

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 th Feb 2011
Location	Armagh Gaelic Athletics Ground, Armagh City.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peadar Murray
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Armagh
Education	Primary: Derrymacash, Lurgan and Aghacollon Primary Schools, Co. Armagh. Secondary: St Colman's College, Newry and CBS Belfast. Third Level: Queen's University, Belfast.
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers and 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife, 2 sons and 1 daughter.
Club(s)	John Mitchell's GAA [Antrim]; Wolftones GAA [Armagh]
Occupation	Chartered Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Lurgan Golf Club

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1947 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Antrim, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Administration, Family involvement, Training, Coaching, Playing, Irish language, Education, Role of the Clergy, Role of Teachers, Supporting, Volunteering, County History, Club History, Role of the Club in the Community, Travel, Impact on Life, Identity, Career, Sacrifices, Challenges, Northern Ireland, the Troubles, Socialising, Relationships, Family Involvement, Culture, Fundraising, Officials, Grounds, All-Ireland, Politics
Interview Summary	<p>Peadar discusses how his family's involvement in the administration of Armagh GAA influenced his own path in the GAA. He speaks in depth about the development of the administration of the GAA in Armagh and the National Financial Committee. He also discusses the importance of the volunteers, sponsorship and the amateur status of sport. Peadar mentions the work the GAA did for the Catholic and Nationalist community during the Troubles. He also goes on to discuss the present role of the GAA in both Armagh and Irish society.</p> <p>00:00:34 Discusses family involvement in the GAA including his father's role in the administration of the county board from 1950-1956 and 1960-1966, his uncle's role as president of Middleton GAC and his brothers role in Clann Éireann GAC.</p> <p>00:02:11 Describes the roles of his family in the GAA in greater detail and how their enthusiasm influenced him. Speaks about the role of schools in the GAA and the differences between club/county playing as against national competitions. Discuss playing with Clann Éireann, the Murray family name in the club and leaving to play with Sean Mitchells GAC. Mentions Davin Park, Lurgan, Derrymaccash, Gaelic League</p> <p>00:05:35 Speaks about his playing career and his role as a goalkeeper. Discusses playing in a rival club to his brother. Also talks about the impact of good training on club performance.</p> <p>00:07:29 Peadar discusses how he became involved in club administration in Sean Mitchells GAA 1963-1978.</p> <p>00:08:39 Speaks about moving to the administration of The</p>

	<p>Wolfe Tones GAC as both treasurer and auditor. Mentions Joe Canning, Derrymaccash, Pearse Óg GAC, Armagh County panel.</p> <p>00:10:50 Discusses debts incurred in running the grounds and clubs and speaks about the fundraising done for Armagh GAA. Mentions Gerry Fagan, Pat McMahon, Stanley Headly,</p> <p>00:12:47 Describes the change in financial backing, income and financial support in Armagh GAA from the 1980's to the present. Discusses the need for the establishment of the National Finance Management Committee with Gerry Fagan and Jack Lutheran to deal with the new challenges and organising finances on a club and county level. Mentions Dan Moore, Michael Maher and Fr. Dan (Cavan).</p> <p>00:15:00 Discussed the way in the finances were organised, and how the National Finance Management Committee, promoted financial organisation and standardisation within the GAA on a county level. Mentions personal sacrifices made to implement this structure, the difficulties of getting counties to adopt computerised accounting systems, and the increased importance of corporate governance. Also discusses being involved in the financial management of Croke Park for a few years as part of the GAA's national budget plan.</p> <p>00:18:55 Peadar speaks about the evolution of the financial management of the GAA on a national level and the interaction with Croke Park. Mentions Kathy Slattery, Frank Geary, Tom Ryan.</p> <p>00:20:33 Discusses corporate sponsorship and the way in which this has impacted on the GAA. Mentions different sponsors for Armagh, Morgan Fuels, Carna Transport, Barry Hughes, Newry Building Supplies and the benefit sponsorship has had on business in Armagh through the GAA.</p> <p>00:22:53 Talks about setting up a committee to win an All Ireland title for Armagh, via improved standards and training. Discusses the professionalisation of the running of Armagh GAA. Mentions Seamus King, Jim McCorry, John Morrison, Gene Duffy, Paddy Nugent, Brian McAlinden, Brian Canavan, Jarleth Burnes, Benny Tierney, Paul McGrean, Cian McGeeny, Diarmuid Marsden. John McInty, Tony McInty</p> <p>00:26:00 Discusses opening a shop to sell Armagh Jerseys in order to raise money for Armagh GAA and how it became a proper business and raised the profile for the association. Mentions O'Neill's, Paddy Nugent.</p>
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	<p>00:27:05 Speaks about the changes required for Armagh team including change of management in 2001. Peadar also discusses his hopes for another All-Ireland title for Armagh. Mentions Cross McGlenn GAC, Joe Jordan.</p> <p>00:31:25 Tells story of receiving the All Ireland Cup in 2003 and bringing it to the graveyard where his family were buried. Discusses goals and achieving goals within Armagh GAA and winning first Ulster Championship. Also speaks about the All-Ireland final. Mentions Peter McDonnell, and personal sacrifices.</p> <p>00:35:34 Discusses the impact the Troubles on his involvement in the GAA, and the reaction from the community and police when travelling to and from matches. Discusses being stopped by the UDR. Mentions Sean Mitchells GAC, Armagh division 3 and 4, Portadown, Mahery, Stanley Headly.</p> <p>00:41:58 Talks about the impact of state funding on GAA over from the 1970's to 2011. Discusses the work of the Ulster Council, Sports Council and Armagh Council on contributing to the funding of the GAA in the county. Mentions Danny Murphy.</p> <p>00:44:15 Discusses the opening of the new GAA athletic grounds in Armagh city and includes details about the new building.</p> <p>00:46:26 Speaks about the recession and the way in which the supporters have funded and ensured the GAA's survival. Discusses where the funds are spent in order to facilitate the continuation of the games in the community and over all standards.</p> <p>00:48:41 Discusses the importance of amateurism, volunteers and fundraisers in the running of the GAA in Armagh. Mentions Joe Kernan, Paddy O'Rourke, and Brian McAlin.</p> <p>00:50:32 Mentions the issue of medical expenses at club and county level. Mentions Paddy O'Rourke, Donal Murtagh, Joe McClusky, Brian McAlin, Tyrone, Mickey Harte, Joe McCracken.</p> <p>00:51:43 Discusses his personal attitude to the GAA and the importance of the success of Armagh GAA. Critiques the actions of Croke Park in relation to the maintenance of the amateur status of the sport, particularly in relation to the payment of managers.</p> <p>00:54:02 Speaks about the improvement of Armagh GAA</p>
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	<p>since the 1950's and the changes which have occurred during that period. Discusses the effect of soccer on the participation levels in parts of Armagh county. Mentions the ban on the GAA in the security forces,</p> <p>00:58:48 Discusses the benefit of being involved in the GAA on a career level, particularly in relation to the profile of players and networking. Peadar speaks about the role of the GAA in the Troubles and its' contribution to the Nationalist and Catholic Community during that period. Mentions Joe Kernan.</p> <p>01:02:04 Speaks about his motivations for becoming and staying in the GAA and why he has stayed with the organisation for 40 years.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played football for John Mitchell's GAA club, 1963-1977. Played in Antrim Championship and Armagh Division 3 & 4.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Treasurer of John Mitchell's GAA Club, 1963-1977; Assistant Treasurer of Armagh County Board, 1988-1990; Treasurer of Armagh County Board for 18 years. Chairman of Armagh County Board Finance Committee. Member of national Finance Management Committee</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:03:32</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 12th July 2012