



## November-December 2012 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

Christmas Greetings.

It's that time of year again and we have celebrated our annual Christmas dinner at the clubrooms. We were delighted to see such a wonderful turn-out. Many thanks for all the support!

During the past year we've seen lots of familiar faces at the various club events but as always this is a shout-out to all members and friends, if you're in town on a Friday or Sunday evening, you would be made very welcome at the clubrooms and bar.

Congratulations to the Auckland Irish Society on a very successful Feis, we've heard nothing but great reports of a very enjoyable weekend had by our local members who attended. Next year will be the turn of the Wellington Irish Society to host the Feis and we will need as much support and help as we can get to make it an equally special event.

As president of the Wellington Irish Society I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and peaceful Christmas. Many thanks to the committee members for their help, support and hard work during the year, I hope you enjoy the summer break and I look forward to working with you again in the New Year.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh,  
Jim Henderson.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and if you have any feedback, please send it to [secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com](mailto:secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com)

Rgds  
Jim Henderson  
President



# Coming Events

---

## Christmas 2012

### Opening Hours

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	OPEN
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	CLOSED

Clubrooms will be open as usual from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013

---

## Club Picnic – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013

We will be hosting the Club Picnic in  
Queen Elizabeth Park on Sunday 20th January 2013.

Lock in the date now and we'll update you with more details in due course

## Races for kids starting at 11.30am

Listen to the Breeze for possible cancellation on the day

# Recipe Corner

## Recipe Corner

### Roast Goose with Potato Stuffing



#### Goose Ingredients

- 10 to 12 pound goose
- Salt
- Pepper
- Potato stuffing (see recipe below)
- Applesauce (see recipe below)

Preheat oven to 450°F.

#### Stuffing Ingredients

- 6 cups boiled potatoes, peeled and diced
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon ground sage
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley

#### Goose Directions:

Clean the goose and remove any large pieces of interior fat. Pierce the goose in several places in the skin with a fork. This will help release the goose fat as it cooks. Rub with salt and pepper. Lightly fill the goose with the Potato stuffing (see recipe below). Place on a rack in an uncovered roasting pan. Roast for 15 minutes or until the skin starts to brown. Reduce heat to 325°F and roast 25 minutes to the pound. Pour off any excess fat as it roasts. There will be quite a bit of fat. The goose is done when the skin is nicely browned and crisp and the drumstick moves easily. Serve with the hot applesauce.

Serves 6 to 8

#### Potato Stuffing:

Pass the potatoes through a ricer or food mill, and then place them in a large bowl. Melt the butter in a frying pan and pour over the potatoes (leave a little butter in the pan for the onions). Blend well. With the butter that is left in the frying pan sauté the onions over low heat until they are translucent. When done add the onions to the potato mixture. Add the sage, salt pepper and parsley. Blend well.

Makes enough for a 10 to 12 pound goose

# Your Newsletter



Calling all members!

It's time to review our current newsletter in terms of content.

If there's anything you'd like to help with or contribute to the newsletter, we'd be delighted to publish it.

Even if you're not in a position to contribute but have ideas for content, please get in touch as well.

**All suggestions and questions can be emailed to us at**

**[newsletter@wellingtonirishsociety.com](mailto:newsletter@wellingtonirishsociety.com)**



# History of Christmas

The **history of Christmas** is something to learn, because Christmas as we know is a relatively new phenomenon. The celebration of Christmas as a joyous commemoration of peace, love and the advent of Jesus Christ has only been in popularly celebrated since about the 1820's when a book called *The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall* was published by Washington Irving. Published in 1834, by Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' further supported the notoriety and popular celebration of the Christmas Holiday. The popularity of this book was so potent that it is still synonymous with Christmas to this day.

Other common signs of the season like the Christmas trees, mistletoe wreathes, lights, and Santa Clause or Father Christmas are even newer in the history of Christmas celebrations. The earliest Christmas traditions were much more religiously oriented and solemn than today's joyful Christmas parties. Celebrated any time from March to December the earliest Christmas celebrations were passed in fasting, not feasting.

## **Timing is Everything**

The date universally recognized, December 25th, as marking the birth of Christ and officially opening the Christmas season was contested for hundreds of years. Because the earliest Christians didn't celebrate Christmas, and over one hundred years elapsed before Telesphorus, the second Bishop of Rome, declared that a special church service would be held to mark and hallow the birth of Jesus. No one was sure of the date of Christ's birth so the celebration and week of worship was held in September. From this time on Christmas was held in one fashion or another, but the date was not fixed.

## **A Name and Date**

The Date of December 25th and the name Christmas didn't come into existence until 325 AD. It was Constantine the Great who declared December 25 as the official birth date and proclaimed the observance of what he termed Christmas that was not to be moved each year. This was done in part to replace and sweep away the last vestiges of the pagan holidays that had traditionally celebrated during the winter solstice.

## **If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them**

The assimilation or resignation to the popularity of the Christian observance of Christmas has been a theme. For example, Christmas celebrations were once banned by leaders of churches and nations. Notable bah-humbuggers include Oliver Cromwell who banned Christmas from 1649-1660. Now secular and religious leaders participate freely and even encourage celebration the Nativity. Other signs of assimilation include lights, Christmas trees and even mistletoe. These Christmas traditions all have their birth in the pagan celebration of the Festival of Lights during the winter solstice. Early Christians participated in these celebrations to avoid harsh persecution of the time. As Christianity became the prevailing custom, these traditions took on new Christian meanings.

As for our modern celebrations, they are joyful family centered and the source of childhood memories and magic that last a lifetime. The history of Christmas is a great reminder of those that have come before us. What ever your celebrations include may they be merry and bright.

# Notices

- ◆ We would like to offer our congratulations to Donal & Maryanne Kavanagh on the birth of their Son Leroy Sean born on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- ◆ Congratulations to Leanna & Myself on the birth of little Conor Shawn born on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- ◆ Looking for New Barmen for 2013 – If interested please contact us
- ◆ Gaelic Football National League takes place on January 19<sup>th</sup> at Ian Galloway Park. Celebrations afterwards at the Irish Society.
- ◆ The Wellington Irish Society building is available to hire for members and non-members.

The downstairs hall includes a bar and kitchen and a large dance area.

The hall can be hired for all your needs including all birthday's from 21st to 90th, corporate functions and even wedding receptions.

# National Feis 2013

## *Wellington 2013*

Wellington will be hosting the National Feis in October 2013. To help make this a success we will require your support.

Everyone can help make the weekend a success, and remember that no job is too small so whatever you can help out with will be appreciated.

We'll create a register of helpers for the weekend so if you're keen to help, can you let us know and what you'd be available to do on the weekend.

Thanks again.

## *A Christmas Funny*

### **A Car for Christmas**

Danny had recently passed his driving test and decided to ask his clergyman father if there was any chance of him getting a car for Christmas, which was yet some months away. 'Okay.' said his father 'I tell you what I'll do. If you can get your 'A' level grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your bible and get your hair cut, I'll consider the matter very seriously.'

A couple of months later Danny went back to his father who said 'I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and the work you have put into your bible studies is very encouraging. However, I have to say I'm very disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut yet.

Danny was a smart young man who was never lost for an answer. 'Look dad. In the course of my bible studies I've noticed in the illustrations that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair.' 'Yes. I'm aware of that...' replied his father '... but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?'



# Club Contacts

The following are the contact details of the Committee in 2012-13

Role	Name	Phone Number	Email
Club Patron	Colleen O'Donovan		colleen@ihug.co.nz
Club President	Jim Henderson		president@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Vice Presidents	John Whitty		johnwhitty@paradise.net.nz
	Margaret Grealish		margaretgrealish@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Conor Healey		conor.healy@paradise.net.nz
Secretary	Lilian Mackey	04-3848535	secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Membership Officer	Paul Murray		membership@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Committee Members	Paul Beres		
	Eoin Darby		
	Paul Murray		
	Trevor O'Halloran		
	Jim McMeekin		

**For details of hall hire please ring the club on 384-8535 and leave a message with your number. We will ring you back with details.  
Alternatively, check the club website for online bookings.**

Please send any Newsletter details to [Newsletter@wellingtonirishsociety.com](mailto:Newsletter@wellingtonirishsociety.com)

## Club Contact Details

**Phone Number** 04-3848535

**Address:** 10 Fifeshire Avenue  
Cambridge Terrace  
Wellington

**Postal Address** Wellington Irish Society  
PO Box 449,  
Wellington

**Email Address** [Secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com](mailto:Secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com)



# Wellington Hutt Valley GAA

Hi everyone,

2012 has been another very busy year in the annals of Wellington & Hutt Valley GAA.

We continue to go from strength to strength in attracting new players to the great games of football and hurling.

A huge part of our ethos is fostering a social and inclusive culture for people of Irish origin and New Zealanders interested in learning about our games. To this end we have been very successful and have welcomed many new players again this year.

We also hosted our very first GAA Rose of Tralee competition and it was a huge success. It is something that we will continue to run and hopefully we can take out the national title in the years ahead,

2012 also marked the start of the NZ National League, this has been a while in the making and it has been fantastic to see it come to fruition.

The Wellington Leg will take place on January 19<sup>th</sup> at Ian Galloway Park and we look forward to seeing you all out there on the day. Medal presentations will take place at the Wellington Irish Society later that evening.

Our social league will continue into 2013 as well on Wednesday evenings , so if you have kids or grandkids interested in playing can you direct them to [www.wellingtongaa.com](http://www.wellingtongaa.com).

Thanks again for your support in 2012 and we wish you all a happy Christmas and a great 2013

Rgds  
Dave Rynne  
Vice President

Wellington & Hutt Valley GAA

# An Irish Christmas Carol

## *Christmas in Killarney*

The holly green, the ivy green  
The prettiest picture you've ever seen  
Is Christmas in Killarney  
With all of the folks at home

It's nice, you know, to kiss your beau  
While cuddling under the mistletoe  
And Santa Claus you know, of course  
Is one of the boys from home

The door is always open  
The neighbors pay a call  
And Father John before he's gone  
Will bless the house and all

How grand it feels to click your heels  
And join in the fun of the jigs and reels  
I'm handing you no blarney  
The likes you've never known  
Is Christmas in Killarney  
With all of the folks at home

## *Irish in the News*

### Influx of Irish, British workers

Up to 600 Irish and British workers are expected to flock to Christchurch over the next six months, an overseas recruitment expert says.

Three hundred workers are needed immediately in Christchurch, with hundreds more expected to arrive from Europe by mid-next year, Scott Mathieson, the director of Auckland-based migration services business Working In, told The Press.

The company held career expos in mid-November in Dublin, Manchester and London, which would bring in "a significant amount of people to Christchurch".

"For the Irish, where the unemployment rate is 14.8 per cent, the idea that they can get employment down here is really good," Mathieson said.

Hundreds of Irish and British people have already arrived for the rebuild. Immigration New Zealand figures from September showed Britain, the Philippines and Ireland head the list of countries providing labour in the city.

Britain was well ahead with 214 visas, followed by the Philippines with 80 and Ireland on 69.

Christchurch's Irish Society has seen its membership more than double since the quake, suggesting even more Irish people have already arrived for the rebuild.

Working In is holding another round of expos in Ireland and the United Kingdom in March.

"It's really started to heat up, there's quite a lot of pressure," Mathieson said.

"I would be expecting, from that last round of expos, to get 500 to 600 more workers in the next six months."

He said suitable New Zealand workers had become too hard to find.

"Obviously, it's about Kiwis first - but even talking to the clients, they're saying: 'We can't get New Zealanders to do this'. We can't even find people with low-level skills."

Advanced Personnel national operations manager Ryan Densem said the recruitment firm was unable to find skilled tradespeople quickly enough.

"We can't find enough skilled Irish people willing to come across. We can't find enough tradespeople, predominantly carpenters and people within the civil and construction industries, full stop. We've got so many unfilled jobs in these trades, it doesn't make a difference where we get them from as long as their skills line up with New Zealand's standards."

He said the Irish were in demand as their skills and training were comparable with New Zealand's.

Advanced Personnel already has a recruitment co-ordinator in Ireland, he said. So far, about 20 of its recruits had come over.

Managing director Matt Jones of recruitment firm Canstaff said they were looking for workers "from tradesmen upwards", and the company had shifted their focus to find them.



"A Kerry footballer with an inferiority complex is one who thinks he's just as good as everybody else."

*- Author John B. Keane*

***"Repeated from 2011 in memory of Paidi O'Sé"***