



November-December 2011 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the November-December 2011 Irish Society newsletter, I hope that this newsletter finds you all fit and well.

Now that the Rugby World Cup is over for another 4 years, you can all relax and settle back into the normal routine. The All Blacks have silenced their critics this time around and claimed the trophy for the first time since '87.

The Irish Team did us all proud and unfortunately didn't build on a great group stage and bowed out in the Quarters.

Back to all things in the Irish Society, We've got a lot of events happening over the next couple of months and it's all detailed inside.

Our Christmas dinner is happening in the club on November 26th, it was a great event last year and this year promises to be even better. So book the date in your diaries and let us know if you're attending. More details inside.

In 2012, there are some great concerts happening in New Zealand with Daniel O Donnell and Sharon Shannon visiting. All the ticket details are in this newsletter.

With the festive season soon upon us, we have a historical description of St Stephen's day (known here as Boxing Day) and details of hunting the wren!

With Halloween just gone, we've also got the Celtic history of the night and where the event started.

Along with all of the above, we have the usual, what's in a Name? Riddles, Recipe, Family Notices etc.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and if you have any feedback, please send it to secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

Rgds
David Rynne
Secretary



Coming Events

Christmas Dinner – 26th November 2011

This year's Christmas Dinner will take place on the 26th November in the Irish Clubrooms.

The club will be open from 6:30pm with the main meal being served at 7:30pm.

Tickets are \$30 each (\$10 for children) and admittance will be by ticket only.

Tickets will be available from the 1st November to 23rd November and there will be NO DOOR SALES

You can order your tickets by leaving a message on the clubs phone at 04-3848535 or emailing secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

We'd love to see you there

Club Picnic – 22nd January 2011

We will be hosting the annual (no so annual in recent years!) Club Picnic in Queen Elizabeth Park on Sunday 22nd January 2012.

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

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

Daniel O'Donnell NZ Tour 2010



Daniel O'Donnell is proudly presented by Adrian Bohm with special guest Mary Duff.

Ireland's most popular 'easy listening' singer, DANIEL O'DONNELL returns to New Zealand in February/March 2012. Daniel has enjoyed tour and chart success in New Zealand for over two decades which has earned him a loyal following all around the country. A native of Kinscasslagh, Co. Donegal in Ireland, Daniel took his first tentative steps into the musical spotlight as a member of the local church choir.

Daniel's concert appearances since have taken him from London's Royal Albert Hall to New York's Carnegie Hall, but he still continues to set himself fresh ambitions and new worlds to conquer. He may be an Irish superstar, but Daniel remains as excited and enthusiastic about his work and his fans as when he first launched his career in 1982. Daniel has never forgotten that it was the public who gave him his success, especially as he struggled long and hard to achieve his ambitions.

On Sale Monday 31st October 9am

Tour & Ticket Details

27-Feb-12	INVERCARGILL	CIVIC THEATRE	Ticket Direct 03 211 1692 www.ticketdirect.co.nz
28-Feb-12	TIMARU	THEATRE ROYAL	Ticketek 0800 TICKETEK www.ticketdirect.co.nz
1-Mar-12	PALMERSTON NORTH	REGENT ON BROADWAY	Ticketdirect 0800 4 TICKET www.ticketdirect.co.nz
2-Mar-12	AUCKLAND	TOWN HALL	The Edge 0800 BUYTICKETS (289 842) www.buytickets.co.nz
3-Mar-12	HAMILTON	FOUNDERS THEATRE	Ticketek 0800 TICKETEK



Riddle Me This?

Last Month's Answers:

1. An Echo
2. Water
3. Music
4. Nothing
5. Sand
6. The Letter R
7. DAVID (Roman numerals)
8. A Hole
9. Halfway. After he gets halfway, he's walking *out* of the forest.
10. A Teapot

This Month's Teasers

1.
Whoever makes it, tells it not.
Whoever takes it, knows it not.
Whoever knows it, wants it not
2.
I am, in truth, a yellow fork
From tables in the sky
By inadvertent fingers dropped
The awful cutlery.
Of mansions never quite disclosed
And never quite concealed
The apparatus of the dark
To ignorance revealed.
3.
You saw me where I never was and
where I could not be. And yet within
that very place, my face you often see.
What am I?
4.
I turn polar bears white
and I will make you cry.
I make guys have to pee
and girls comb their hair.
I make celebrities look stupid
and normal people look like celebrities.
I turn pancakes brown
and make your champagne bubble.
If you squeeze me, I'll pop.
If you look at me, you'll pop.
Can you guess the riddle?

5.
Say my name and I disappear. What am I?
6.
What is it that after you take away the whole,
some still remains?
7.
A box without hinges, lock or key, yet golden
treasure lies within. What is it?
8.
Forward I'm heavy, but backwards I'm not.
What am I?
9.
Reaching stiffly for the sky,
I bare my fingers when it's cold
In warmth I wear an emerald glove
And in between I dress in gold
10.
I can be long, or I can be short.
I can be grown, and I can be bought.
I can be painted, or left bare.
I can be round, or square.
What am I?

Halloween's Celtic Origin

The origin of Halloween is a far cry from modern tradition's vampires, trick-or-treating and candy corn. Dating back about 2,000 years, Halloween was originally called Samhain, and marked the beginning of the Celtic New Year.

Roughly translated from Irish Gaelic, Samhain means "summer's end," according to "Creating Circles & Ceremonies: Rituals for All Seasons and Reasons" (Career Press, 2006). In ancient times, the holiday marked the transition from the "light" part of the year to the "dark" portion, as daylight hours became shorter and the weather grew colder. For this reason, the holiday is also known as "harvest's end" and "winter's beginning."

The day was celebrated starting at sundown on October 31 and through the day on November 1. It was believed that Samhain is when the veil between this world and the spirit world is thinnest, and departed spirits can return to mingle with the living.

All Saints Day began to take the place of the Celtic Samhain holiday when the Christian Church began to spread throughout Ireland, around 700 A.D., according to "Ireland" (Random House, Inc., 2007). The night before All Saints Day, October 31, came to be called All-Hallows Eve, Hallowmas, or Halloween, according to "Creating Circles & Ceremonies."

"Like many other pagan festivals, the Christians adapted Samhain and made it a Christian event," said Joan HanniganVogt, a spokesperson for the Tara Circle, an Irish cultural organization in Yonkers, N.Y. "The Celtic people used to celebrate the event by wearing costumes, which represented various Celtic deities."

The ancient Celts also lit bonfires to guide the souls of the deceased to "the other side," played funeral games and kept hearths burning all night for protection from evil spirits. The custom of handing out candy on Halloween stems from the Celtic tradition of giving food and money to costumed celebrants, just in case they were the physical incarnations of lost souls.

The jack-o'-lantern, a Halloween staple, also has its roots deep in Celtic soil. Based on a folklore tale about a forlorn ghost named Jack, jack-o'-lanterns were originally made using a hollowed-out turnip with a small candle inside, and were set out during Samhain to guide lost souls — and scare away evil ones.



Join us at the Wellington Irish Clubrooms for an evening of Documentaries and Craic.

See below for all the details.

We'll be showing the documentaries **at 6pm** on the following nights

Sunday 27th November - Shkelton at the South Pole

In 1914, explorer Ernest Shackleton set out to become the first man to cross the frozen wastes of the Antarctic continent on foot; however, a combination of treacherous conditions, unexpected changes in weather, and simple bad luck left Shackleton and his crew of 28 men stranded in one of the world's most unforgiving environments for nearly two years.

Membership Cards 2011-12

We'll be issuing the Wellington Irish Society 2011-2012 Membership Cards and receipts in January.

I know some have been asking about the lack of membership cards so far, apologies for the delay but we want to issue them all together.

So, if it has slipped your mind to pay for this year, it's not too late, Check out the payment options at www.wellingtonirishsociety.com

Thanks

Dave



SHARON SHANNON BIG BAND

Kiwi eyes and ears will be smiling as famed Irish accordionist Sharon Shannon's infectious tunes and seven-piece big band light up the Town Hall.

Sharon Shannon is a woman who knows how to get a party started. Just ask Barack Obama or Bill Clinton – Shannon has performed for them both. She has also toured and recorded with a veritable who's who of musicians including Bono, Sinéad O'Connor, Steve Earle and Mark Knopfler. Not bad for an accordionist from the tiny village of Corofin in Ireland's County Clare.

Accompanied by her big band, featuring some of the greats of rock and jazz (including the renowned Richie Buckley on saxophone) Shannon's flying fingers and infectious enthusiasm effortlessly lead the way through rock, funk, Cajun, blues and jazz. Get ready for a Town Hall Gig to remember, because good times don't get much better than this.

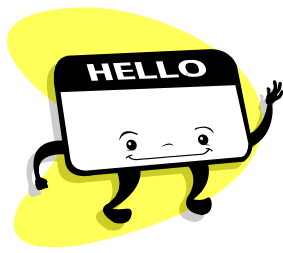
Sponsored by Village Accommodation

EVENT & PRICING INFORMATION

Venue: Wellington Town Hall, Wellington
Date: Wed 14 Mar 2012 8:30pm

Ticket pricing:

A Reserve	Adult	\$68.00
Friends		\$63.00



Whats in a Name?

McCarthy

McCarthy- Mac Carthaigh

From the word Cartach, meaning loving, the surname McCarthy ironically dates back to a clan more notorious for their disputes with their neighbors than a 'loving' nature. Also found as MacCarthy and McCarty (as well as Carthy and Carty), the name still has some 30,000 owners in Ireland today, most of whom can be found around the clan's original home in County Cork.

The earliest holder of the name seems to be Carthach, Lord of Eoghannacht, who died in 1045. A rival of the legendary Brian Boru, it was Carthach's grandsons Tadhg and Cormac who first used McCarthy as a proper surname. It was Tadhg McCarthy who became the first King of Desmond (following the division of Munster into Thomond and Desmond), and the McCarthy's continued to dominate much of Munster for the next four centuries.

Another notorious McCarthy in Irish history was Fineen McCarthy – who originally resided at Cork's Blarney Castle, and has been credited with being responsible for the passing of the word blarney into common usage as meaning a verbal smokescreen or deceptive nonsense.

In recent history, 'McCarthyism' has taken a more sinister meaning, thanks to the U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. McCarthy's anti-communist stance and pursuits during the 1940s and 50s meant thousands of Americans underwent aggressive questioning and prosecutions under the suspicion of being a communist or communist sympathiser, most of which were later deemed unconstitutional and were discovered as having been carried out with little or no credible evidence.

This gave rise to the expression 'McCarthyism', which became a widespread term now described in the Cambridge Dictionary as meaning 'the act of accusing someone of something that is considered unacceptable by many people, especially when you have no proof.'

Other famous McCarthys include former Ireland soccer player and manager Mick McCarthy and author Cormac McCarthy. English born Mick McCarthy represented Ireland 52 times on the pitch as an international footballer and has had a long and varied career as a British club manager, having been at the helm of Millwall, Sunderland and, currently, Wolves, as well as the Republic of Ireland team. He was eligible to play for the Irish side thanks to his father, Charles, being Irish, and he went on to become a first-choice player and captain of the Irish side.

Cormac McCarthy is an acclaimed author who wrote No Country for Old Men (later made into a major, Oscar-winning Hollywood film of the same name) and won a Pulitzer Prize for his novel The Road. Born in Rhode Island in 1933, McCarthy was christened Charles, but later changed his name to Cormac after the legendary Irish King.

Notices

- ◆ We would like to offer our congratulations to Patricia Budding on the birth of grandson Rory John born on Monday 31 October 7lb 14oz. Mum Esther is back home and both are doing well
- ◆ Congratulations too to Lilian Mackey on the birth of Granddaughter Georgia Elizabeth recently. Georgia was born to Lilian's Daughter Sinead.
- ◆ All at the club would like to offer a get well soon to Peter Hannigan, Peter has been unwell lately and is in our thoughts and prayers.
- ◆ Liam Mackey is rehabilitating from a stroke and will spend some time in Kenepuru, Get well soon Liam.
- ◆ Our Deepest sympathies to the Heffernan Family on the death of their father Jerry who died recently.
- ◆ Thanks to the person who returned the painting that went missing from the club on St Patrick's Day, your honesty is appreciated.
- ◆ 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.

St Stephen's Day - December 26th

Feast of St. Stephen

December 26th is the Feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Stephen was one of the early disciples who joined the Church in Jerusalem when it was in its infancy following the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

Chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament describes how the Church quickly grew to the point where the Twelve Apostles (Matthias had been elected to replace Judas who had betrayed Christ and then committed suicide – See Acts, Chapter 1) could no longer provide both spiritual leadership and run the day to day activities of managing the ever growing Church.

It was then decided to select ... seven men acknowledged to be deeply spiritual and prudent... to oversee the day to day management of the church. The first of the new disciple selected was ... Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,

The Story of St. Stephen

In addition to having a deep faith, Stephen was also very intelligent and articulate and this caused some powerful people in Jerusalem to see him as a threat.

They persuaded some men to make the charge that they had heard him speaking blasphemies against Moses and God, and in this way they incited the people, the elders, and the scribes. All together they confronted him, seized him, and led him off to the Sanhedrin

Stephen defended himself eloquently the motive of his accusers was power, not justice, and, to protect their power they needed Stephen dead.

Without waiting for the trial to end, the mob rushed Stephen, dragged from the court and through the streets of the city to the outside of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. There they stoned him to death.

The Celebration of St. Stephen's Day

St. Steven's Day is an official holiday in Italy, Finland, Ireland and some other countries. It is also celebrated in some other countries as an official or unofficial holiday. In England and the English speaking Commonwealth countries it is known as [*Boxing Day*](#) and celebrated as an official holiday under that name.

In Ireland, December 26th is celebrated under the name of St. Stephen's Day or sometimes referred to as Wren Day.

Today the holiday is celebrated in Ireland very much like Boxing Day is celebrated in nearby England. But much of the lore of the day centers around a little bird known as the wren.

In rural Ireland in times past, groups of young men and boys would dress in old clothes and blacken their faces. They would then capture and kill a wren, and march from house to house, carrying the dead wren on the top of a pole, and asking for a treat or money to bury the wren.

In some places the custom was to give a feather from the wren in exchange for the money or treat. Today the practice of killing a wren has ceased but the marching and singing of the Wren song continues. There are various versions of the Wren song. The version below was found on many sites but most appear to have taken it from [Irish Festivals.Net](#)

*The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,
On St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze,
Although he is little, his family is great,
I pray you, good landlady, give us a treat.*

*My box would speak, if it had but a tongue,
And two or three shillings, would do it not wrong,
Sing holly, sing ivy--sing ivy, sing holly,
A drop just to drink, it would drown melancholy.*

*And if you draw it of the best,
I hope in heaven your soul will rest;
But if you draw it of the small,
It won't agree with these wren boys at all*

Why Pick on Wrens?

Why is it that the memory of a martyred saint is honored by the killing of an innocent little bird?

Well, despite its sweet song and small size, the wren has not received good press through the ages.

In northern countries the reappearance of the robin is a sign that spring is coming with all its warmth and promise of new life.

According to some ancient legends the wren, which retains a visible presence during the dreary winter months, represents the old year that dies with winter while the robin represents the New Year and return of spring. These legends have the robin reappearing at this time of the year and killing the wren thereby announcing the death of the old and birth of the new.

Then there is the legend about the little wren tricking the mighty eagle by first suggesting that the eagle use its mighty strength to fly high above the earth to catch the beautiful melody that resided in that region. As the eagle was about to take off, the wren hid itself on the back of the eagle hitching a free ride to the upper regions of the sky.

The eagle, tiring of the climb, gives out just before reaching the area of the beautiful melody. But the wren, who had been riding on the eagle's back and had expended no energy up to this point, jumped off the eagle's back and flew to the region of the melody where it captured the melody and returned to earth as the possessor of the melody.

Another legend has it that St. Stephen had eluded his enemies and gone into hiding but that a wren singing on a nearby tree attracted the attention of Stephen's enemies and they found him. This legend connects the wren to St. Stephen.

A legend with a direct Irish angle has it that the position of an Irish army defending the land in the 700s from attacking Vikings was given away at night as wrens landed on drums to eat bread crumbs left there from the soldiers' evening meal.

Whatever the source, wrens became a central part of this Irish custom. A custom that, in modern urban Ireland, keeps the props associated with the wren but no longer requires the killing of wrens.

Ireland's New President

Michael D. Higgins, a 70-year-old poet and politician, has been elected Ireland's new president.

Considered an elder statesman, the Irish Labour Party candidate-turned-president elect is a former government minister.

He is to be Ireland's ninth head of state and is scheduled to be inaugurated on November 11; one day after President Mary McAleese leaves office. McAleese has been head of state 14 years, completing two seven-year terms.

The other six candidates -- including former Irish Republican Army commander Martin McGuinness -- have all conceded defeat.

McGuinness's campaign had been dogged by questions about his past ties to the IRA, an armed group that fought against British authorities in Northern Ireland but has since renounced violence.

He had been consistently third in opinion polls, while businessman and reality TV star Sean Gallagher had been vying alongside Higgins for the top spot.

Critics blamed Gallagher's performance in the country's final televised debate for his collapse in the polls.

McGuinness is expected to return to his role as Northern Ireland's deputy first minister.





Club Contacts

The following are the contact details of the Committee in 2011-12

Role	Name	Phone Number	Email
Club Patron	Colleen O'Donovan		colleen@ihug.co.nz
Club President	Margaret Grealish		margaretgrealish@yahoo.com
Vice Presidents	John Whitty		johnwhitty@paradise.net.nz
	Jim Henderson		plastercoat@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer	Conor Healey		conor.healy@paradise.net.nz
Secretary	David Rynne	04-5897109	secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Membership Officer	Paul Murray		membership@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Committee Members	Kerry Dwyer		greenink@xtra.co.nz
	Tony O'Riordan		
	Paul Murray		
	Jim Maguire		Jm.flooring@xtra.co.nz
	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 Secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

Club Contact Details

Phone Number **04-3848535**

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Wellington

Postal Address Wellington Irish Society
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"A Kerry footballer with an inferiority complex is one who thinks he's just as good as everybody else."
- Author John B. Keane