

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	17 th Nov 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Lanesborough, Co. Longford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Duggan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1934 Home County: Longford
Education	Primary: Killashee NS, Co. Longford; Lanesborough NS, Co. Longford Secondary: Longford Vocational School, Co. Longford Third Level: Kilroy's Correspondence College; Garda Training, Phoenix Park
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	St. Brigid's, Killashee [Longford]; Glenamaddy [Galway]
Occupation	Retired Garda; Broadcaster; Recitation Writing
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Secretary of Community Council; Chairman of Social Services; Chairman of Active Retirement Group Claremorris

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Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Longford, Roscommon, Dublin, Galway
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years from playing with Killashee in Longford and Crumlin in Dublin to his administrative role in Glenamaddy in Galway. He recalls being part of the purchase and development of a new pitch for Glenamaddy when he was stationed there. He discusses his career in the Garda Síochána and the relationship between the Gardaí and the GAA. John discusses his work in radio after leaving the Gardaí and the writing of his many recitations about the GAA. He describes the various changes in the playing of football over the years and gives his opinion on the growing professionalism among the GAA. He discusses the opening up of Croke Park for foreign games and hiding in trees to watch soccer matches before the ban on foreign games was lifted. John highlights the importance of the media in the modern game and describes what the GAA has meant to him during his lifetime.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:34 Talks about his earliest GAA memory. Describes the Roscommon team of the 1940s. Listening to Michael O’Hehir.</p> <p>00:58 Born and raised in a place called Clonbearla next to the village of Killashee, Longford. Recalls listening to the one radio in the village with the dry and wet battery and how it was turned off straight after the match to save power.</p> <p>01:23 Remembers the great team of Roscommon, Jimmy Murray was the captain, Phelim Murray, Donal Keenan, Jack McQuillan, John Joe Fallon, John Joe Nerney.</p> <p>02:13 Recalls players who played for Kerry. Mentions Dan</p>

	<p>O'Keefe and Joe Keohane.</p> <p>02:22 Compares the players of his day to the players of today. Differences in skill levels and fitness. Some basic skills have been lost.</p> <p>03:50 Recalls a story told to him by former Galway footballer Noel Tierney about a match in Castlebar. Had to go to mass and then work in the field before the match.</p> <p>04:44 Talks about when he first started playing football with Killashee (St. Brigid's). Discusses the mixed standard of refereeing in Longford.</p> <p>05:25 Recalls playing football with St. Agnes's in Pearse Park in Crumlin, Dublin in 1958. Mentions Clare man Senan Connell, Bill O'Brien from Kerry and Noel Dockery. All Gardaí. Most of the team played soccer.</p> <p>06:40 Recalls getting a trial with a Dublin junior team. Playing against Des Dockery. Played in Glenamaddy in 1966.</p> <p>08:31 Talks about the history of the GAA club in Killashee. How small the club was and notable footballers. Mentions Joe McDermott, Jimmy Casey, former Longford players Pat McGrath and John Casey.</p> <p>09:49 Describes the poor facilities available to the club. Changing rooms were most commonly a furze bush.</p> <p>10:57 Recalls how the education he got from working in a bar in Killashee benefited him greatly.</p> <p>11:55 Talks about getting the Garda exam. Trained in Phoenix Park and was first posted in Donnybrook. Recalls the work he did as a Garda.</p> <p>13:00 Discusses retiring from the Gardaí after 4 years because his father was ill and he had to go home.</p> <p>13:10 Talks about his land at home and how much of the land was covered by the Shannon in the winter.</p> <p>13:40 Recalls going back to the Gardaí in Crumlin, then moving to Carlow, then moving to Glenamaddy in Galway.</p> <p>14:01 Talks about retiring from the Gardaí. Began working for a pirate radio station, going from a job that preserved the law to a job that broke it. Spent 16 years working in radio.</p> <p>15:00 Discusses returning to Dublin 2003 and joining L'Arche, an organisation that helps people with physical and intellectual disabilities.</p>
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	<p>15:35 Talks about how he went back to his radio job on a Sunday morning and the type of music he plays on the show.</p> <p>16:32 Describes the role football played in his school life. Mentions Jimmy O'Brien.</p> <p>17:27 Recalls going to a championship match in Mullingar where Longford were playing Kildare. Mentions former Kildare and Leinster goalkeeper Tom Malone.</p> <p>17:45 Remembers Jimmy O'Brien scoring two goals within the first ten minutes and how Longford won the first round of the championship.</p> <p>18:18 Discusses playing football in the Depot. With footballers like Laois man Mick McDonnell, Frank Ivers of Galway, Joe Lowney from Cork and Gerry Daly, who won an All-Ireland with Galway.</p> <p>18:58 Discusses the role GAA played in the Gardaí and how a Garda would get great respect if he played for his county but this was not always the case.</p> <p>19:17 Recalls how Paddy Kennedy from Kerry had to work the night shift the night before he played an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>19:52 Talks about Paddy Harrington, father of Padraig Harrington, and how he was a great footballer.</p> <p>20:04 Recalls that Paddy Harrington was based in Irishtown and talks about how they used to meet in Herbert Park and train. Paddy played right half back for Cork and Munster.</p> <p>20:24 Talks about how the Gardaí had a great gaelic football team and how they often played against the St Vincent's team with Ollie Freeney and Kevin Heffernan.</p> <p>20:35 Talks about the atmosphere at the matches when these two teams meet. Mentions Garda players Kevin Scally of Offaly, Cavan man Tom Maguire and Mayo's Tom Langan.</p> <p>21:12 Discusses how there was no internal competitions among the Gardaí for football but there was for snooker.</p> <p>21:54 Discusses the history of the Killashee club. Recalls playing in the club's 100th anniversary.</p> <p>22:25 Talks about one of the founding members, a Gunning from Clonmore. His relations are still involved with the club.</p> <p>22:56 Discusses his different roles in clubs in the areas he was stationed. Chairman of Glenamaddy and secretary of a</p>
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	<p>camogie club in Killashee.</p> <p>23:17 Recalls his role as secretary in Killashee. Talks about a camogie club that was set up between Glenamaddy and Kilkerrin when he was stationed in Galway. Trained by Father Sean Higgins.</p> <p>23:50 The camogie team went to the club All Ireland final and were beaten by St. Paul's of Kilkenny.</p> <p>24:00 Recalls how he ended up being their first president and how he got involved with the camogie team, by the priest jumping over the wall asking him to give them a lift to their matches.</p> <p>24:52 Discusses the nature of the meetings and the make-up of the GAA in Galway. The football/hurling divide. Recalls how a male team was picked to play against the women.</p> <p>26:33 Talks about how there was not a hurling tradition in Killashee or in Longford in general but this has changed in recent times. Mentions a man called Stakelum.</p> <p>27:33 Discusses the role of Sean Higgins in getting him involved in the camogie in Galway. Talks about the strength of camogie in Galway with successful teams like Athenry.</p> <p>28:36 Describes the differences in the GAA in the different counties that he lived in. Less danger in Dublin football than in Longford. Played in the Fifteen Acres in Phoenix Park.</p> <p>29:20 Recalls playing in the Fifteen Acres in Phoenix Park and marking Dublin footballer Brian McDonald.</p> <p>30:05 Discusses how he only played for one year when living in Glenamaddy.</p> <p>30:30 Talks about how he maintains that Sean Purcell was one of the greatest footballers he ever knew. How Purcell and Frankie Stockwell were known as the 'Terrible Twins'. Also mentions Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon.</p> <p>33:01 Discusses the different recitations he has worked on and gives his opinion on the role of Scór in the GAA. Compares it to Macra na Feirme.</p> <p>35:12 Describes the type of training when he was playing in Dublin. Compares the modern day style of training and play to that during his playing days.</p> <p>37:15 Believes the old style of football was more entertaining than today's style. Mentions Meath's Paddy O'Brien, Paddy</p>
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	<p>Prendergast from Mayo and Noel Tierney. Also mentions the Meath team with Paddy Meagan, Mick O'Brien, Kevin McConnell</p> <p>37:50 Discusses how Kevin Heffernan's Dublin team introduced the running and passing game in football. Recalls watching a league game between Dublin and Meath in Croke Park and Dublin rang rings around Meath.</p> <p>38:58 Recalls the different methods of travelling to games. By train and in the back of a lorry. Talks about the late 1940s and how everyone cycled to matches. Players cycling 20 miles from Killashee to Newtowncashel or Ballymahon to play a game. People often cycled to Dublin.</p> <p>40:58 Discusses living on the border of Roscommon and the impact of the successful Roscommon teams of the 1940s on Lanesborough. Excitement about the GAA, the impact of Michael O'Hehir.</p> <p>42:29 Discusses the differences and similarities between football in the different parts of Ireland.</p> <p>43:16 Talks about his family involvement in the GAA. Recalls how he got involved with the GAA. Organising a 7 a side tournament in the early 1950s when working in the pub in Killashee.</p> <p>45:48 Discusses talking to people in Glenamaddy about the GAA and how the clergy were against the GAA in the early 20th century. Recalls how a Father Conway in Glenamaddy didn't want GAA in his parish.</p> <p>47:40 Describes the role played by the clergy in the GAA.</p> <p>48:37 Talks about the involvement of the Gardaí in local clubs. Discusses his involvement in the community in Glenamaddy. Chairman of the club, secretary of the community council and chairman of social services. Building trust in the local community.</p> <p>50:35 Discusses his role as chairman of the club and the work involved.</p> <p>52:01 Recalls the club's purchase of a new field and the work involved in getting it ready. The impact on the community.</p> <p>54:10 Discusses retiring in Glenamaddy in 1986 and going into local radio. The nature of broadcasting.</p> <p>55:26 Discusses the role of the media in the GAA over the years. Mentions the contributions made by Seán Óg Ó</p>
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	<p>Ceallacháin, Michael O’Hehir, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Michael Lester and Martin Breheny. Reading Mitchell Connolly in the newspaper on Monday mornings.</p> <p>57:16 Talks about soccer players playing football and how he disagreed with the ban on foreign games within the GAA. Recalls being a fan of Longford Town because of the goalkeeper Mick Corkery who also played for Mayo.</p> <p>57:54 Describes how he had to be very careful going to soccer matches in case he was seen by GAA people. Recalls going to one match, hiding up a tree to watch the game and seeing the GAA county secretary hiding in the tree next to him.</p> <p>59:00 Describes how the rule was not enforced in Crumlin and his experiences with soccer.</p> <p>59:52 Discusses the role of teachers in the GAA. Recalls how St Mel’s College in Longford always made poor players in to good players.</p> <p>01:01:20 Recalls being on border duty in Donegal and his experiences with the GAA there. Mentions Jim Fleming.</p> <p>01:02:39 Discusses the role of the GAA in the local community. The passion among people in the community for their club.</p> <p>01:04:15 Discusses the role of women in the GAA.</p> <p>01:06:33 Talks about the role of volunteers in the GAA and gives his opinion on the aspects of professionalism within the organisation.</p> <p>01:09:04 Gives his opinion on the various rules changes within the GAA over the years.</p> <p>01:10:12 Discusses the opening of Croke Park for soccer and rugby.</p> <p>01:11:39 Describes his best memory of the GAA. Discusses when he wrote a recitation for Colm Keane’s book on his 20 best hurlers and it was presented to the families of the chosen hurlers in Youghal. Mentions Mick Mackey, Christy Ring, Jack Lynch, John Doyle, Jimmy Doyle, Billy Rackard, Tom Cheasty, Joe Dooley and Ray Cummins. Getting his picture taken with all his favourite hurlers.</p> <p>01:14:14 Chooses Sean Purcell as his GAA hero. Describes why. Also mentions Mick Higgins of Cavan, Nace O’Dowd of</p>
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	<p>Sligo, Gerry O'Reilly from Wicklow and Jim Rogers.</p> <p>01:15:42 Discusses his biggest disappointment in the GAA. When Meath beat Longford in a Leinster semi-final.</p> <p>01:16:47 Talks about the GAA facilities in Dublin.</p> <p>01:17:50 Discusses the many recitations he has written over the years. Recalls various stories about the GAA. Mentions Eamonn McRory, Noel Skehan and Ollie Walsh.</p> <p>01:20:45 Recalls other stories including one about the Roscommon team of the 1940s captained by Jimmy Murray.</p> <p>01:21:41 Talks about being asked to write about Kilkenny winning 5 All-Irelands and then they didn't win. Wrote about a Tipperary man who went to Australia instead.</p> <p>01:23:18 Talks about why he writes recitations and where he gets inspiration to write them and songs. Has wrote songs for Brendan Shine, Daniel O'Donnell, Foster and Allen, James Stewart, Hugo Duncan, Brian Coll and others.</p> <p>01:24:37 Discusses writing a recitation about rural life, the vestment box and travel.</p> <p>01:27:08 Talks about the role of the GAA in promoting Irish language and culture.</p> <p>01:28:24 Discusses what the GAA has meant to him over his life. Describes how it becomes are part of you. Mentions Liam Gleeson.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 12 years. Won one medal at a match to mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Brigid's, Killashee.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Got involved in administration in the 1970s in Glenamaddy. He was chairman of Glenamaddy in 1974/1975 and chairman of the Glenamaddy Camogie Club in 1970. He was appointed as the first President of Glenamaddy.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:29:46
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: _____ 12/07/12 _____