



Archive Fact Sheet: Iveagh Trust



Play Centre 'The Bayno' GDB/ PE14/0033.20

The Guinness Trust was set up in 1890 by Edward Cecil Guinness with endowments of £200,000 for activities in London and £50,000 for activities in Dublin. A separate office for the Trust was set up in Dublin.

Iveagh Trust Housing

The Dublin Artisans Dwelling Company (DADC) acted for the trustees in Dublin in selecting properties and erecting buildings until the arrangement ended in 1892. In 1891 the DADC erected the first 'Trust' dwellings at Thomas Court. The Thomas Court dwellings were located at the corner of Thomas Court and Bellevue on land acquired from Lord Meath's estate. They comprised two large three storey red brick blocks with 118 tenements. These were sold to the DADC in 1895.

Further Trust housing projects included those at Kevin Street, Bull Alley, and later in Crumlin.

**If you have any further questions about the history of Guinness please contact us at: Guinness Archive, GUINNESS STOREHOUSE®, St. James's Gate, Dublin 8
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Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 09:30 to 17:00 by appointment**

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Kevin Street

The Kevin Street development, located on the corner of New Bride Street and Kevin Street, was erected in three phases. In the first phase between 1894 and 1901, three blocks were built, with 336 apartments (584 rooms). Two further additions were made in 1933, and between 1938 and 1949. In 1933 a block of 20 self contained tenements each with three rooms were erected. Between 1938 and 1949, 200 balconnette flats were built, also featuring eight ground floor shop units.

Bull Alley

The Bull Alley development was located between Bull Alley and Bride Road. In 1899 Lord Iveagh obtained powers in 1899 under the Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Act to acquire and clear the area and erect new buildings on it entirely at his own expense. Building work started in 1900 with the clearance of the site. In a 1903

Act of Parliament the Guinness Trust Dublin Fund was amalgamated with the Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Scheme to form the Iveagh Trust, and the Bull Alley buildings bear this name. The finished development had a total of 250 tenements of varying sizes. There were further additions to this housing development including the erection of the Iveagh Hostel (opened 1905), Iveagh Baths (opened 1906), and the Iveagh Play Centre (opened 1915).

Crumlin

In 1925 the Trustees decided to build a further development of 'cottages' on the Crumlin Road. These cottages were two-storied family houses of four or five rooms. These so-called 'cottage dwellings' were erected over a ten year period from 1926 – 1936. The finished development comprised 136 houses, providing housing for 637 people.

St. Patrick's Park

The idea to create a cathedral park originated in the 1860s with Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness, as an enhancement for St. Patrick's cathedral. However, it was not until

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1897, that funds were set aside to complete the park which is approximately two and a half acres in size. The Park was handed over to Dublin Corporation as public park.

Iveagh Market

In 1906, Lord Iveagh established an enclosed market on Francis Street, to replace the traditional street markets on Patrick Street and Patrick's Close, which were displaced by the creation of St. Patrick's Park. Thus, the old trading privileges as granted until the city charter of Charles 1 were maintained. The Iveagh market building was designed by F.G. Hicks and conveyed as a free gift to Dublin Corporation for the sale of old clothes, vegetables and fish.

Iveagh Hostel

The Iveagh Trust also operated a Hostel for Single Men on Bride Street. Opened in 1905, the hostel contained 508 cubicles on the four upper floors with public facilities such as a dining room, smoking room and reading room on the ground floor.

Iveagh Baths

The Iveagh Baths opened in 1906 and contained 18 private baths for men, 9 for women and a swimming pool 65 feet in length with a water purification plant and a spectators gallery. On opening, the Iveagh Baths were regarded as a much-needed and important contribution to the improvement of Dublin's public health.

Iveagh Play Centre

The Iveagh Play Centre at Bull Alley was opened in 1915. It was the successor of an earlier centre set up by Lord Iveagh, Edward Cecil Guinness in Francis Street. The play centre was built at a cost of £38,000 and in order that it should be fully utilised, Iveagh endowed it with a gift of £10,000 before vesting it in the Ivy Trust. A further £2,500 was donated out of Trust income to the working of the centre

Spacious and well designed, the Play Centre was equipped with classrooms, large halls, offices and reception rooms. The Centre was open five evenings and one

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morning, catering for boys and girls between the ages of three and fourteen with a grading of ages. The children were taught a wide range of practical subjects including basket-making, mat weaving, needlework, drawing and painting, dancing, singing and gymnastics. Free refreshment, the traditional cocoa and bun, was provided to all children and mainly for this reason the Centre was popularly known among residents of the surrounding Liberties as the "Bay-no" (beano or party). Large scale Christmas parties attended by hundreds of local children were an additional attraction.

In the mid –1960's new inner city housing development led to an increased school population in the surrounding area and there was a growing demand by local people for a local Vocational School. In 1969 a wing of the Centre was let to the Dublin Vocational Education Committee and in 1977 the V.E.C. purchased the entire building and established the Liberties Vocational School.

Information extracted from: F.H.A. Aalen, *The Iveagh Trust, The First Hundred Years, 1890 – 1990*, Iveagh Trust, Bull Alley, Dublin, 1990.

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