



## **The History of The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway**

Ardilaun, or Glenarde House as it was then known, was built around 1840 as a town house for the Persse family who were distillers and had large estates in South Galway. Many of the Persse family hold a place in local history. Augusta became Lady Gregory, co-founder of the Abbey Theatre. Burton was founder of the Galway Blazers and a well-known race horse trainer; his best horse was probably the Tetrarch. In 1922, the distillery closed and soon afterwards the Persse family sold Glenarde House and Estate to Mr Patrick Boland, of the famous Boland's biscuit family. The Bolands lived at Glenarde until 1961, when the property with 5 acres was acquired by Mr. & Mrs. Patrick D. Ryan and its conversion into a hotel commenced.

When Ardilaun House opened as a hotel on St. Patrick's Day 1962, the mansion had been entirely redecorated and modern amenities provided, while much care was taken to preserve as much character and atmosphere of the old mansion as possible. There have been many developments at the Ardilaun since those early days. By 1977, the need for further expansion was evident and in two developments a further fifty en-suite bedrooms were added. A new dining room was also constructed and Conference facilities were added. The land and woods were landscaped and provided pleasant walks for hotel guests.

1999 saw major investment and upgrading of the Hotel and its facilities. A Superb New Leisure Club was added, comprising of an 18-metre deck level Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi, Sauna, Steam Room, Gym, Aerobics Room and a Health and Beauty Salon. renovations also took place in the public areas and conference facilities, with the addition of a new meeting room and a dedicated boardroom. The Hotel was relaunched as the Ardilaun House Hotel Conference Centre and Leisure Club.

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The Ardilaun saw the largest development to date in 2007 which included: additional 36 bedrooms en suite, including 4 garden rooms, redevelopment of the Main Banqueting Suite, Main Bar, Lobby/Foyer, Façade, Carpark & Access Routes, and extension to the Camilaun Restaurant and outdoor terrace area.

In 2009 saw the hotel's most recent addition to the hotel's facilities finishing off The Ardilaun's €12 million development which included 12 redeveloped De Luxe bedrooms and a new Bistro adjoining Blazers Bar which is a welcome development to casual dining at the hotel.

The Ardilaun now has 123 bedrooms, including 5 suites. The hotel is Four Star Failte Ireland & AA approved and is renowned for a high level of personal service and attention to detail. Apart from its Irish clientele, the Ardilaun attracts many American, British and European guests who are impressed by its quiet location within easy reach of the city centre. The Hotel is ideally suited for business and professional conferences and is frequently used as a rendez-vous for business meetings and lunches. A major advantage of the hotel is its 300 car-parking spaces within a few yards of the door.

For Forty Nine years, the Hotel has been under one ownership. The Ryan family who have been ably assisted by a team of over 100 staff employed to provide all the services required in this busy hotel.

This is the story of The Ardilaun Hotel and Leisure Club so far. One likes to think that today's visitors who drive their cars down the tree - lined avenue will feel as welcome and enjoy their stay as much as their predecessors who arrived at Glenarde by coach - and – four a century ago.