

EXHIBITION 6

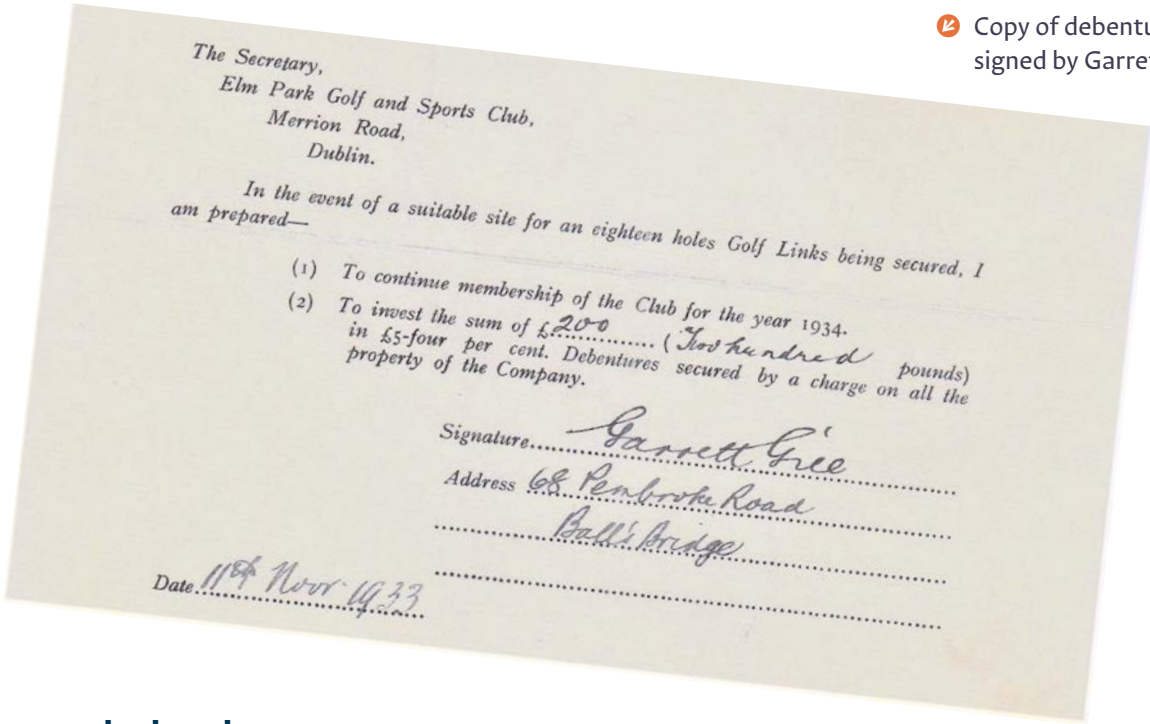
Elm Park Reaching Out – Supporting Charities

ELM PARK MEMBERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE of various charities – of which we can mention only a sample here. Over the years Club members have organised a range of fund raising events for a variety of causes dear to their hearts. But sometimes charity can literally begin at home.

Looking After the Future of the Club

The Debentures

In 1933 Elm Park lost its home in Elm Park House and became known as the Elm Park Golfing Society meeting in the Dolphin Hotel. After much deliberation members were invited to pledge support in a scheme of debentures. This would contribute to the purchase of a suitable site and thereby secure the future of the Club .



Copy of debenture signed by Garrett Gill

Amounts pledged

The Pledges ranged from £5 to £500 with the highest amount being pledged by Raphael and Arthur O'Neill and £200 by Garrett Gill. Áine O'Rahiilly and her niece Sighle Humpbreys (see Centenary Exhibition 2). each pledged £50 (worth €4,097.91 today). This fund ultimately helped the members secure a lease on Nutley House when it became available in 1935-6, thus providing a new home for the Club (see Centenary Exhibition 1).

Reaching Out Over Time

Two formidable lady members did Trojan work for specific charities over a number of years:

Alma McArdle

raised funds for the **Blackrock Hospice**

The Blackrock Hospice was established in 2003 and they provide Specialist Palliative Care in their 12 bed in-patient unit, their out-patient services as well as in patients own homes.

Elm Park member **Alma McArdle** devoted much energy and infectious enthusiasm to fundraising for the Hospice mainly through an annual Sale of Work/Coffee Morning/Book Sale in the Club. The final coffee morning was in October 2019. Alma had raised €92,000 over two decades and was presented with a special Hospice Hero Award.

While a member in Elm Park Alma represented Munster and Ireland in hockey. She was elected Lady Golf Captain in 1979 and won the Captain's prize on two occasions. She also served as Secretary of the Choir for many years.



Blackrock Hospice building
The Hero Award Presented to Alma McArdle 2018

Blackrock Hospice garden
Presentation by Eleanor Flew Director of Fundraising and Communications, Blackrock Hospice

Ria Kenny

raised funds for **Enable Ireland**

Enable Ireland provides services which include assessment, therapy, education, training, residential, respite, PA and family support services to children and adults with disabilities and their families.

Elm Park member Ria Kenny was wont to rise at 6.30 a.m. to drive handicapped children by ambulance from all over the city to the then named Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Sandymount and she persuaded Elm Park to run annual golf and tennis tournaments in aid of the clinic. Ria was a dynamic personality and addressed everyone as “chicken” and you could not expect to be called “chicken” if you baulked at supporting her charitable enterprises.

Ria Kenny was Honorary Secretary of the Irish Ladies Golf Union for many years. A keen golfer she played off a handicap of six and was President of the Countess of Granard Fund for the Blind.



Ria Kenny - Irish Golf Writers' Award for her 'Distinguished Services' to the game.

Enable Ireland garden shop
Ria, Charlie Kilroy, Maeve Gannon at presentation of cheque to Dr. Tom Gregg Enable Ireland

EXHIBITION 6

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- 1 Dublin Millennium Crest
- 2 Charlie Kilroy, Sheila Smith, (Lady Tennis Captain), Milo Slattery (Golf Captain), Betty Gallaher (Lady Golf Captain) Pat Lynch (Tennis Captain) and Michael Minehane (President)



- 3 Pat Lynch, Michael Minehane, Fr. Sheehan (PP Killinarden), Aengus Fanning (Editor Sunday Independent) and Milo Slattery



- 4 Alan Shatter, Kristine Lawlor, Tom Kitt, Helen Chambers
- 5 Carmencita Hederman

Major Charity Events

1988 Dublin Millennium Celebrity Tennis Tournament

This major tournament , sponsored by the Sunday Independent, was aiding a youth project in Killinarden Parish and also projects in the inner city. It brought a galaxy of personalities to the Club including Carmencita Hederman, the Lord Mayor and Independent Dail Deputy Tony Gregory who appeared in whites for his first ever game of tennis.

Captains' Charity Days

The Golf, Tennis and Bridge Clubs each have major annual Charity Days with competitions, prizes, raffles and other activities. Over the past ten years over 40 charities have received amounts ranging from €800 to €50,000.



Barnardo’s core purpose is ‘to help the most vulnerable children in society achieve their full potential – regardless of is their family circumstances, their gender, race or disability.’ Barnardo’s received the sum of €40,000 from an Elm Park Charity Day in 2024.



Blackrock Flyers is a Special Olympics Club set up in 1993. The Club offers the sports of basketball, athletics, table tennis, and golf over 100 athletes of all ages from the Blackrock general area. Almost 40 Elm Park members volunteer their services to Blackrock Flyers golfers on Saturday afternoons. The Blackrock Flyers received €9980 from charity events in Elm Park in 2022 and 2024

Crosscare offers an extensive range of services to those in need including food banks, support for travellers, the homeless, , education and development for young people and much much more. In 2019 a Charity Day in Elm Park resulted in a donation of €67,000

Down Syndrome Ireland provides support and services to people with Down syndrome and their families across the country. There are 25 branches nationwide run, almost exclusively, by volunteer parents.

Guide Dogs for the Blind / Dogs for Disabled

Lady Captain Simone described how the atmosphere and buzz was already on the up early in the morning... and then the Guide dogs arrived at lunchtime and that was it, everyone was smitten... it was hard not to buy more raffle tickets or fill in a Silent Auction bid... memories to be cherished and remembered. €40,000 was raised for the Guidedogs for the Blind.

Irish Hospice Foundation

Every death matters and we only have one chance to get it right. The Irish Hospice Foundation is working to ensure the best end-of-life and bereavement care for all.

Pieta House provides a range of services nationally free of charge to people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, those who engage in self-harm, and those bereaved by suicide.In 2022 Pieta House received €50,000 raised by a Charity Day in Em Park

The Mary Aikenhead Foundation, run by the Sisters of Charity, provides a Day Centre in Donnybrook and a Meals on Wheels Service. They received €15,000+ from Charity events organised by the Bridge Club in Elm Park in 2019 and 2020.

The Royal Hospital, Donnybrook founded in 1743 currently provides services for Short-term Post-Acute Rehabilitative Care, General Rehabilitation, Specialist stroke rehabilitation,Day Hospital, Respite, and Residential care. Elm Park raised €23,000 for the Royal Hospital in 2015

Society of St Vincent de Paul offers a wide range of supports, including practical help and advice, as well as a friendly, confidential ear. They can also connect you with other organisations that might be able to assist you. Events in Elm Park in 2015 and 2017 raised almost €17,000 for this charity.

Charities Supporting The Homeless

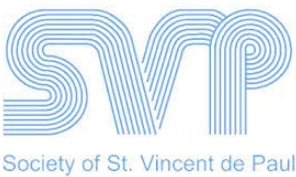
Capuchin Day Centre, MQI, Peter McVerry Trust

The Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless People was founded in 1969 by Brother Kevin Crowley, a Capuchin friar. The Day Centre provides over 1,000 hot meals each day and more than 1,450 food parcels each week to people who are in need or who are homeless. It also provides a medical service, an informal advice and information service and showering facilities. These three charities together received funds of €77,015 since 2014 from Elm Park

Cancer Charities

Among the Cancer charities supported by events in Elm Park over the past ten years are **The Marie Keating Foundation, Oesophageal Cancer, Breast Cancer Research**

Elm Park members raised well over €91,000 for these charities in the last ten years. Figures were were not available for all events so the total amount may well have been double that.



EXHIBITION 6

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Over the years, Club members have organised a variety of events raising funds for a variety of causes.

The following are but a small selection of these.

Laura Lynn Foundation

Laura Lynn, Ireland’s Children’s Hospice provides specialist palliative and supportive care services to meet the needs of children with life limiting conditions and their families in Ireland.







Captain Rory Spain and Lady Captain Mary Moriarty present cheque to Laura Lynn Foundation

Chernobyl Children International – Ambulance Fund


Chernobyl Children International (CCI) was formally established by Adi Roche in 1991 to give support and hope to children living in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear disaster. And now, and as the invasion continues to unfold CCI is providing emergency assistance on the ground to those who need it most.



Chernobyl Exclusion Zone
Tennis Captain Mary Briscoe, Club President Maurice Kelly, Ladies Golf Captain Helen Rafter at the official opening of the Omnicourt Pro Courts, 2001. Over €1,200 was raised for CCI.

Ronald MacDonald House

The people in Ronald MacDonald House believe that when families are together, they manage better. They enable families to stay close to their child for as long as they are undergoing treatment in CHI at Crumlin. Elm Park raised €24,000 for Ronald MacDonald in 2017



GOAL Competitions

Goal was founded in 1977 by Irish Press journalist John O’Shea when he witnessed the plight of street children in Calcutta and continues to respond to many of the world crises. Elm Park has – over the years – held many Golf and Tennis competitions in aid of their good work.



Tennis racquet symbolising Charity League

The Tennis Charity League

The Tennis Charity League is an all-Ireland Interclub Competition in which Elm Park members have competed for over 30 years. All proceeds each year go to the charity nominated by the winning club. Teams consist of three teams of doubles.




Charity League 2015.
Clare Cashman, Yvonne Ryan, Annette Sweeny, Arlene Hogan, Mary Hegarty.
Front Row: Brenda McDonald, Colette Scullion, Iris Taylor, Maeve Peyton

GUI Competitions


i - National Breast Cancer Institute

GUI Ireland (previously the ILGU) organises competitions in aid of particular charities in Golf Clubs all over the country; for example, Elm Park ladies raised €1,650 in aid of the National Breast Cancer Institute last year (2024) on Pink Day.




ii - Turn the Tide against Suicide

3Ts promotes positive mental health and works to help prevent deaths by suicide through research, education & support. They provide a safe space for you to find support & information about suicide concerns & other mental health topics



iii - The Granard Cup in aid of NCBI

The Cup was established in 1933 when a group of golfing ladies accepted the challenge to provide a Home Teacher for people who were blind in every county in Ireland. The NCBI Granard Cup is the longest running and largest ladies’ charity golf tournament in Ireland today.



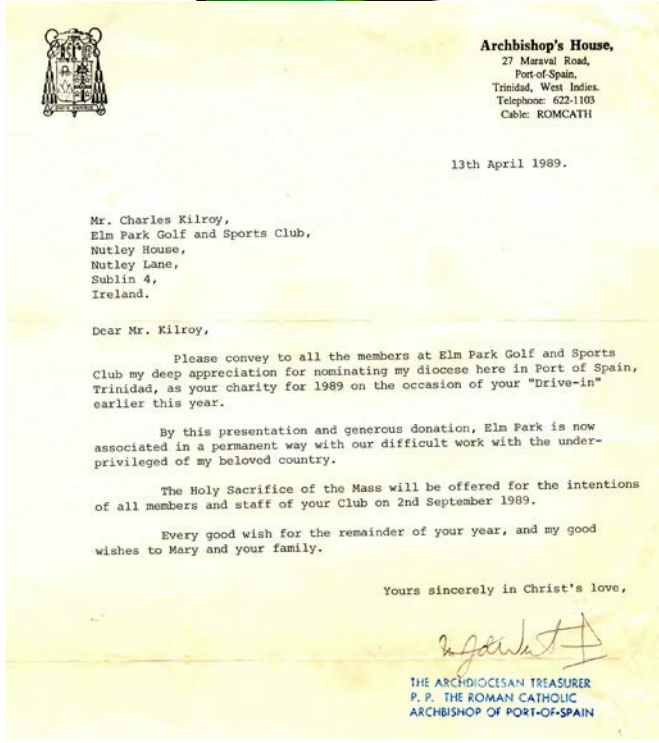
Charity Dinners/ Lunches

Occasionally, charity Dinners/Lunches have been held with a guest speaker; In this case, Tony Ward was the speaker and funds were raised for the Irish Cancer Society.



And finally... Reaching Out Beyond Our Shores

We have come a long way from 13th April, 1989 when the then Captain Charlie Kilroy received a letter from the Archbishop of Port of Spain in Trinidad thanking him for nominating their diocese as the charity to benefit on the occasion of his ‘drive-in’ earlier that year.



But the same Elm Park spirit will no doubt continue into the next Centenary.