

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

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Mark Farrelly
<b>Date of Interview</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Celbridge, Co. Kildare
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick Murphy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1940 <b>Home County:</b> Kildare
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Celbidge <b>Secondary:</b> Lucan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers, 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 daughters, 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Celbridge GAA Club [Kildare]; Crokes Hurling Club [Dublin]; Ardclough GAA Club [Kildare]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired bar manager
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Leixlip Athletic Club Celbridge Athletic Club

**REFERENCE NO. KE/1/3**

<b>Date of Report</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kildare, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Administration, All-Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games, Career, Celebrations, Childhood, Club History, Community, Earliest Memories, Facilities, Family Involvement, Fundraising, Grounds, Impact on Life, Irish History, Opening of Croke Park, Playing, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships with the Association, Rivalries, Role of the Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Sacrifices, Socialising, Training, Travel, Volunteers
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Pat tells the story of his life in the GAA and discusses his views on the organisation. His earliest memories are being brought to Croke Park with his father in the 1950s. Pat played football for Celbridge in Kildare, and hurling for Dublin club Crokes, and Ardclough in Kildare. Since he finished playing he has served in numerous administration roles such as club chairman, treasurer, and county delegate for Celbridge. He tells many stories about his playing days, and his time as an administrator. He talks about his GAA heroes and the rivalries between clubs and counties he has followed over the years. He talks about his father and neighbours and recalls some of his father's stories about the GAA in the early 1900s. He discusses the development of Celbridge GAA club over the years, and talks about various moments in the club's history. He also discusses following Kildare over the last 50 years, and gives his opinion on the GAA today</p> <p>00:00:28 Earliest GAA memories. Going to Croke Park with his father in the early 1950's. The first All Ireland Senior football final he went to was Kerry against Armagh in 1953. His first All Ireland Senior Hurling final was Cork against Wexford in 1954. Talks about Kildare's run in The All Ireland Senior Football Championship in 1956.</p> <p>00:01:20 Early playing career. Discusses school team and juvenile club structure at the time. Discusses both hurling and football, and how the competitions and teams very organised.</p> <p>00:02:46 Travelling to Croke Park. Travelled by bus from</p>

	<p>Celbridge.</p> <p>00:03:00 Talks about stories his father told him about travelling to matches. Tells the story about how his father played with Kildare and would travel by train to play such as Drogheda and Athy. His neighbours would travel on bikes to watch him play.</p> <p>00:03:50 Travelling to play. Would travel on a bicycle, by car in later years. Describes how the local team would travel.</p> <p>00:04:35 Hurling. Went to Dublin, and played hurling with Crokes in 1956 and 1957. Played with Ardclough Hurling Club in Kildare in 1958 and 59. He talks about winning Junior Championship football medal with Celbridge in Kildare in 1958, and the plight of the club up until the 1970's.</p> <p>00:05:25 He discusses playing both hurling and football at the same time with different clubs.</p> <p>00:06:10 He speaks about community in both Celbridge and Dublin.</p> <p>00:06:53 State of the facilities in Celbridge. They had no grounds, except in the 1940's, when they had a ground near the Setanta hotel. He describes the story about how the grounds were sold.</p> <p>00:07:33 Current grounds. Bought in 1984 he talks about how they bought it and the development that has gone on since then.</p> <p>00:08:23 The start of underage GAA teams in Celbridge. He talks about the start of underage teams in the early 1980's, and migration to the area.</p> <p>00:08:40 His playing career. Tells how long he played and why he finished playing. Discusses the training regimes when he played</p> <p>00:09:21 Tells of his highlights from his playing career. He discusses winning various medals with Celbridge, Crokes and Ardclough, and he talks about his father going to see him play in O'Toole Park in Dublin in 1956 in a Dublin Senior Hurling Final.</p> <p>00:09:57 Following the Kildare football team. He talks about</p>
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	<p>watching them win Leinster Senior Football Titles in 1956, 1998, and 2000.</p> <p>00:10:20 He talks about playing hurling as a youngster, and playing football and hurling after school. He talks about training for Crokes in the Phoenix Park and his coach John Howard.</p> <p>00:11:20 He names various county players who he played with, Mickey Birmingham, Brian and Fintan Cooney from Dublin, and Mick Maher from Kilkenny.</p> <p>00:11:50 Hurlers in Ardclough. He talks about UCD's farm in Ardclough and how the people coming to the club changed got involved in the hurling.</p> <p>00:12:20 Pat became Celbridge chairman in 1968. He describes all the capacities he has served in for Celbridge GAA club, and how he is still involved.</p> <p>00:13:00 He discusses how became involved in administration.</p> <p>00:13:49 Pat tells about the most enjoyable moments he had as a club officer. He describes buying the club grounds in 1984.</p> <p>00:15:00 Hurling in Celbridge. He gives an account of hurling in Celbridge and what they've achieved over the years, winning the Kildare Senior Hurling Championship in 2005 and 2009. He also tells about winning the Kildare Senior Football Championship in 2008</p> <p>00:15:42 He says how his father was captain of Celbridge when they won the Kildare Senior Hurling Championship in 1921.</p> <p>00:15:53 GAA stories his father told him. His father played with Kilcloon in Meath. He tells a story about Kilcloon winning a championship when the only player on the team from Kilcloon was the goal keeper.</p> <p>00:17:10 Pat discusses his father's influence on him and bringing him to Croke Park. He talks about getting a football for Christmas and bringing his first football boots to bed. He discusses getting new hurleys and fixing them with frames</p>
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	<p>from a bicycle.</p> <p>00:18:21 Difference between Croke Park now and Croke Park when he was young. He tells a story about going to Croke Park in 1953 with his father and being put sitting on the back wall of the hill.</p> <p>00:18:55 He talks about being afraid of getting crushed at matches in Croke Park.</p> <p>00:19:27 His GAA heroes. He talks about former Cavan player Mick Higgins, and how he was friends with his father. He tells numerous stories about Mick, including how his wife's uncle played with him on the Kildare minor team in the Leinster Minor football final in 1939. He mentions Tom Langan, a footballer from Mayo. He talks about seeing Christy Ring play hurling, and also John Doyle from Tipperary, the Rackard brothers, and Tim Flood from Wexford.</p> <p>00:21:35 He discusses going on the train to his first Munster Hurling Final when he was 16 or 17.</p> <p>00:22:21 Kildare's rivals. He talks about the rivalries with Dublin, Meath, and Laois. He talks about various hurling rivalries around the country</p> <p>00:23:50 Celbridge's biggest rivals. Pat talks about hurling against Ardclough, and playing football against Straffon. He describes how matches would end up in rows. He describes a match between Celbridge and Straffon in a Jack Higgins cup final, played in Newbridge.</p> <p>00:24:23 Great clubs in Kildare. He talks about teams in the 1950s, Sarsfields from Newbridge and Clane in football, and Ardclough and Naomh Brid in hurling.</p> <p>00:25:26 Personalities in the clubs. He talks about John Dunphy who held different positions in the Celbridge club. He tells a story about the 1958 Kildare Championship semi final against Moone and the aftermath when Celbridge protested against an illegal player. He describes John Dunphy's actions at the county meeting.</p> <p>00:28:07 Roles of the clergy in the GAA. He talks about the different roles the clergy had in clubs. He names a Fr. McCarthy from Cork and Fr. Martin from Wicklow who hurled with Celbridge. He names Fr. Corrbitt who became chairman</p>
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	<p>of Galway county board, and how he was involved in Celbridge GAA club. He also talks about Fr. Murray who was involved.</p> <p>00:30:00 Priests played with his father under assumed names because they weren't allow play. Pat discusses how long the priests spent in Celbridge.</p> <p>00:31:07 He speaks about trying to get enough players for the Celbridge team in the 1970's. He discusses the local soccer team and its impact on the GAA club, and sharing a pitch with the soccer team in the early 1970s.</p> <p>00:32:50 Attitudes towards soccer from members of the GAA club. He talks about his father and how he thinks he would feel about the opening of Coke Park to foreign sports.</p> <p>00:32:20 Bloody Sunday in Croke Park. He says how his father was there and his friend Mick Sammon was the referee. He describes their experience on Bloody Sunday and his father's relationship with Mick Sammon, who had won an All-Ireland Senior Football Championship with Kildare in 1919.</p> <p>00:35:02 Following the Kildare team through the years. He tells about not being allowed to go to the All Ireland Senior Football Final in 1956 because of an outbreak of polio. He tells the story of how he and his brother snuck out and went anyhow.</p> <p>00:36:31 He tells how he has seen Kildare lose 11 Leinster Senior Football Finals since 1956 until he seen them win in 1958. He talks about going to Portlaoise, Navan, Carlow and Drogheda.</p> <p>00:37:10 Pat talks about following the Kildare hurling team, and how they have done over the years.</p> <p>00:37:30 He talks about his playing career with the Kildare hurling team, and talks about Offaly's hurling team at the time and their team in more recent times. He mentions the Presentation College in Offaly.</p> <p>00:38:32 He compares his feeling towards football and hurling and how much each sport was followed etc.</p> <p>00:39:05 He describes is time as administrator, and trying to</p>
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	<p>revive hurling in the 1970's. He discusses underage Feiles and their subsequent success in both hurling and camogie.</p> <p>00:39:55 He gives a history of camogie in Celbridge up until the present day.</p> <p>00:40:35 Differences between Celbridge GAA Club when he was young and today. He talks about the 'fun' aspect and compares matches today to matches in the 1970s. He discusses travelling and organisation.</p> <p>00:41:50 He mentions difficulties in organising matches and competitions in the past.</p> <p>00:42:55 He talks about the pressure of people's job and its influence on getting people to play.</p> <p>00:43:36 He talks about his time as chairman of the juvenile committee in Celbridge, and organising the Feile in '1976 or 1977'. He mentions how they hosted a team from Warren Point. He talks about his time as club chairman in the 1960's and tensions at meetings.</p> <p>00:44:40 He discusses the impact of outside people moving to the club and their treatment. He also talks about his father's opinion on the matter.</p> <p>00:45:36 He talks about a friend who was involved in the club along with him.</p> <p>00:46:06 He gives his opinion on people in Celbridge understanding of the history of the club, and talks about getting a book together for their 125 year anniversary which is in 2010. He also discusses the importance of the history of the club.</p> <p>00:48:27 He talks about the state of the GAA today and discusses the rule changes, organisation and the community spirit within the GAA</p> <p>00:49:37 Pat talks about dinner dances and other social occasions in the club.</p> <p>00:50:10 He talks about his time as a county board delegate. He describes how his father and neighbour would travel to meetings when they were county board delegates.</p> <p>00:51:07 He talks about his feelings about being involved in</p>
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	<p>the GAA over the years.</p> <p>00:52:32 He tells the story of how he became involved in the underage part of Celbridge GAA Club.</p> <p>00:53:25 He talks about how he still goes to see Kildare football matches and discusses the present state of the team.</p> <p>00:54:15 He talks about the demographic of managers in Celbridge. He mentions former Celbridge Senior Football manager Paul Early and Barney Rock their current manager, and gives his opinions on their achievements.</p> <p>00:55:34 He discusses the difference in training methods over the years.</p> <p>00:56:11 He talks about trying to raise money for the club years ago and buying jerseys and a football. He talks about bringing football to Capel Street to repaired.</p> <p>00:57:40 He talks about the role GAA plays in people's lives, the commercial aspect. He also talks about Croke Park and provincial grounds. He talks about a coaching and approaches towards training younger players.</p> <p>00:59:30 He discusses the competition structures in hurling and the Leinster Hurling Championship.</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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>County Board Delegate</p> <p>President of Celbridge GAA Club</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Kildare Junior football and Junior Hurling Championship.</p> <p>Dublin Minor Hurling Championship</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Chairman, Treasurer, County Board Delegate, Juvenile Chairman</p>



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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:00:13
<b>Language</b>	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:      Mark Farrelly

Date:      20<sup>th</sup> July 2010