

In this issue of Suburb News we have written about hidden treasures on the Suburb. From geocaching to time capsules to architectural gems and places of historical interest. We asked the new SNY team to write about hidden treasures from other parts of the world.

The Crown Jewels of Ireland

The lost Crown Jewels of Ireland were the heavily jewelled star and badge regalia created in 1831, for the Sovereign and Grand Master of the Order of St. Patrick, an order of knighthood established in 1783 by George III. They were stolen from Dublin Castle on July 6, 1907. Valued at around £15 million today, the stolen gems have never been found and remain one of Ireland's greatest mysteries.

The Irish Crown Jewels were kept in Dublin Castle where they were guarded by the Ulster King of Arms and his staff as well as a 24-hour outdoor patrol of policemen and soldiers. In 1903, a safe room was installed in the castle but, after it was built, it was discovered the safe which held the jewels was too large to fit through the doorway. Because of this, the safe remained outside the strongroom in the library.

The two keys to the safe were kept by Sir Arthur Vicars, the Ulster King of Arms who was charged with protecting the jewels. He carried one of the keys on his person, while the other was kept in a locked drawer in a desk at his home.

However, Vicars was rather lax in his security. One story has it that after a night of drinking, he handed his keys over to his friends. The next morning he woke up covered in the country's most valuable ornaments. And in May 1907, Vicars mistakenly left the first key to the safe attached to a key ring with his other office keys. The keys were discovered by a maid, who sent them to the Chief Herald's office.

On the morning of July 6, 1907, a cleaning woman found the door to the safe-room standing wide open. The inner security door was bolted, but the keys, which also opened the library, had been left dangling in the lock.

The jewels went missing just four days before King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra were expected to arrive for the Irish International Exhibition. The king was furious about the theft, and the ceremony, which required the crown jewels, was cancelled. The Dublin Metropolitan Police conducted an investigation into the theft, but the crime has never been solved. There were strong indications that it was an inside job.

There is a belief that the investigation was unceremoniously dropped a few years after it started due to a bigger scandal that was uncovered and then hastily covered up.

Apparently the investigation found a ring of debauchery at work in Dublin Castle, including wild, drunken parties and promiscuity. It was rumoured that when Edward VII heard about the scandal, he shut down the investigation, fearing the consequences of a public revelation.

As for the jewels, they have most likely been broken apart and sold as individual pieces, or sold to a wealthy collector, or, perhaps, hidden away somewhere that has been long forgotten.

We know that not many people might be aware of these 'Crown Jewels of Ireland.' Neither were we, which is why we decided to talk about it. These are truly hidden treasures!

RIYA & SMRUTHI



Hidden Treasure

*We look over the hills and through the trees,
Under the grass and in the seas,
To find hidden treasures.
They may be as bright as the sun,
Or memories filled with joy,
But my treasure is my family.
Your treasure is always with you,
No matter where you are.*

Alexia Cooper Friedlos
King Alfred school, Year 8

P R HARTLEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
& REGISTERED AUDITOR

Accounting & Taxation Services

Call 020 8731 9745 or 07850 634395

Email: paul@prhartley.co.uk

www.prhartley.co.uk