

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Dec 2010
Location	St Mullins Clubhouse, Co. Carlow
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerard Lennon, Úna Murphy, Peter Kealy, Pat Kehoe, John Joe Murphy, Ned Gladney.
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewees</u>	
Gender	<p>Gerard: Male</p> <p>Úna: Female</p> <p>Peter: Male</p> <p>Pat: Male</p> <p>John-Joe: Male</p> <p>Ned: Male</p>
Born	<p>Gerard: Carlow, 1963</p> <p>Úna: Tipperary, 1956</p> <p>Peter: Carlow, 1925</p> <p>Pat: Carlow, 1950</p> <p>John-Joe: Carlow, 1962</p> <p>Ned: Carlow, 1937</p>
Education	<p>Gerard:</p> <p>Primary: Glynn National School, St Mullins, Co. Carlow.</p> <p>Secondary: Borris VEC</p>

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	<p>Úna: Primary: Shronell National School, Co. Tipperary Secondary: Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary Third Level: University College Cork</p> <p>Peter: Primary: Glynn National School, St Mullins, Co. Carlow</p> <p>Pat: Primary: Glynn National School, St Mullins, Co. Carlow Secondary: Good Counsel College</p> <p>John Joe: Primary: Glynn National School, St Mullins, Co. Carlow Secondary: New Ross VEC</p> <p>Ned: Primary: Drummond, Co. Carlow</p>
<p>Family</p>	<p>Gerard: Siblings: None</p> <p>Úna: Siblings: 2 brothers and 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Husband, 1 son and 2 daughters</p> <p>Peter: N/A</p> <p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>John Joe: Siblings: 12 siblings</p> <p>Ned: Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 5 daughters</p>
<p>Club(s)</p>	<p>St. Mullins GAA Club [Carlow]</p>

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<p>Occupation</p>	<p>Gerard: Farmer</p> <p>Úna: Teacher</p> <p>Peter: Farmer</p> <p>Pat: Supermarket</p> <p>John Joe: Electrician</p> <p>Ned: Cabinet Maker</p>
<p>Parents' Occupation</p>	<p>Gerard: Farmers</p> <p>Úna: Farmers</p> <p>Peter: N/A</p> <p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>John Joe: Farmers</p> <p>Ned: Factory Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]</p>
<p>Religion</p>	<p>Roman Catholic</p>
<p>Political Affiliation / Membership</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</p>	<p>Gerard: Irish Farmers Association</p> <p>Úna: St Mullins Ladies GAA (camogie and football)</p> <p>Peter: N/A</p> <p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>Peter: N/A</p> <p>John-Joe: N/A</p> <p>Ned: N/A</p>

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Date of Report	6 th June 2012
Period Covered	1914 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Cork, Canada, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics.
Interview Summary	<p>Members of St. Mullin's GAA Club, Carlow, reflect on their involvement in hurling in the club and the history of hurling in the parish. They describe the significance of their location near Kilkenny and Wexford and explain how St. Mullin's location has affected the club. They also outline the successes of the club and consider the strength of support for the GAA in the parish. In addition, they discuss the challenges faced by the club in terms of a shortage of players and lack of money. Finally, they reflect on the importance of volunteerism in the GAA, the sacrifices made by players and volunteers, and their hopes for the future of the GAA.</p> <p>00:53 Discussion of history of club. Known history from 1914. Mostly hurling, a little football. Location of parish: bordering Rathnure, Wexford and Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny. Surrounded by hurling. Rackard brothers and Quigleys mentioned.</p> <p>02:33 Peter outlines history of start of hurling in the club. Played on green in St. Mullin's, not affiliated with team. Mentions Tom Carroll, Martin Cody, Tommy Lynch, Bill Byrne, Jack Hickey in 1910s. Arrival of Father Brennan around 1920. Strength of Gaelic League, Sports days, Feiseanna.</p> <p>04:34 Description of Fr Brennan organising first hurling game on Pattern Sunday. Teams in Graiguenamanagh and Caim. Mentions Gus Kennedy, Sean Kennedy, Paddy Mackey, winning several All-Irelands with Wexford, hurling and football from 1910 to 1920. Rivalry between two teams. Gus Kennedy, Paddy Mackey refusing to referee. Father Brennan</p>

	<p>refereeing. Mentions the late Fr Gar Murphy.</p> <p>08:16 Ned describes split in parish: teams in Cooleyhune and Drummond in 1932. Discussion of photo on wall of Cooleyhune and Caim from 1932. Mentions Danny Dunphy.</p> <p>09:02 Peter recalls going to Bagenalstown with Francie Doyle in early 1940s. St. Mullin's vs Bagenalstown in the Royal Oak. Builder Walsh, Peter Kelly, Mick Jones. Also mentions Jack Leary, Paddy May. Violence between the two. St. Mullin's beaten.</p> <p>11:44 Discusses Hacketstown beating St. Mullin's in a league final in 1947, Peter a sub. Mentions Father O'Donnell, brother of Mick O'Donnell. Also mentions Jimmy Deegan, Henry Doolin, John Maddock, John Ryan. St. Mullin's losing.</p> <p>13:05 Recollections of what names these players were given on the green. Jim Gladney mentioned, also Fr. Deeley. Fr Deeley becoming chairman of club in 1949. His conditions regarding loyalty. Mentions Davy Walsh. St. Mullin's winning championship six years in a row.</p> <p>18:02 Memories of St. Mullin's vs. Hacketstown match.</p> <p>18:59 Rules getting stricter about playing for several clubs in late 40s. Previously, lax rules about crossing county borders and playing for neighbouring clubs. Contentious issue of Tinnahinch being claimed as Carlow's for GAA purposes. Gaining players.</p> <p>20:45 Description of sports played in parish: hurling, football, ladies football. No soccer or rugby. Skittles. Recollections of annual sports day in Drummond, cricket club in Drummond, Anglo-Irish involved. Founding of the GAA in 1800's giving Irish sense of identity. Parish level, county level, identities for both.</p> <p>22:36 Úna reflect on the origin of hurling in 14th century and 16th century. English efforts to get rid of hurling. Whole towns playing against each other. Unity surrounding Gaelic Games continuing today.</p> <p>23:47 Active Gaelic League in St. Mullin's.</p> <p>24:33 Peter explains how the Parish League brought entire parish together. Credits Dan Doyle with starting Parish League. Also Martin Kavanagh and Willie Hayes involved with minors. Also mentions John Morrissey, Mick Morrissey, Jim Ryan. History of start of parish team. 1946/47.</p>
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	<p>26:24 Four teams in the parish: Cooleyhune, Drummond, Ballycrinnigan, St. Mullin's. St. Mullin's wearing red and white jerseys then. Peter recalls playing final in 1947 with nail brogues, no money for boots, being nicknamed Caughoo after Grand National winner.</p> <p>28:08 Discussion of where they got their hurls. Watching ash trees mature, cutting hurls in the night without landowners' permission. Mentions Feidhlim Doyle from Birch. Peter mentions Bernie Ryan, cousin of hurler Paddy Kehoe. Peter shows off his hurl from 1949 Carlow championship.</p> <p>30:26 Mentions local man who made hurls. Also mentions Fr Tom Prendergast giving hurls to altar boys at Christmas. Carlow playing All-Ireland junior hurling final in London. Fr Prendergast also involved in handball.</p> <p>32:05 Peter recalls playing hurling aged 12 or 13 with sponge ball and his father's crook stick. Saving half-crown to buy hurl, bringing hurl to school, boy breaking it.</p> <p>34:00 Hurling with sponge balls. Mentions Tom Jacob, Jack Doyle. Peter recalls football made with gravel and rags. Ball out of cement bags.</p> <p>35:47 Peter mentions Fr Gerald, Fr Gar and Pierce playing football and hurling in Knockbeg College, bringing it to Drummond, their influence. Hurling played in school in Drummond in 1940s. Mentions Sean Moriarty in Drummond school. Also Mr Murray, teacher. Mentions Vincent Byrne. Peter describes tug of war team in Drummond. Recounts story involving hurling team and tug of war team.</p> <p>39:31 Priests not allowed play with counties. Fr Paddy Kavanagh of Galway playing under different name.</p> <p>40:05 Training in different fields around parish, including Mrs Nolan's field, Galvins in Cooleyhune, Tommy Byrne's field, Murphys of Glynn. Current grounds in early 80s. Christy Ryan's of Drummond. First match in 1989 on current pitch. Outlines different teams that played in the 60s in Tommy Byrne's pump field: Shamrocks, Mount Sion, Bennettsbridge, Rathnure. Mentions Tim Flood running whippet racing. Mentions The Rattler, Eddie Keher. Hurling in the 1950s.</p> <p>44:15 Nominal rent paid to farmers, animals on field. Drummond cricket team playing on same pitch. Sports days in Drummond: Recounts story involving Packie Brennan on gate. History of weight-throwing in Drummond. Mentions Martin Kelly. Also running, jumping, cycling, Leinster</p>
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	<p>championships. Mentions Johnny Doran and Jim Doran, good at cycling. Sports days nurturing talent. Influence of GAA in rural parts of Ireland.</p> <p>48:35 List of club wins and losses from 1940s. Peter winning 11 championships. No wins in the 1970s.</p> <p>50:05 Main rivals: Bagenalstown, Borris, Hacketstown, Carlow town (sugar factory workers, teachers, gardai from outside county). St. Mullin's dependent on local talent.</p> <p>51:02 Local employment: mostly farming, years ago Odlum's Mill in St. Mullin's. Also New Ross, woolen mills. Little industry around. Few sponsors, little money, lots of passion.</p> <p>53:00 Reflection on lack of impact of emigration on club. Players moving to Dublin but returning to hurl, none going to England. Úna describes people returning to St. Mullin's at weekends to play with club, not joining other clubs. Mentions Declan Murphy. Few newcomers, mostly generations of players. Sacrifices of players over the years: walking and cycling to matches and training in the 60s and 70s. Bad record at minor, great record at underage. Smallest parish in diocese, discussion of population size. Outlines parish geography.</p> <p>56:56 Discussion of loyalty to St. Mullin's. Mentions Martin Lennon who moved from Borris parish in 1948.</p> <p>57:57 Úna describes surrounding area: Rathnure and Kilkenny bordering parish, club keeping players living on border.</p> <p>59:06 Peter recalls being trained by Putter Kehoe, brought by Mick Morrissey. Recounts story involving Jimmy Gahan. Putter's introduction of massage.</p> <p>01:01:02 Selectors in charge of team. Mentions Tim Russell, official trainer, father of Jack Russell. Peter describes rivalry between Graiguenamanagh and St. Mullin's. Graiguenamanagh players eating raw eggs and beef to try to beat St. Mullin's. Fly Butler Cup.</p> <p>01:03:45 Role of priests in hurling, juveniles. Mentions Fr Murphy. Hurling boots with cork studs. Also Fr Deeley, Fr Bennett. Bringing children to matches. Peter recalls being beaten by Tullow in 1959. Captain of Carlow team Black Willie Walsh.</p> <p>01:07:41 Description of playing for Carlow. Centenary team. Training for county in Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow. Hurling and</p>
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	<p>some sprints, no physios or training. More fitness today. No meals after training. Presence of St. Mullin's on Carlow hurling team.</p> <p>01:09:45 Rural areas of Carlow hurling, more footballers. More success at hurling. South of country mainly hurling.</p> <p>01:10:33 Good relationship between club and county board. Sacrifice of St. Mullin's players to train in Carlow, an hour's drive. Úna discusses camogie in Carlow, difficulty of moving county training locally.</p> <p>01:12:39 Heroes: Paddy Kehoe. Peter mentions Father Mowlam, Mick Morrissey. Mentions Red Willie Walsh. Black Willie Walsh, Tom Nolan, Willie Hogan. Peter recounts story involving match in 1962.</p> <p>01:17:20 Celebrations after winning: Úna reflects on tradition of cup being brought to holy well in St. Mullin's. In 1950s, dance, medals presented. Peter describes eating bread and butter and tea. Also mentioned: Fr Brennan and Andy Jordan. Peter recalls snaring rabbits and playing music for money.</p> <p>01:21:53 Description of fundraising. Idea of buying pitch arising in 1960s, didn't happen until early 1980s. Usual fundraising for running of club: annual carvery, dances, silver circle (draw after mass for cash prizes), car drive, Pattern Sunday dance, Christmas Night dance. Peter explains the system of stamp duty for running dances. Applying for dance licence. Mentions Jim Gladney. Mentions Paddy Dunphy, Paddy Byrne, Mick Delahunty. Also club dinner dance. Peter mentions band with Dave Moynihan, dance with bicycles outside. First parish dinner dance in 1971. Dinner dance after winning 1984 final in Newpark Hotel Kilkenny. Huge attendances.</p> <p>01:33:10 Fundraising to develop pitch. Big draw. Cost of land. Bought in 1986. First match in 1989. Dressing rooms built since then, later another pitch developed. Cost of building and extension. Currently weekly lotto. Floodlit, gym, great facilities. Success of lotto. Mentions Seamus O'Leary involved in first draw.</p> <p>01:38:25 They reflect on the opening of the pitch: GAA president Jack Boothman, Bishop Ryan. Rainy day, cancelling New Ross brass band. Hurling and football matches that day.</p> <p>01:39:39 Football always played in club, in minority. Camogie strong in the 1950s, declined then until late 70s, 80s. Currently camogie team at senior, and Under-14, but no</p>
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	<p>teams in between. Shortage of girls in the parish. Ladies football.</p> <p>01:41:16 Úna describes Ladies GAA. Different parent bodies. Committee, separate organising, financial aid from club. Trainers and selectors for ladies football and camogie. Club organised into Senior GAA, Juvenile GAA, and Ladies GAA.</p> <p>01:42:44 Role of the GAA club in the community. Opening the club to women revolutionising the GAA. Mothers involved with juvenile teams. Strength of juvenile GAA in St. Mullin's. Huge involvement in Féile. Carlow hosting football Féile in 2003, St. Mullin's hosting team from Canada. Involvement of whole parish. Staying in local homes, games, barbecue, trip to Splashworld in Tramore. First black players in St. Mullin's. Friendships formed.</p> <p>01:46:42 Discussion about volunteerism in the GAA. Negative impact of paying players on the organisation. Dedication of club members in fundraising. Debate about strength of the volunteer spirit today. Effect of recession and unemployment on the GAA. Passion. Buzz of winning county finals, inspiring younger generation. Strength of support for St. Mullin's. Úna recalls amount of club supporters travelling to Cork for a match.</p> <p>01:54:42 Major personal time commitment. Criticism from others. Effort of volunteers. Optimism about future for GAA in the parish. Young children hurling. Under-16s winning county final this year. Good national profile of GAA currently. Úna mentions Eoin Kelly, Henry Shefflin. Accessibility of high-profile players. Children's pride in wearing Carlow jerseys now. Boost to Carlow's profile. Discussion about faking injuries on soccer pitch.</p> <p>02:00:30 Úna's involvement in a history of the GAA in the parish. Peter discusses cost of hurling balls and food. Mentions Billy Walsh of Tinnahinch, car hire. Recollections of tough financial times in the club in different eras. Peter mentions the contributions of Pat Kehoe, Matty Kehoe, and their mother to the hurling club in the 1970s. Washing jerseys.</p> <p>02:04:05 Peter recollects going to play a match, dance that night. Cost of bus fare, tea and bread and butter, dance fee, milk and buns, other teammates going to pub. Mentions Brian Cody and wife Elsie Walsh. Recounts story involving McGrath pitch in Bagenalstown, Peter the Wire playing at dance, winning spot prize of a bun. Mentions Jim Rice of Borris. Cycling home after dance, drinking buttermilk.</p>
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<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Gerard:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Úna:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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> <hr/> <p>Peter:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Pat:</p> <p><input 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 type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>John-Joe:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/>
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REFERENCE NO. CW/1/6

	<p>Ned:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Gerard: Played for St Mullins for 22 years; won under-21 hurling and 3 senior hurling championships. Also played junior football.</p> <p>Úna: N/A</p> <p>Peter: Played with St Mullins 1948-1964</p> <p>Pat: Played with St Mullins 1967-1989. Won 3 county titles.</p> <p>John Joe: Played senior hurling 1980-1992. Won 3 Senior Club Hurling Titles</p> <p>Ned: Played with St Mullins for 14 years. Won 8 senior club hurling titles; won 1 all-Ireland intermediate hurling title, 1962; won 1 all-Ireland junior hurling title, 1960.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Gerard: St Mullins: Secretary of St Mullins GAA for 21 years; PRO for 4 years before that; assistant secretary of Carlow County Board.</p> <p>Úna: Chairperson of Carlow County Camogie Board for 3 years; Committee member of St. Mullins Juvenile GAA – team selector, fundraiser. First-aider for the past 7 years.</p> <p>Peter: Treasurer of St Mullins GAA Club for 9 years.</p> <p>Pat: St. Mullins: Treasurer for 3 years; Secretary for 3 years; PRO for 5 years; Chairman for 4 years.</p> <p>John Joe: St. Mullins: Juvenile chairman for 5 years; Senior chairman for 5 years.</p> <p>Ned: Chairman of St Mullins GAA 1981-1996.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:09:16
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 6th June 2012