

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	22 nd Feb 2011
Location	Anthony and Betty's home, near Wicklow Town
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anthony Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Wicklow
Education	Primary: Rathnew NS, Co. Wicklow Secondary: De La Salle, Wicklow Town
Family	Siblings: Only child Current Family if Different: Wife (Betty), 4 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Rathnew GAA [Wicklow]
Occupation	Revenue Collector
Parents' Occupation	Cook in Hunters Hotel [Mother]; Local Authority Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Labour Party
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Wicklow Musical Society; Wicklow Drama Group; St Bridget's Drama Group, Rathnew; FCA

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Betty Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Wicklow
Education	Primary: Rathnew NS, Co. Wicklow Secondary: Wicklow Technical School, Wicklow Town
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Husband (Anthony), 4 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Rathnew GAA [Wicklow]
Occupation	Retired Secretary
Parents' Occupation	Housewife & Dressmaker [Mother]; Farm Labourer [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Labour Party
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Wicklow Musical Society; Wicklow Drama Group; St Bridget's Drama Group, Rathnew; ICA

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1886 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wicklow, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Anthony and Betty Doyle talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They discuss growing up in Rathnew and the area was like during the 1940s and 1950s. They talk about their family's interest in the GAA and how they became involved with the Association. They discuss the history of the club and how it has developed over the years. They talk about the club's success in the 1940s and in recent years, including the winning of the Leinster club championship in 2001. Anthony talks about his playing career with Rathnew and with the Wicklow minor team. They discuss their involvement in the administration of the club and recall taking part in the Scór competition. Anthony talks about his refereeing career and the sometimes tenuous relationship Rathnew has had with the county board. They give their opinion on the various rule changes and issues within the GAA over the years including the removing of the ban on foreign games and the growth of professionalism. Towards the end of the interview they highlight the important role the GAA has played in their lives and describe what the Association means to them.</p> <p>00:25 (Betty) Talks about growing up in Rathnew. Describes what life was like in the 1940s and 1950s. Recalls having a handball beside the school. Notes how her grandfather was killed in the First World War. Talks about going to secondary</p>

	<p>school.</p> <p>03:45 Recalls travelling from Rathnew to Wicklow in a parade with her father. Talks about meeting Anthony. Recalls Anthony breaking his leg in a match. Discusses her family's involvement in the GAA and how her brother played for Wicklow. Talks about her sons' involvement and how Anthony was suspended for playing soccer.</p> <p>10:45 Talks about getting involved in the club at a committee level. Discusses Anthony's father's involvement in the GAA. Gives her opinion on current GAA fixtures for the championship and the league.</p> <p>13:28 (Anthony) Discusses the foundation of the club in 1886 and the early success of the club. Talks about the rivalry with Baltinglass and the club's relationship with Kilmacud Kickhams.</p> <p>15:10 Talks about Rathnew's three-in-a-row championship victories in 1941, 1942 and 1943. Mentions James Doyle</p> <p>16:50 Discusses playing senior football for Rathnew for 17 years. Winning a championship in 1970. Winning the junior hurling championship in 1979. Going to school in St Joseph's. Mentions Father Lavelle and his role in drama in the village.</p> <p>19:38 Talks about the success of Rathnew from 1979 to the winning of the Leinster club championship in 2001.</p> <p>20:38 Describes what the final was like in 2001 and the celebrations after.</p> <p>22:03 (Both) They talk about the different sports in the village like tug of war and pitch and toss. Describes what was involved in the game of pitch and toss. Recall men coming to mass with their boots to play football after.</p> <p>25:45 (Betty) Talks about handball in the area. Recalls what they did as children in the area.</p> <p>27:52 Discusses the type of employment opportunities in the area during the 1950s and 1960s. Talks about the impact of emigration on the club during this period.</p> <p>29:00 (Both) They talk about the annual Corpus Christi procession in Rathnew.</p> <p>31:11 They discuss the role of the GAA in Rathnew. Discusses the brickyard in the village.</p>
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	<p>33:10 They talk about hurling in the club in the past.</p> <p>34:16 (Anthony) Discusses the role of the RUC in the village in the 1880s and how the club got its colours.</p> <p>36:21 Talks about his grandfather James Doyle and his role in the founding of the club and his father's involvement in the club. Mentions Ned 'Tosser' Doyle. Discusses the death of his father.</p> <p>39:15 Recalls how the club picked the team in St Brigid's hall and sneaking in to see the team.</p> <p>39:55 Discusses his own playing career with Rathnew. Talks about the Forestry College team. Recalls illegal players on the team.</p> <p>41:57 Talks about playing soccer during the 1960s and being banned from Gaelic games for two years.</p> <p>43:15 (Betty) Notes how Rathnew were unsuccessful during those years because many of their players were suspended.</p> <p>43:54 (Anthony) Talks about playing with the Wicklow minor team.</p> <p>45:45 (Betty) Recalls meeting Anthony and her interest in Gaelic games. Watching camogie matches. Losing the nine-in-a-row final against St Patrick's in 2004.</p> <p>48:35 Describes the different type of fundraising events for the club. Running a lord mayor campaign.</p> <p>52:15 Discusses the development of the club's grounds over the years.</p> <p>54:22 Talks about how Rathnew has changed over the years and the impact of this on the club.</p> <p>56:35 Discusses the impact of the club's success on juvenile involvement.</p> <p>57:43 Talks about her brother Mosey Coffey's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:50 (Both) They describe the types of places they travelled to following the county team. Recall visiting the Crossmaglen Rangers' ground.</p> <p>01:04:16 They discuss the issue of finance in Wicklow GAA.</p> <p>01:05:08 They talk about their family and the role of the GAA</p>
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	<p>in their daily lives.</p> <p>01:06:00 They discuss their involvement in the Scór competition and the role of it in the Rathnew club. Give their opinion on the current format of Scór.</p> <p>01:11:42 (Anthony) Talks about his refereeing career.</p> <p>01:13:28 (Both) They describe the club's relationship with the county board. Recalls issues with a former county chairman and secretary and how it impacted on the club's rivalry with St Patrick's. Mentions Ronan Coffey.</p> <p>01:16:45 (Betty) Describes how the county is divided geographically and how this impacts on the county team. Mentions Kevin O'Brien.</p> <p>01:18:05 (Both) They talk about the changes in the GAA over the years. Highlight the issue of insurance. Give their opinion on the various issues in the GAA.</p> <p>01:22:13 They discuss the role of the GAA in their lives. Betty gives her opinion on the Gaelic Players Association. They talk about the issue of professionalism.</p> <p>01:28:28 (Anthony) Describes the important role the GAA plays in his life.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Anthony:</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 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>Betty:</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 type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>

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Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Anthony: Played from underage at every level upwards until 1970s with Rathnew. Won Wicklow Senior Hurling Championship (1951); Won Wicklow Senior Football Championship (1970) Betty: Played Camogie with Rathnew
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Anthony: Coached underage teams in Rathnew for many years; Served in various roles for Rathnew GAA over the years including treasurer, secretary, PRO, Honorary President from the 1970s – Current. Betty: Served in various roles for Rathnew GAA from the 1980s – 2005 including PRO; secretary; treasurer; committee member.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:29:20
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 17th July 2012

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