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# Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

## “The Luck Of The Irish”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests  
(mystery not murder version)

*by Stephanie Chambers*

Third edition

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## The Suspects

The King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy has had his pot of gold stolen. Who was the devious thief? Was it one of the little people or one of the local Irish lads or lasses? Or was it Laoghaire – the High King? Saint Patrick himself is here to investigate.

**Hendo Barrett** (*leprechaun*) I'm not a grotesque goblin – I'm more of a mischievous elf. People see me sneaking around but I'm no peeping Tom, I just like to keep an eye on what's going on. I pop up here, I pop up there – from behind a bush and so on, but I'm harmless. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes such as a green hat and pants with a large brass belt buckle.

**Maeve Barrett** (*Hendo's wife*) I never quite know how Hendo comes up with the housekeeping money he gives me as I never sees him doing any work. When I ask he mumbles something about finding a four-leafed clover. I supplement our income by sewing pointy hats for other elves. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes such as a green pointy hat and a skirt with a large brass belt buckle. You can make the pointy hat out of felt or other material or cardboard if these aren't available.

**Rory O'Hara** (*leprechaun*) I'm a traditional cobbler. I mainly makes shoes and boots for other little people. I am very hardworking and the shoes I make are very hard-wearing and tough. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

**Aileen O'Hara** (*Rory's wife*) I help Rory by polishing the boots he makes. Rory is the best cobbler in all of Ireland and I am very proud of the shoes we make together. When I polish them, they shine so much you can see your face in them. I'm a jolly person and I laugh a lot in spite of my worries. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

**Magee MacMahon** (*Irish lad*) I am a blacksmith. My father was a blacksmith and his father before him. I make horseshoes for the little people as well as the normal folk. I am strong and very industrious. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes and a large green apron. Carry a horseshoe and some billows for the fire.

**Tara Fitzgerald** (*Irish lass*) I knit sweaters and I sell them at the market. Some people think I always have my nose in the air and that I act as if I am above everyone. Maybe I am. Or maybe I am just avoiding the bad smells in the gutters around here. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes and a green sweater (also known as a "jumper").

**Malone MacSweeney** (*Irish lad*) I love to play the fiddle fast and furiously. I am a shepherd by day and a musician by night. When I play, feet start dancing and the sheep if they hear, they start moving too. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Carry a fiddle and/or a shepherd's hook.

**Bridget O'Connor** (*Irish lass*) I'm a traditional dairy maid. I helps milk my parent's cows. There's nothing nicer I think than to rest your head against a warm jersey cow while squirting milk into a pail. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Carry a metal milk bucket and a little stool to sit on when milking. Or just carry a jug of milk.

**Desmond Laoghaire** (*High King*) I'm a powerful leader. Saint Patrick lit a fire just before I was about to light the official fire in order to get my attention. I was impressed with Saint Patrick. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head.

**Mona Laoghaire** (*High Queen*) I am Laoghaire's wife. I live the luxurious life of a lady of the royal court. I am always admired for my elegance, my beauty and my fine dresses and dainty shoes. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet dress. Wear a crown on your head.

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## The Witnesses (optional)

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### 20 Witnesses (optional extra roles)

#### 16 special witnesses

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**Saint Patrick** (*chief investigator*) I was born in England but I was taken as a slave to Ireland as a youth. Later I escaped back to Scotland and became a priest. One day I heard Ireland calling to me and so I traveled over and spent more than 30 years converting the Irish pagans to Christianity. It was I that explained the Holy Trinity (ie the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost) to King Laoghaire. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes & monk's gown or a white collar or cross.

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**Robbie Gilroy** (*King of the Leprechauns*) I rule over all the little people and after years of collecting their taxes I have managed to amass quite a big crock of gold. I hid this in the crook of an oak tree in the forest and now someone has stolen it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head.

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**Mary Gilroy** (*Queen of the Leprechauns*) I am Robbie Gilroy's wife. I enjoy being wealthy and I love lying around listening to harp music. I think I was born to be a queen. I'm sure Robbie will find his gold. He's probably just forgotten where he hid it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a long dress. Wear a crown on your head.

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**Prince Cavan** (*King Laoghaire's son*) I am a rebel and I disagree with everything my parents want me to do. They are old and boring and I am young and exciting. I intend to make my life one big adventure. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head, crooked, or back the front.

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**Princess Kathleen O'Rourke** (*potential bride for Prince Cavan*) I don't like Prince Cavan at all, but my parents want me to marry him. He may be good looking but he is arrogant and conceited. I want to marry for love not money. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet dress. Wear a crown on your head.

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**Dermot MacDermot** (*leprechaun*) I am Rory and Aileen's daughter's husband. I'm not very smart but I work hard to support my growing family. My wife's father keeps the whole family, including me, in shoes. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes, boots or belt.

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**Amena MacDermot** (*Dermot's wife*) I am Rory and Aileen's daughter. I have five children which keeps me too busy to worry about anything else. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes, boots or belt.

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**Anwell Barnewall** (*leprechaun*) I am Rory and Aileen's daughter's husband. I'm a bit clumsy at times but I'm good hearted. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes, boots or belt.

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**Erin Barnewall** (*Anwell's wife*) I am Rory and Aileen's daughter. I've got the biggest and the best shoe collection in the county. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

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**Sheridan O'Kelly** (*elf*) I work for the King of the Leprechauns, Robbie Gilroy. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

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**Cassie Maguire** (*dressmaker*) I am Queen Mona's dressmaker. She's always wanting new dresses which keeps me busy. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Have a measuring tape around your neck and carry some pins and sewing thread.

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**Una** (*a female frog*) I live in a pond near King Gilroy's tiny castle. When it rains I croak loudly enough to wake everybody up. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a green frog's outfit.

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**Hurley Burke** (*Irish lad*) I work as a servant for King Laoghaire. I like my job but the wages are poor so I don't have enough money to get a girlfriend. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes.

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**Tully O'Byrne** (*Irish lass*) I work as a maid for Queen Mona. She is so fussy about her clothes. Never wants to wear a dress twice in one month. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Wear an apron and bonnet.

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**Evan Costello** (*Irish lad*) I work as a goldsmith. I love gold. It's my favorite metal. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Carry something gold you have made.

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**King Liam Killarney** (*Irish lad*) I am very important. I am the King of the nearby Kingdom of Connaught. When my subjects see me they bow down. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head.

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**4 Irish children**

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**Aidan O'Connor** (*very young Irish lad*) I am Bridget's younger brother. I collect toads. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes and carry some toads.

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**Paula O'Connor** (*very young Irish lass*) I am Bridget's youngest sister. I like dolls and playing with the animals. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Bring a doll and wear your hair up in green ribbons.

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**Boyne MacDermot** (*very young leprechaun*) I am Dermot and Amena's son and Rory and Aileen's grandson. I am very naughty but I don't care. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green children's clothes.

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**Sine MacDermot** (*very young elf*) I am Dermot and Amena's daughter and Rory and Aileen's grand-daughter. My grandparents love me. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green children's clothes.

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**Suspects**

Hendo Barrett (suspect)
Maeve Barrett (suspect)
Rory O'Hara (suspect)
Aileen O'Hara (suspect)

Magee  
MacMahon  
(suspect)

Tara  
Fitzgerald  
(suspect)

Malone  
MacSweeney  
(suspect)

Bridget  
O'Connor  
(suspect)

King Desmond  
Laoghaire  
(suspect)

Queen Mona  
Laoghaire  
(suspect)

**Witnesses**

<b>Saint Patrick</b>	<b>King Robbie Gilroy</b>
<b>Queen Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Prince Cavan</b>
<b>Princess Kathleen O'Rourke</b>	<b>Dermot MacDermot</b>
<b>Amena MacDermot</b>	<b>Anwell Barnewall</b>
<b>Mary Barnewall</b>	<b>Sheridan O'Kelly</b>
<b>Cassie Maguire</b>	<b>Una</b>
<b>Hurley Burke</b>	<b>Tully O'Byrne</b>
<b>Evan Costello</b>	<b>King Liam Killarney</b>

<b>Aidan O'Connor</b>	<b>Paula O'Connor</b>
<b>Boyne MacDermot</b>	<b>Sine MacDermot</b>

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

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## **“The Luck Of The Irish”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the:*

# *Clues*

## **“The Luck Of The Irish”**

*Clue page for the witnesses  
Print as many copies as you need.  
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### **What I can reveal**

*Staple their Why clues here*

*Staple their How clues here*

### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“The Luck Of The Irish”**

*Hendo Barrett*

### **What I can reveal**

I’ve never met the King of the Leprechauns – Robbie Gilroy. I’m just a simple leprechaun who likes to wander around the woods. The fact that I was seen in the same area where the King hid his pot of gold is a pure coincidence. I move about here and there. Now you see me, now you don’t. I’m like a firecracker – I pop up here and there. Sometimes I give people a bit of a fright too because I’m so unexpected. I like watching them jump. Hee Hee!

I don’t have a proper, ordinary job but my wife Maeve understands. I find things here and there – not pots of gold mind you, just smaller things – and I give them a rub and a dub and I sell them to people I meet in the village or wherever. Maeve and I aren’t rich but we get by. Lucky we don’t have kids to feed. We never found any in our cabbage patch – we don’t know why.

### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects, & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you about the brass pot you were selling, say “It was only an old brass pot that I bought cheap from someone and gave it a good clean up. It has never come within a league of gold of any kind – only coke for the fire.”
- 3 If anyone asks you if you were in the woods today, say, “I’m here, I’m there, I’m everywhere!”

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“The Luck Of The Irish”**

*Maeve Barrett*

### **What I can reveal**

I never see any rainbows let alone pots of gold. The idea that every leprechaun has a pot of gold is baloney. For a little extra money I sew hats for people to hide under. There are a lot of people with secrets in these parts – not that I am pointing my finger in any particular direction.

Hendo’s a bit sneaky but he does put coins on the table each week – where he gets them from, I’m not really sure. It doesn’t pay to ask too many questions I always say.

Our little house is tucked in the hollow of a glen. There is grass growing on the roof and sometimes Malone’s sheep go up there to graze. And we blow our candle out early at night as we don’t want to encourage the night goblins to visit.

### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you why you were asking for forgiveness in Church, say that you swore when you pricked your finger with a needle when sewing, and felt bad about saying such words.
- 3 If anyone asks what you meant when you said you and Hendo had had some luck, just say “Oh it is silly really. Hendo found a four-leafed clover in the woods. I didn’t want my friends to realize that I believe in such things. That’s why I didn’t say where our luck came from.”



*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## “The Luck Of The Irish”

*Rory O’Hara*

### **What I can reveal**

I make the best shoes, belts and bags in the county. That’s my trade. Sometimes I add shiny buckles to the shoes and the belts. Little people like a bit of brass, because although we’re small in stature, we’re big in pride. But the King of the Leprechauns, Robbie Gilroy, takes his pride too far. He doesn’t care if his high taxes make us poor folk starve. He already has a fancy house and servants – while we folk live in hovels. He is just greedy.

I’m a hard-working man and every penny has come from my own toil. Sometimes my wife Aileen helps me too. Our children are all grown up and left home. We like living on the edge of the woods. The birds whistle. They don’t even seem to mind the sound of my hammer pounding the leather. They still keep chirping.

### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you why your children say you have been secretive, tell them you and your wife have been discussing what to do for money once your eyesight fails and you can’t work anymore. Tell them you don’t want your daughters to worry about you and your wife.
- 3 If anyone asks you about swimming in the river, tell them you never go near the water because you are afraid of the water nymphs who pull you down and drown you.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## “The Luck Of The Irish”

*Aileen O’Hara*

### **What I can reveal**

When our two darling daughters got married, Rory made them the most beautiful wedding slippers. Over the years we have made hundreds of shoes and belts and people say ours are the best in the county. Everybody wears them. Sometimes even the big people come and ask us to make shoes for them. But they have to bend over double to get through the doorway, and their feet are so big, we need lots and lots of leather.

We live quite comfortably. Mind you, I don’t waste a thing. I like to keep the purse strings pulled tight. I think the King has just forgotten which tree he hid it behind. There are lots and lots of trees in the woods and they all look the same. Forgetfulness is a common problem amongst leprechauns. Sometimes you don’t know if they really ever had a pot of gold ‘cause sometimes the truth is as slippery as the moss in the glen.

### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you where you were rushing yesterday, say “Oh I was preparing a pudding and I realized I didn’t have enough lard so I was going to my neighbor’s down the road to borrow some. Because we live so far from town we often help each other out like that.”
- 3 When someone asks what you will do when Rory can’t make shoes anymore, tell them you’re too proud to ask for help from anyone but you’ll manage somehow.