

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	St Malachy's CBS, Armagh City.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Duggan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1960 <b>Home County:</b> Armagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Malachy's CBS, Armagh City. <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Armagh <b>Third Level:</b> St Mary's College, Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Jacqueline); 2 daughters, 1 son.
<b>Club(s)</b>	Cú Chulainn's Hurling Club [Armagh]; Pearse Ógs GAA [Armagh]
<b>Occupation</b>	Principal, St Malachy's CBS, Armagh City.
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Brick Layer [Father]; Apple Peeler [Mother]
<b>Religion</b> (Optional)	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO)

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<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1967 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Armagh, Kildare, Meath, Cavan, Fermanagh, Antrim, Dublin, Americas
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Travel, Role of the Clergy, Role of Teachers, Identity, Community, Role of the Club in the Community, All-Ireland, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Education, Rivalries, County History, Impact on Life, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Violence, Politics, Irish Language, Supporting, Grounds, Officials, Religion, Emigration, Involvement of the GAA abroad, Volunteers, Role of Women, GAA Abroad, Culture, Childhood, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Paul Duggan discusses the tradition of GAA in his family and how it encouraged him to be involved in the Association through playing hurling at school, club and at county level. He also speaks about the role the Christian Brothers on his love of hurling. In addition he talks about the role GAA had in providing social structure for the young community of Armagh during the Troubles, and the opportunities that being involved with hurling provided for him. Paul later discusses how he became involved in the administration of the GAA including his role as County Chairman for Armagh.</p> <p>00:00:55 Family influence on his involvement with Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:01:49 Parents and grandparents experiences with GAA in Armagh. Mother calling Armagh “Lily-Whites’ with no known basis. Mentions Jim McCullagh, Bill Noonan, Blaney, Frank McGlynn, Railway Cup games, Pearse Óg’s Armagh.</p> <p>00:02:56 Speaks about travelling to games with family members and then with the Christian Brothers at school, including Railway Cup finals, and Leinster Football Finals, All Ireland Semi-Finals, and All Ireland Hurling Finals, Brother Keane, Brother Carlan</p> <p>00:05:32 Speaks about the influence of the Christian Brothers on the ethos of the Armagh GAA community and the development of social identity. Mentions the administration of the county GAA, Ciaran Whelan (Dublin).</p> <p>00:07:27 Paul discussed the importance of the GAA on his,</p>

	<p>and his counties identity and the value of the GAA to his community. GAA as a cultural institution.</p> <p>00:09:22 Discusses getting the GAA into Protestant schools, and the open house role of the Association in Armagh. GAA as facilitating social unity.</p> <p>00:10: 27 Paul speaks about his playing career and how he became involved in GAA.</p> <p>00:11:04 Speaks about the role of educators on the development of his love of hurling e.g. Jim Kirk , Brother Keane, Brother McDermott, Brother Carlan. Also discusses the importance of coaching on his love for the game. Mentions Cúchulainn's, Lough Eale, Dunmoys GAC</p> <p>00:12:34 Paul talks about how the attitude to the sport has changed since the 1970's.</p> <p>00:13:40 Discusses the lack of native Armagh coaches during the 1970's in the Christian Brothers and Cúchulainn's.</p> <p>00:14:12 Speaks about the rivalries between St. Mary's CBS Belfast and Armagh CBS. Mentions McGynn Cup final, Ulster Collegiate games.</p> <p>00:15:02 Dicusses travelling to hurling games on mini-bus with school and playing hurling after school and weekends. Importance of GAA providing discipline, not allowed off school for games.</p> <p>00:16:22 Paul talks about playing for the county team on the Minor squad. Mentions Middletown GAC, Keady Lámh Dearg, Pearse Óg's Armagh</p> <p>00:18:15 Contribution of GAA to social stability during the Troubles during the 1970's to the young population. Going to Feile and Gormanstown in 1970's.</p> <p>00:19:30 Levels of political violence during training sessions. GAA as looking after the boys. Mentions Nicky Brennan, Cúchulainn's, Pearse Óg's Armagh, Armagh Harps, St Richards Camogie Club</p> <p>22:21 Benefits of being involved in GAA during the Troubles in West Armagh. Discusses levels of violence. Opportunities for training and cross boarder activities, e.g. training camp in Gormanstown, Co. Meath. Mentions Jim Carlisle, Edna Kirk, Kirk, Pat Toner, Topey Devenan</p> <p>00:22:57 Joe discusses the security which the GAA provided for the community, social unity, and that the training provided</p>
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	<p>something to do for the boys.</p> <p>00:23:47 Paul speaks of the foundation of Street Leagues in West Armagh. Formation of his team St. Malachy's. Role it played in his teenage years. Berates the lack of acknowledgement/recognition the Association has received in providing such as service on a voluntary level. Mentions Peter Lynch, John McGillan, Cúchulainn's,</p> <p>00:25:27 Joe speaks about Peter Lynchs involvement in setting up football street leagues.</p> <p>00:26:20 Paul and Joe discuss the misconception of GAA as a cover for IRA activities during the Troubles. Provided structure for the community.</p> <p>00:27:28 GAA clubs as targets for violence. Paul speaks about his hopes for the Association being acknowledged as a positive force for social capital. Discusses Church of Ireland Rector being present at a blessing of the grounds.</p> <p>00:28:45 Paul speaks about non Catholics playing football in the 1960's, particularly those who went to Christian Brothers. Mentions Martin Duggan. Joe also discusses the Protestant community in the Christian Brothers School in Armagh.</p> <p>00:29:48 Discusses reunion of the 1960 Rice Cup team in Scoil Na mBraithre and the attendance of Presbyterian Minister Doogie Goddard.</p> <p>00:30:33 Paul speaks about the apolitical nature of the GAA in Armagh through his own experiences.</p> <p>00:31:33 Paul discusses his involvement in Armagh Senior Hurling in Antrim League Hurling until he joined the Christian Brothers. Mentions Pat Toner, Mater Dei Clonliffe, Croke Park, Dessie Armstrong, St Theresa Belfast, Brother Ennis, Bosco Newry.</p> <p>00:33:38 Discusses going to New York and the importance of the GAA community and games in Gaelic Park. Mentions John Kerry O'Donnell.</p> <p>00:36:33 Paul speaks about getting involved in the administrative side of Armagh GAA, via his initial role as Youth Officer on the County Board. Mentions Malachy McGeedy, games programme, games structure, children's involvement in GAA games. Discusses his focus on the GAA schools programme in primary schools.</p> <p>00:38:36 Discusses the challenges of initiating and instigating</p>
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	<p>Cumann na mBunscoil in the county. Mentions Pat Daly, Croke Park.</p> <p>00:41:03 Speaks about being County Chairman and the benefit of being a primary school teacher in getting GAA played in schools and enthusing the children in the sport. Also discusses the difficulties of being County Chairman. Mentions Ciaran Whelan, Joe Jordan, Nicky Brennan.</p> <p>00:44:03 Discusses his vision for the GAA under his administration as County Chairman, aims to have stronger vibrant clubs.</p> <p>00:46:02 Paul speaks about his most satisfying experiences within the GAA, and the creation of a legacy for Armagh once he steps down as County Chairman.</p> <p>00:47:42 Discusses the sacrifices that his family has made in order to for him to be fully involved in the administration of Armagh GAA. Speaks about the volunteer culture of the GAA.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played football from age 8 – to senior level and won a county medal at every level from Under-12 – Senior. Captained Armagh Minor Hurling team; won Armagh country minor hurling medal. Played football at the CBS Armagh, Clonliffe College and Mater Dei College, Dublin.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Chairman of both hurling and football club at St Mary’s College Belfast, 1982-86; Secretary of Cumann na mBunscoil Náisiúnta; Chairperson of Cumann na mBunscoil Náisiúnta, 2010 - .; Treasurer of Cumann na mBunscoil Ard Mhacha 2002 - ; Youth Officer on Armagh County Board.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:50:29</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012