Vienna Gaels. Indeed, the 2008 Xmas party was one of the year's highlights and made special by the presentation of the Club's new jersey to our generous sponsor, Flanagan's. The elves were of course as industrious as ever and the party was enjoyed by all.

But now it is back to harsh reality with the season start looming large and the "Winterspeck" staying put.



Measures must be taken before training starts in March and our first badminton tournament will take place in February - it remains to be seen whether the Gaels are as talented with a shuttlecock as they are with the round ball....

If you are interested in joining the club and taking part in the 2009 GAA season which promises to be eventful and (hopefully) successful, send us an email at viennagaelsclub@gmail.com or check out our website: www.gaavienna.at

Ireland Seventh in Ring Race

Ireland's only entrant in the annual New Year's Eve road race around the Ring finished a very credible seventh in a field of 3,500 runners. Mark Dooley (20), along with many others, braved sub-zero temperatures to be the first international athlete home, with a time of 17:10. The winner was Voita Andreas, from Austria, in a time of 16:41. Mark, from Celbridge, Co Kildare, is currently studying Sports Science in Dublin City University and was visiting his parents in Vienna during the holiday period when he noticed the event listed in the first edition of Amhrán na Wien.

Winter activities for kids

Keep your kids active this cold winter and discover the ice-skating king/queen in you by taking them to the "Wiener Eistraum" (Viennese Ice Dream) at the Rathaus, open from 23 January to 8 March. The ice rink is open seven days a week from 9am to 11pm, and prices range between EUR 3.50 and 5.50. Skate rental costs an additional EUR 6 for adults, but is free for young children (up to size 6). If you want to keep them out of the cold, why not take them to the "Haus des Meeres" Aquarium (Fritz Gruenbaum-Platz 1, 1060) or the technical museum (Mariahilferstrasse 212, 1140).

RUGBY 6 Nations Tournament 2009

Ireland Fixtures

7 Feb	Ireland vs France	18.00
15 Feb	Italy vs Ireland	15.30
28 Feb	Ireland vs England	18.30
14 Mar	Scotland vs Ireland	18.00
21 Mar	Wales vs Ireland	18.30

Made by You – pottery painting

www.madebyyou.net

Try out your artistic side by painting a personalised mug for a loved-one. One AnWTeam's mother grimaced at receiving a "post-modern yet Victorian styled" butter dish...

10th IRISH GOAL CHARITY Ball VIENNA 28 MARCH 2009 Intercontinental Hotel



Johannesg. 28, 1037 Vienna
For tickets and further information, please
contact the Irish Ball Committee at
info@irishball.at
www.irishballvienna.at

So folks get out your diaries and mark in the most prestigious Irish Charity event in Vienna in 2009!! The last edition of AnWien gave you a taster for the Ball, here are more details: The night kicks off at 7pm. with a champagne reception in a relaxing ambiance of harp music, followed by the InterContinental's best gourmet 3-course meal, check out the dessert buffet; Irish dancing by Irish Fire will get your knees tapping (www.irishfire.at); a raffle and an auction provides you with the opportunity to win and bid for fantastic prizes; live music (the Committee wouldn't yet reveal the great band they've acquired this year!) and a disco to dance your socks off long into the night! A photographer will be on hand to capture those precious moments. Guinness, Jameson and Stiegl are on tap till the early hours in return for a generous donation to charity.

Tickets are now on sale so get in there by emailing info@irishball.at Also if you'd like to sponsor the Ball by providing prizes for the raffle or auction or a donation in cash, please send an email to info@irishball.at For further info visit our website www.irishballvienna.at or join our Facebook group. This fun night will raise at least €20.000 for one of Ireland's most renowned charities, GOAL, working worldwide to help the poorest of the poor – www.goal.ie

What the committee did over the past month

- came first in Charlie P's Pub Quiz
- drank Monkey's Piss in the Flying Pig
- went to the Notwist concert
- welcomed the 4th ANWienTeam member home

Don't forget to keep us busy over the next two months by sending all your recommendations/ramblings to:
irishnewsletter@gmail.com

Amhrán na Wien's Guide to Waltzing

Every winter Vienna is gripped by ball fever, and that means waltzing time! While some of you may have learned the steps by now, most of you are probably still oblivious to this exotic dance. However, it is 99% likely that you will be confronted with the waltz at some stage, whether it be your gorgeous new fella/girl asking for your hand at a ball, or Oma wanting to dance the Blue Danube with you on new year's eve! To avoid disappointing your Austrian friends and family, we've come up with several easy steps which will have you waltzing your way into Oma's affections in no time!

The Viennese waltz is a rotary dance which should be danced in a closed position in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, which basically means you must stand very close to your partner and dance in circles while counting to 3. Sometimes you do this in a clockwise direction, sometimes in an anti-clockwise direction. Easy so far eh?

Step 1: Find a smooth surfaced floor and grab a friend (or a broomstick), and slap on your favourite Strauss CD. If for some reason you don't own a Strauss CD, head down to Karlsplatz u-bahn station where they play waltz music outside the "opera toilet" 24/7. The floor there is more than suitable for your waltzing needs. Waltzing here has the added advantage that if you can't find a friend to practice with you, there is bound to be at least one person in this bustling station willing to help you out!

Step 2: If you are the leader, place your right hand on your partner's back between their shoulder blades, and take your partner's right hand in your left, stretching your left arm out. Now you're in control and ready for action!

Step 3: Step forward on your right foot while turning it 90°. Put your left foot forward while you spin around your partner 180° on your right foot, landing toe first on your left foot then bringing in your right foot alongside it and leaving your partner suitably impressed. Confused? The next part is easy.

Step 4: Now take small steps while your partner spins around you. Take a small step backwards with your left foot, aligning the toe with the heel of your right foot. Now pivot 180° on the left foot, and at the same time, place your right foot in front of you (You'd be forgiven for thinking that this is the description of a very complicated ballet dance, but this really is waltzing!). Now bring your feet together, back to the position you started in. If you're not the leader, then do all that backwards (not literally – do step 4 followed by step 3).

Bear in mind that you should be doing all this at 180 beats a minute, which is the dancing equivalent of about 180 km/h!. If all after all this advice, you still find yourself relentlessly stepping on Oma's toes, just break into a jig and that should keep everyone happy until next waltzing season! (For lessons on breaking into a jig, check out www.dancecenter.at/u1)

Disclaimer: AnW bears no responsibility for any injuries incurred while carrying out these steps. It should be noted that the author has never danced a waltz in their life!