

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	4 th Nov 2010
Location	Durkin's Bar, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Frank Kelly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Yes
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Married to Goretti with 2 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Postman
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Andrew Durkin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: De La Salle, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Publican / Restaurateur
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Fr John Doherty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Yes Third Level: Yes
Family	Siblings: 6
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Priest
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Christy McCann
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Yes Third Level: Yes
Family	Siblings: One sister
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen [Mayo]; UCG [Galway]
Occupation	Teacher (Primary School)
Parents' Occupation	Small Farmers / Shopkeepers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Drama; Golf

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Kilgallow
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Yes
Family	Siblings: 2
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Bank Manager
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Fleming
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Yes
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Ardnaree Sarsfields; Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Retired Garda
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Secretary of the Green and Red Trust; Treasurer Green and Red Golfing Society

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John O'Mahony
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Magheraboy NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo Third Level: NUI Maynooth and NUI Galway
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 5 daughters
Club(s)	Ballaghaderreen
Occupation	Public Representative (TD)
Parents' Occupation	Small Shopkeepers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society	Community Games; Community Groups

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

Date of Report	10 th July 2012
Period Covered	1884 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, Dublin, Donegal
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Ballaghaderreen discuss their involvement in the GAA. They discuss their early memories of the GAA in the locality and how they got involved in the GAA. Father John Doherty recalls moving to Ballaghaderreen in 1966 and becoming chairman of the club soon after. They describe the role of the club in the community and talk about the important people involved in the club over the years like John Morley and Gerry Clarke. They discuss the development of the club's grounds and improvements over the years. The club's successes and defeats are documented including the club's county final win in 2008. The issue of identity in relation to the transferring of town from Mayo to Roscommon and back again under the Local Government (Ireland) Act is addressed. John O'Mahony discusses his inter-county managerial career and the highs and lows he experienced. The issue of emigration is discussed and Frank Kelly talks about moving to Birmingham and playing with St Brendan's. Towards the end of the interview the interviewees highlight the importance of the GAA in their lives and the role it plays in Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:00 (Frank) Talks about his earliest memory of the GAA. Playing football in national school. Listening to matches on the radio.</p> <p>01:34 (Andrew) Recalls listening to Mayo on the radio in 1969.</p> <p>01:54 (Father John) Discusses his earliest memory of the GAA. Roscommon winning the All-Ireland in 1943 and 1944.</p>

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

	<p>Listening to the 1946 All-Ireland final between Roscommon and Kerry on radio.</p> <p>02:45 (Christy) Talks about his earliest GAA memories. Watching Ballaghaderreen play Aghamore.</p> <p>03:21 (John K) Recalls playing football in school and everyone gathering around the one or two televisions in the town.</p> <p>03:57 (Jim) Discusses his earliest memories of the GAA. Seeing the Mayo teams of the 1950/1951. Mentions John Ford, Father Peter Quinn, Pádraig Carney, Tom Lyons and Ardnaree club.</p> <p>04:38 (Father John) Mentions that his first club was Charlestown.</p> <p>04:54 (Jim) Talks about first playing Donegal before moving to Ballaghaderreen. Mentions Sergeant Tom Walsh who fitted the minor team in his car.</p> <p>06:09 (John K) Discusses first joining the club in Ballaghaderreen from Balla and Meath.</p> <p>07:22 (Father John) Talks about his first involvement with the club in 1966 after being appointed curate in Ballaghaderreen. Becoming chairman of the club. Difference with Charlestown. His involvement before coming to Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>10:02 (Christy) Discusses the history of the club. Formed in 1885. Development of the club over the years and the impact of emigration. The work of Father John O'Doherty. Mentions Tom Walsh, Tom Jennings.</p> <p>13:20 Talks about hurling clubs in the area and camogie teams. The area Ballaghaderreen is in and the change in the border of Mayo due to the re-arrangement of poor law unions in 1897 / 1898 – moving it from Swinford to Castlerea.</p> <p>15:43 The history of hurling in the area. Mentions John Coppinger from Galway.</p> <p>16:40 (Jim) Discusses the history of the club. First county board formed in 1889. Ballaghaderreen one of the first twelve clubs in Mayo.</p> <p>17:38 (Father John) Talks about the history and importance of the pitch in the club's history. Inter-county games played on the pitch.</p> <p>19:12 (Christy) Describes the types of characters in the club.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Jim and Father John. Also the work done by Gerry Clarke and Brian Tansey, Tom Walsh, John Morley, Tom Jennings. Talk about the Morley Cup.</p> <p>22:40 (Jim) Discusses the purchase of the field in the 1960s. Talks about the involvement of Tom Welsh, Mattie Towey and Bill Durkin. Mentions Jack O'Donnell, Pat Toomey, John Morley, Mick Reynolds, Martin Hannon, Johnny McKenzie, the O'Mahonys, Sean Kilbride and Frank Byrnes.</p> <p>24:44 (Father John) Talks about the club during the 1960s.</p> <p>26:20 (Christy) Discusses the involvement of people from rural areas in the club. The footballers the club has produced, Noel Durkin, Dermot Flanagan, Kevin Cahill, Andy Moran.</p> <p>29:28 (Frank) Talks about his involvement in the GAA and the importance of it in people's lives. Playing football in at the crossroads. Local villages playing each other.</p> <p>30:36 Recalls villages playing each other. Talks about being beaten by a team from Belderrig.</p> <p>31:45 Talks about playing in town leagues and with the club. Winning the Under 21 championship in 1971. Mentions John Morley, Jack O'Donnell.</p> <p>33:00 Discusses going to England and playing with St Brendan's in Birmingham. Winning a championship there. Returning to Ballaghaderreen and getting involved with the club.</p> <p>34:00 *** John O'Mahony joins interview***</p> <p>34:05 (John M) Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA. Going to Mayo matches with his father. No team in his village of Magheraboy in the parish of Kilmovee. Going to St Nathy's College.</p> <p>35:50 Discusses his interest in football. The role of the club and the county. Becoming involved in Bord na nÓg Mentions Jim Fleming, Father Doherty.</p> <p>38:18 Talks about managing as a teacher in St Nathy's and managing in the club. His enjoyment working in the GAA. Mentions John Morley, Johnny McKenzie. Keeping a scrapbook of Jim Fleming playing for Mayo against Australia in Croke Park.</p> <p>41:00 Discusses his best memories in the GAA. Winning the minor championship in 1968 and other victories with the club. Managing a school team to the All-Ireland and other victories</p>
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	<p>with the school. Winning a Connacht championship as manager and an All-Ireland managing Galway.</p> <p>42:35 Talks about his low points in the GAA. Losing games as manager to teams like Longford. Finishing his management career with Mayo in 1991. Talks about what Mayo need to do to win an All-Ireland.</p> <p>***John O'Mahony leaves interview***</p> <p>44:29 (Andrew) Discusses his involvement in the GAA. Playing in town leagues. Winning the junior championship in 1978. Celebrating after. Going to Birmingham in 1982. Going to meetings for the first time.</p> <p>46:39 Winning the senior championship in 2008.</p> <p>47:07 Talks about his administrative roles in the club. Taking over from Gerry Clarke as secretary.</p> <p>47:50 (Father John) Recalls a story about Henry Murray and a match against Ballyhaunis.</p> <p>50:43 Talks about his involvement in the club. Becoming chairperson of the club. Previously worked with underage, he was chairman of the Sligo minor board and helped out in East Mayo too.</p> <p>51:47 Discusses transport problems during the early days. Friendships in the GAA. Mentions Pat Dooney, Gerry Clarke. Going to the Curragh with an army cadet and the Glen of Imaal.</p> <p>53:57 Talks about why he didn't play football when he was younger, no family involvement in the GAA. Discusses free education.</p> <p>55:00 Recalls the first All-Ireland final he listened to on the radio, Roscommon v Kerry. Developed an interest from there. Mayo reaching the final in 1948.</p> <p>56:48 (Christy) Talks about his involvement in the club. Playing in the street. Winning the minor in 1968, the Under 21 and the senior championships.</p> <p>58:50 Becoming the manager in the 1980s. Losing a senior county final. Starting coaching with the club and becoming chairman. Work as secretary in the club.</p> <p>01:00:09 Discusses the role of secretary in the club. Changes from when he was young. Tells a story about Frank.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

	<p>01:03:00 Talks about the influence of Father John on them when they were younger. Sense of community in the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:26 (John K) Discusses his involvement in the GAA. Having to cycle twelve miles to school so didn't get involved in football. Getting involved in a club in Meath where he worked. Becoming assistant secretary. Becoming treasurer of Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>01:07:26 Talks about playing junior football in Meath.</p> <p>01:08:00 (Jim) Discusses his involvement in the GAA. Growing up and playing in Ardnaree. Winning the Mayo junior championship in 1959. Moving to Donegal to Convoy. Playing for MacCumhaill's. Success there. Playing for Convoy. Mentions the Harkin brothers.</p> <p>01:10:00 Moving to Ballaghaderreen in the 1960s. The role of GAA in his life. The history of the club when he moved there. Mentions Tom Walsh, Johnny McKenzie, John Morley, Mick Reynolds, Martin Hanningan.</p> <p>01:12:29 Recalls winning the senior championship. Having an accident and its impact. Discusses his work in training the team. Becoming chairman. Mentions Pat Dooney.</p> <p>01:14:20 Describes the development of the club's grounds in 1980. Talks about raising the money for the work. Involvement of players in the club. Being president and county board delegate. The importance of the GAA to him.</p> <p>01:17:21 Talks about Sean Flanagan, Mayo captain in 1950 and 1951.</p> <p>01:17:45 (Andrew) Discusses the club's new development.</p> <p>01:19:55 (Christy) Talks about the building of the club's new facilities.</p> <p>01:22:15 (Father John) Highlights his admiration for the club's present administrative team. Fundraising in the 1960s.</p> <p>01:23:59 (John K) Discusses the club's grounds and the issue of finance.</p> <p>01:24:49 (Jim) Discuss the issue of identity being so close to the border of Roscommon. Club being in Roscommon in the early 1900s but then moving back to Mayo by order of Connacht Council, arose again in 1962. Mentions Sean Flanagan, Tommy Flanagan, and Tom Kilcoyne of Sligo. Went to Central Council to get it decided on.</p>
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	<p>01:28:50 (Christy) Talks about the future status of the club.</p> <p>01:29:53 (Frank) Discusses the role of national schools in the GAA. Mentions Oliver Burke, John Morley, Johnny McKenzie. Listening to Michael O’Hehir and Micheál Ó’Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:32:06 Talks about moving to Birmingham and the importance of the GAA there. Playing with St Brendan’s. Playing in the All-Ireland Sevens competition. GAA in the community. Losing the county final in 1985. Winning the county title in 1998. Mentions Padraig Moran.</p> <p>01:36:42 Describes how the club look after players after they finish working in the GAA. The pride people have in their club.</p> <p>01:38:18 Talks about his worst memory in the GAA, losing the county final in 1985.</p> <p>01:39:18 Describes his best memories in the GAA. Winning competitions underage. Recalls Mayo losing the 1996 All-Ireland final. What the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:40:59 (Andrew) Chooses losing the 2006 county final as his worst memory. Mentions Ciarán McDonald. Winning the 2008 county final as his best memory. What the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:42:05 (Father John) Talks about his best memories in the GAA. Ballaghaderreen winning underage titles. Discusses Mayo losing the All-Ireland in 1948 and winning in 1950 and 1951.</p> <p>01:43:31 Talks about John O’Mahony and the All-Ireland semi-final against Tyrone. The role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:44:47 (Christy) Discusses his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Losing a Sigerson Cup with UCG and a senior county final in 1985. Winning an Under 21 final as a good memory. Mentions John Morley.</p> <p>01:45:50 Describes winning the 2008 county final. Recalls playing hurling with Tooreen and getting injured. Recalls a story about getting a flat in Galway. Mentions Mick Sweeney.</p> <p>01:48:32 (John K) Chooses winning the county final in 2008 as a favourite memory of the GAA. Losing the county final in 2006 and seeing Mayo losing All-Irelands as disappointments. Talks about Mayo beating Dublin in the Minor All-Ireland. Mentions John O’Mahony.</p> <p>01:49:49 (Jim) Talks about his disappointments in the GAA. Recalls missing out on a minor team in Castlebar in the</p>
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	<p>1950s.</p> <p>01:52:06 Discusses the county final in 1972 and losing the county final in 1985. The highs of winning junior and senior competitions during his time. His pride in the development of the club. Talks about his pride in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:54:03 Recalls a story about Gerry Clarke and receiving an award from the Green and Red Trust. Mentions Sean Kelly.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Frank: <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 <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Andrew: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Fr John: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Christy: <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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John K.:</p>

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

	<p><input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Jim:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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>Frank: Played for 30 years. Won a Senior and Under 21 Championship 1971 and a Senior Championship with St. Brendan's, Birmingham, 1982.</p> <p>Andrew: N/A</p> <p>Fr John: N/A</p> <p>Christy: Played from 1966 up to the 1990s. Won Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate and Senior County Championships.</p> <p>John K.: N/A</p> <p>Jim: Played from 1956 – 1979. Won Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mayo championships; Junior and Senior Donegal Championships; Connacht Minor, Junior and Senior</p>

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

	<p>championships.</p> <p>John: Played from the age of 7/8 until he was 33/34. Club: Won County Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate and Senior titles. County: Won Connacht and All-Ireland Minor and Under 21 titles.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Frank: Committee Member – no further details provided.</p> <p>Andrew: Club secretary since 2005.</p> <p>Fr John: Chairman for ten years.</p> <p>Christy: Has been involved in club administration since the 1970s. He was club secretary, 1977 – 1978 and became chairman in 2005.</p> <p>John K.: Club Treasurer for 23 years.</p> <p>Jim: Club chairman from 1979 to 1983 and from 1985 to 1989.</p> <p>John: Got involved in administration in 1975 when he became club secretary. He has since been chairman of Bord na nÓg, and delegate to the divisional board and county board. At Divisional Board he was Vice-Chairman and he was County Board Registrar.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:55:47</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/23

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: _____10/07/12_____