

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	25 October 2008
Location	St Michael's Irish Centre, Liverpool
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maire Doolin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1966 Home County: Great Britain
Education	Primary: St Monica's RC Secondary: St Augustines RC High School Third Level: John Moore's University
Family	Siblings: John, Michelle, Judith Current Family if Different: Husband (Neil) and three sons – Ciaran, Feidhelm, Declan
Club(s)	John Mitchels
Occupation	Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	Builder[Father]; Barmaid/Waitress [Mother]
Religion	Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

Date of Report	23 September 2009
Period Covered	1940s-2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Great Britain, Meath, Clare, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Identity, Culture, Politics, Northern Ireland, Other sports, Emigration, Outsider's Perspectives, GAA Abroad, Media
Interview Summary	<p>Introduction</p> <p>0:15 Liverpool-Irish – Family from Co. Meath and Co. Clare – family came to Liverpool in the 1940s and 1950s – hearing stories about Ireland growing up. Her father moved to Liverpool to send money home to support his parents in siblings (11) in Co. Meath</p> <p>1:20 Mother was an Irish dancer - uncle a traditional Irish musician – grandfather Redmond from Co. Clare, used to teach music there – grandmother Cissy White had a dancing school in Clare also – father was a dancer, musician and singer.</p> <p>2:32 When parents moved to Liverpool first – difficulties in integrating into the community – hostile times – ‘Irish need not apply’ – stayed within Irish community - How her parents met – in the Shamrock Club.</p> <p>3:28 Awareness of her Irishness – had céilís in the house – mother spoke Irish – mother started the Green Velvet Céilí Band – Maire played the flute in the band – learning the flute at Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann – teaches music there now.</p> <p>4:18 Travelling over to Waterford to play music – relationship with Sliabh Bloom set dancing – Sliabh Bloom set dancers still come to Liverpool – her sons now Irish dancers.</p> <p>4:40 Strong sense of identity – holds an Irish passport – proud of her Irishness.</p> <p>5:01 Being referred to as Irish in England and as being English in Ireland – her children's involvement in Irish culture – memories of going to the Irish Centre in Mount Pleasant with her parents to see Irish showbands.</p> <p>6:12 Never involved in the GAA – no ladies team in her time – thinks its important – Irish Centre is like a ‘little Ireland’.</p> <p>7:00 Going to John Mitchel's Gaelic football matches growing</p>

	<p>up - loves watching the games – husband from Dublin, father from Meath – rivalry. Importance of Irish Centre and of the GAA from a community point of view.</p> <p>8:30 How she feels when she goes to Ireland</p> <p>9:06 Been going to Irish centre for about 34 years – third and fourth generation Irish people bring their children to the Irish centre now.</p> <p>10:40 Starting of an underage Gaelic Football team but it folded due to lack of support. Sons love Gaelic football but they play soccer and rugby because there are no underage teams.</p> <p>11:18 Meeting her husband at the Irish Centre - how her husband and his family moved to Liverpool.</p> <p>13:00 Husband founded the James Larkin Republican Flute Band – take part in parades – lots of support from Belfast bands – republican but non-sectarian – belief in a united Ireland. – lots of university students join – march in Belfast, Scotland and around Liverpool.</p> <p>14:40 The Troubles – issues with the Orange Order in Liverpool – now have a good relationship with the police. Vauxhall Road where Irish community settled during the famine – strong core of Irish families there who organise St Patrick's Day Parade – some attacks on parade in the past – mural painted in Liverpool by artists representing both sides of the divide from Belfast – mural later destroyed by vandals.</p> <p>17:15 Attacks on their house when she was growing up during the troubles – intimidation on the streets – many Irish people assimilated into English life as a result – Flute band raising profile of republicanism and showing that its not about violence – effect of the peace process.</p> <p>19:00 Motivation – passionate about her culture and identity – also a trade unionist – importance of establishing hers and her family's rights as Irish citizens in Liverpool. Bringing an accordion band over from Monaghan for St Patrick's Day parade – parade blocked by loyalist group – difficulties with loyalist groups.</p> <p>21:21 Children all have Irish names – would like to move to Ireland – learn about Irish history themselves. – one son has been at two world championships – important of passing Irishness down the generation – other sons play music – identity is key – society more understanding of that now</p>
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	<p>compared to her father's time.</p> <p>24:00 Identity important to her husband whose father was also a republican – Celtic supporters.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	Length of Interview: 0:24:45
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23 September 2009