

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	8 th March 2011
Location	Kildangan GAA Clubhouse
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Nealon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Balrothy NS, Co. Dublin Secondary: Gormanston College Third Level: College of Commerce, Rathmines
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters
Club(s)	St. Patrick's, Stamullen [Meath]; Barrowhouse [Laois]; Civil Service [Dublin]; Southern District GAA [Perth, Western Australia]
Occupation	Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Publican [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Clubs – Athy and Carlow

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Charlie Sexton
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Kildare
Education	Primary: Kildangan NS, Co. Kildare
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Ballykelly; Kildangan
Occupation	Security
Parents' Occupation	Bord na Mona [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Johnny Casey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Kildare
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Monasterevin
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	Kildangan
Occupation	Truck Driver
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Miller
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1938 Home County: Laois
Education (Optional)	Primary: Vicarstown NS
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 children
Club(s)	Kildangan [Kildare]; Annanough [Laois]
Occupation (Optional)	Farmer
Parents' Occupation (Optional)	Farmers
Religion (Optional)	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership (Optional)	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s) (Optional)	N/A

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kildare, Meath, Australasia, Australia, Laois, Kilkenny
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Kildangan GAA club talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. John discusses growing up in Meath and getting involved in the GAA, playing handball in his school. Charlie talks about growing up in the area and what the GAA was like during that period. Johnny talks about playing football in Monasterevin before playing with Kildangan and Jim discusses growing up in Laois. They talk about the history of the club in Kildangan and how it twice went out of existence before being again re-established in 2000. They discuss their involvement in the club over the years and how it has progressed. They recall the club's facilities in the past and how they have been developed in recent years. They describe the rivalry with local teams like Monasterevin and Ballykelly and talk about the reaction to the setting up of the Kildangan club. John talks about his involvement in the GAA in Australia and describes what playing football there was like. They talk about the development of the club in recent times and the growth of the juvenile part of the club. They describe the club's early success and being voted club of the year. Towards the end of the interview they talk about the important role the club plays in the community and give their hopes for the future of the club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:50 (John) Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA. Playing football and rugby in Meath. Joining the St. Pat's club, Stamullen. Playing handball in Gormanston College and</p>

	<p>representing Meath. Going to college in Dublin and playing football there in the DIT Colleges competitions and the Sigerson. Recalls playing against the cadets. Reaction at home to him moving to the Civil Service Club for one year.</p> <p>04:40 Discusses playing football in Australia in the Southern Districts. Moving to Laois and playing with Barrowhouse club there. Winning the championship. Moving to Kildangan and getting involved in the club. Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA and his role in administration.</p> <p>09:30 (Charlie) Talks about his early GAA memories. Playing on a school team in the mid-1950s, no club in the area at the time. Discusses joining the army and playing football there. Talks about playing with the Ballykelly club before joining Kildangan. Becoming chairman before moving to the Lebanon with the UN. Talks about the decline of the club in the 1980s and the people involved in the club's reformation. Discusses the development of the club's facilities.</p> <p>14:38 (Johnny) Recalls listening to Micheál O'Hehir on the radio in the 1940s. Playing football in school in Monasterevin and with Kildangan in the 1950s. Describes the decline in the club because of low numbers in the 1960s and attempting to revive it in 1970 and later in 2000.</p> <p>18:00 (Jim) Talks about growing up in Laois and his family's involvement in the GAA. Recalls his first match and his career with his club. Discusses his wife's family's involvement in the GAA and moving to Kildangan. Talks about his son's involvement in the revival of the GAA in Kildangan. Talks about the people involved and the club's success.</p> <p>23:10 (All) They describe having no club in Kildangan and how most locals played with Monasterevin and Ballykelly. Discuss the different clubs in the area. Talk about the county players from Kildangan. Mentions Nurney. Mentions Jack Sexton, Joe Pender, Declan McGrath, Anthony Kavanagh, John Ronan and Lar Pender.</p> <p>27:10 (John) Talks about the underage setup in the club.</p> <p>28:05 (Johnny) Describes the improvements in the club over the years.</p> <p>28:43 (John) Talks about playing football in Perth, Australia. Describes the GAA setup there and the competitions he played in. Playing in the Australasian Games. Mentions Kevin McStay.</p> <p>33:10 Describes his best memories from his time in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>Winning a championship in Laois in 1992. Talks about his daughter being on a Community Games girls' team that won an All-Ireland. Talks about what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>36:54 *** John Nealon leaves the interview ***</p> <p>36:55 (Johnny) Talks about the development of the club over the years and the facilities in the past. Describes how gear was in short supply. Talks about how they travelled to matches. Recalls a story about cycling. Talks about the excitement around Kildare in 1998.</p> <p>40:30 Discusses the GAA in Kildangan in the past and how there was a team called the Riverstown Slashers in the parish. Mentions 'the hairy acre' and the relationship with Monasterevin.</p> <p>41:58 (Charlie) Talks about the increase in population in Kildangan in recent years.</p> <p>43:00 (Johnny) Sings a song about the setting up of the club in Kildangan.</p> <p>46:00 (All) They talk about the sense of community in the GAA and the impact of emigration on the area in the past. Describe how the Monasterevin club would try to take their best players.</p> <p>47:05 Describe how there was no real social activities in the area in the past.</p> <p>48:18 (Johnny) Talks about his best memories from the GAA. Seeing Kildangan win the junior B championship. Talks about the opening the club's grounds.</p> <p>49:05 Recalls Kildare losing the All-Ireland football final in 1998. Describes what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>49:59 *** Johnny leaves the interview ***</p> <p>50:00 (Charlie) Discusses the development of the club's current grounds. Talks about the people that were involved and the efforts of the community to get the club going. Describes the club's early successes. Talks about the involvement of Kildangan Stud.</p> <p>54:25 (Jim) Talks about the type of fundraising they did for the club and how they got sponsorship.</p> <p>56:23 (All) They describe the hunt they organised as a fundraiser for the club.</p>
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	<p>57:45 (Charlie) Talks about the club's main sponsor – Stan Kelly and the Crosskeys Pub.</p> <p>58:20 (All) They explain why the club's grounds is known as More O'Ferrall Park. Mentions Sheikh Mohammed the new stud owner.</p> <p>59:53 They talk about the club's biggest rivals. Mentions Monasterevin and Ballykelly.</p> <p>01:00:45 (Charlie) Recalls the reaction of Ballykelly when he left to play for Kildangan.</p> <p>01:01:45 (Jim) Talks about the relationship with Monasterevin.</p> <p>01:02:26 Discusses the differences between football in Laois and Kildare when he was playing.</p> <p>01:03:30 Recalls the celebrations after Kildangan won the junior championship.</p> <p>01:04:25 Talks about bonfires being lit after a win in Laois in 1956.</p> <p>01:04:44 (Charlie) Discusses the differences between celebrations in the past.</p> <p>01:05:14 Talks about his involvement in the army and playing with the 'barrack team'. Describes what that was like. Talks about the people he played with.</p> <p>01:08:30 Describes the type of facilities available in the Curragh.</p> <p>01:09:50 Recalls playing football and hurling while serving with the UN in the Lebanon. Describes the reaction of the local community.</p> <p>01:11:25 (All) They describe how Kildangan is a football area and there is no hurling in the club. Note that there is a hurling club in Monasterevin.</p> <p>01:12:43 They talk about the reaction of nearby clubs to the re-establishment of the club in Kildangan.</p> <p>01:14:00 They describe the club's relationship with the county board.</p> <p>01:14:30 They discuss the issue of the Irish language and culture in the club. They talk about their hopes for the future of the club.</p>
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	<p>01:16:20 They talk about the involvement of women in the club.</p> <p>01:18:50 (Jim) Recalls his best memory from his time in the GAA. Playing in his first match.</p> <p>01:19:48 (Charlie) Talks about his best memories from his time in the GAA. Seeing Kildangan win in a championship final. Describes the match. Talks about the development of the club.</p> <p>01:22:17(Charlie) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Dermot Earley, Johnny Doyle, Anthony Rainbow.</p> <p>01:23:10 (Jim) Chooses Tommy Murphy, 'The Boy Wonder', as his GAA hero.</p> <p>01:23:55 Gives his opinion on the various rule changes in the GAA over the years like the ban on foreign games. Talks about the issue of pay for play and the growing number of people leaving the country.</p> <p>01:25:50 (Charlie) Talks about the opening of Croke Park and the lifting of the ban on foreign games. Discusses the issue of pay for play.</p> <p>01:27:43 (Jim) Discusses his biggest disappointment in the GAA.</p> <p>01:28:38 (Charlie) Describes Kildare losing the 1998 All-Ireland football final in 1998 and Kildangan losing a final in 2004 as his biggest disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>01:29:48 (Jim) Talks about the 2010 Leinster final between Louth and Meath.</p> <p>01:31:20 Discusses the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:32:40 (Charlie) Talks about what the GAA has meant to him over the years and highlights his hopes for the future of the club.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>John:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

	<p>Charles: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Johnny: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>James: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>John: Won an intermediate championship and league division 2 in Laois. Won a Division 5 Senior League in 2008 in Kildare.</p> <p>Charles: Played for Ballykelly from 1969 – 1977 and Kildangan from 1977 – 1980. Won 2 junior leagues with Ballykelly in 1972 and 1974.</p> <p>Johnny: Played for 15 years.</p> <p>James: Played for 20 years. Won a minor and a senior championship</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>John: Has been involved in administration since 2005. Has been club chairman since 2008.</p> <p>Charles: Has been involved in administration since the 1960s. Was</p>

	<p>chairman of Kildangan GAA from 1978 – 1980 and 2005 – 2007.</p> <p>Johnny: Has been involved in administration since 1970. Was club chairman for 10 years.</p> <p>James: Was involved in administration for 8 years. Was secretary for 1 year.</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:35:20
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____