

# Amhrán na Wien

Hello and welcome to the special St. Patrick's Day edition of **Amhrán na WIEN!**

Vienna turns very green over the month of March when the Irish and all those with an interest in the Irish Community come out in force to celebrate St. Patrick's Day or Lá Fhéile Pádraig as we say in Gaeilge (in Irish). For those of us living away from the Emerald Isle, St. Patrick's Day is a great time to don the green hats and celebrate our Irish traditions. If the celebrations can be spread over a few days then full advantage must be taken and the AnWienTeam hopes that this edition will facilitate social planning for the month!

We have kept it very short since it is the special edition but the usual bar reviews, gig listings, etc. will return with the next edition in May 2009. Please keep sending us your recommendations, the AnWienTeam love nothing more than trying out a new bar or activity in Vienna. All emails to [irishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:irishnewsletter@gmail.com) are read within one day and always appreciated greatly!

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh go léir!  
Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone!

The AnWienTeam

## Selection of Upcoming Irish Gigs

Na Mahones ó Inis Beag	5 Mar	Interspot-Filmstudios
David Kitt	13 Mar	St Patrick's Day Tent
Blackbush	14 Mar	Kulisse
Zappa & The Wild	18 Mar	Headquarter Vienna
Irish Lasses		Globetrampers
Roadie Rowdy Piper	18 Mar	Café Concerto
St. Patrick's Day with Davin Galien	20 Mar	Headquarter Vienna
Runrig	23 Mar	Arena
The Rapparees	28 Mar	Irish Charity Ball

## 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

## Who was that Patrick fella?

St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, was born Maewyn Succat in Roman Britain. At the young age of 16, he was kidnapped from his father's estate and taken to Ireland as a slave where he worked for 6 years as a shepherd (on Slemish Mountain, County Antrim) before escaping back to Britain. There, he became a Christian priest, later a Bishop, and returned to Ireland as a missionary to spread Christianity. March 17 (now celebrated as St. Patrick's Day) is said to be the day he died.

Although St. Patrick is famously credited for driving all the snakes out of Ireland, it is unlikely that there were any snakes in the first place. In many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes out of Ireland was probably symbolic of St. Patrick having ended the pagan practice and bringing Christianity to Ireland.



Get ready for an evening of fun and friendly competition as the Austro-Irish Society is holding a darts evening on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm! The Society has held two dart competitions to date which have been a great success. No previous experience is necessary and there will be an expert on hand from a local darts' organisation (Dartverein) acting as Master of Ceremonies and giving guidance throughout the evening. If you would like to participate, please send an email to: [office@austro-irish.at](mailto:office@austro-irish.at) or phone 0699 126 27 028 to ensure that the Society knows how many enthusiastic dart players to expect!

Important note: This event and future Austro-Irish Society meetings will take place in a new location - "Sword & Crown Irish Pub", Obere Augartenstraße 72, 1020 Vienna, directly beside the U2 U-bahn station "Taborstrasse" (exit Taborstrasse).



## St Patrick's Day Festival

The Embassy of Ireland in association with various sponsors will host the St Patrick's Day Festival in Vienna from March 13th to March 15th inclusive. As in previous years, this festival will take place in a marquee set up beside the Burgtheater on the Ring, and offers a great entertainment programme for all ages throughout the weekend. A large variety of traditional Irish music bands and dance troops will perform. Culinary delights such as Irish stew and smoked salmon on soda bread, as well as the traditional green beer will be served by Charlie P's and Flanagan's Irish Pubs.

The St Patrick's Day celebrations commence on Saturday morning with a special mass in the Schottenstift church, which has a long history of Celtic relations. It will be followed by the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade – meeting point is the Freyung – the parade proceeds down Teinfaltstrasse to the Burgtheater - so get yourself and the kids dressed up and join the parade! Exclusively for our readers, the ANW team will disclose parts of the festival programme – this is however yet subject to change.



### Friday 13th March

18.00: Tent opens

18.30-19.30: Live Irish Music

20.00-22.00: Main Act: David Kitt: Dublin-born David Kitt is an "Irish Choice" Music Prize nominated songwriter and performer, whose music is a mixture of subtle traditional Irish elements and an electronic touch. Since 2000 he has released an astounding five successful albums, making it to number one in the Irish charts, and has toured Europe many times, supporting acts such as Tindersticks and Mercury Rev. (<http://davidkitt.net>)

### Saturday 14th March

10.00: St Patrick's Day Mass at the Schottenstift on the Freyung (1st district)

10.45: St Patrick's Day Parade from the Freyung to the Burgtheater - The parade gains in strength from year to year and really is a chance to show our Irish pride. It would be great to have the 2009 parade the most impressive one yet so come along and support the Irish in Vienna!

12.00 tbc: Face Painting for Children

13.00-16.30: Traditional Irish Music

16.30-17.00: Irish Dancing

17.00-20.00: Traditional Irish Music

20.00-21.30: Main Act: Ciúnas (<http://www.ciunas.at/>)

### Sunday 15th March

12.00: Tent opens

12.30- 15.30: Traditional Irish Music

16.00-16.30: Irish dancing

17.00-20.00: Traditional Irish Music

You can find all information (updated regularly) about the festival on the website: [www.stpatricksdaywien.at](http://www.stpatricksdaywien.at).

The ANW team hopes to see you there, promoting and discovering the Irish culture!

## St. Patrick's Day Céilí (Irishes Tanzfest)

The Irish Dance Group, Cumann Céilí Vín, is holding their annual Céilí on 14 March 2009 at 8pm with live music from "Na Mahones ó Inis Beag".

The Céilí takes place at Ada Christen Gasse 2 b, Haus der Begegnung, 1100 Wien, and more information can be found on the website [www.cumannceilivin.com](http://www.cumannceilivin.com) or by calling 06765443413

In a continuation of the "Green feeling" for the month of March, the AnWienTeam have to point out the greenest musical show in Vienna. The Vienna Vegetable Orchestra performs solely on instruments made of fresh vegetables! Using such instruments as carrot flutes, pumpkin basses, leek violins and celery bongos, the orchestra creates a sound that is unique in the world. Look out for upcoming shows at: [www.gemueseorchester.org](http://www.gemueseorchester.org)

If the need comes for some "greenery" of the traditional kind then head to the Palmenhaus in the Burggarten, 1010 ([www.palmenhaus.at](http://www.palmenhaus.at)) . Situated in a beautiful, huge greenhouse behind the Hofburg and overlooking the formal terraces of the Burggarten, one can relax from the Paddy's Day celebrations by sitting under the palm trees and feasting one's way through contemporary Viennese cuisine or some tasty pastries and coffee. You can also add more greenery to the day by paying a visit to the neighbouring butterfly house: [www.schmetterlinghaus.at](http://www.schmetterlinghaus.at)



# The 10th Annual Irish GOAL Charity Ball

The Month of March will end with the prestigious Irish GOAL Charity Ball. As reported in our previous editions, the Ball is being held in the Intercontinental Hotel on 28th March 2009 from 7pm.

**10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@irishball.at) [www.irishballvienna.at](http://www.irishballvienna.at)

The committee have been working tirelessly in an effort to make this Ball the most successful yet. However they have requested your help and support to ensure that GOAL receive a large donation, which will once again go towards helping the poorest of the poor around the world. The Ball is being booked out fast, especially with the news that **The Rapparees**, an award winning Irish traditional band, will be flying over to play and have you all ceili dancing until the very small hours. From their humble beginnings playing small crowds in rural Antrim, this band have begun to take Ireland by storm, sharing stages with the likes of Shane MacGowan and Cara Dillon, as well as astounding audiences at a host of music festivals both at home and abroad.

## What the committee did over the past month

- tried the helpful AnW tips for waltzing at a Ball only to lose the tip of one toenail
- swore never to drink Slippery Nipples again
- checked out up and coming M185 band in Rhiz
- informed Austrian friends that St. Patrick drove the snails out of Ireland, having gotten mixed up in some crucial German vocab.....

For those of you who have not yet checked out the programme, log on to [www.irishballvienna.at](http://www.irishballvienna.at) for all information and regular updates. Furthermore, the ever-increasing raffle and auction prize list is becoming more interesting by the day, what with an hour's coaching lesson with a former Wimbledon Champion, a one week luxury golfing villa by the sea and a trip to Berlin staying in the luxurious Intercontinental Hotel all up for grabs.

Aside from distinctive poster and flyer advertising (as seen here), which AnWien readers may have encountered at the recent Irish Film Festival, the Ball has been mentioned on FM4, who are strong supporters of this annual event and have offered once again another exciting prize – yet to be revealed!

All in all, this event seems to be shaping up nicely and the AnWienTeam urge you all to consider buying the ticket for an excellent night of fine food, good drinks and excellent music in an ambience of Irish culture with all proceeds going to GOAL.

Furthermore, the AnWienTeam wishes the 10th GOAL Irish Charity Ball every success -

*Go n-éirí an bóthar leo!*



## The Vienna Gaels



March has arrived which means the Gaelic Football season is about to kick off! So, girls and boys, get your dusty boots out of the cupboard and come down to the pitch @ **Atzgersdorf** on **Wednesday March 18th at 8pm** for the first training session of the year. Whether you've played before or have never even heard of the game till now, you're very welcome to come along and give it a go. You can find all information about the pitch, the training and the current squads on our website: [www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at)

However, if you're still a bit hesitant about us and would like to meet us first, we'll have a stand in the St Patrick's Day tent on March 13th-15th and our members will be there to answer any questions you may have. And for our fans, we will also be seen in our finest gear at the Vienna Gaels table at this year's Irish Charity Ball in the Intercontinental. Either way, you really cannot miss us this month!

Also, congratulations to the Franco-Bulgarian pair Alice and Irina who won the Vienna Gaels doubles badminton tournament last month, and a warm thank you to all those who participated!

