

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>Location</b>	Alice's home, near Dovea, Co. Tipperary
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Alice Costello
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1949 <b>Home County:</b> Tipperary
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Leugh NS, Thurles, Co. Tipperary <b>Secondary:</b> St Angela's Academy for Young Girls, Thurles (now known as Ursuline Convent, Thurles) <b>Third Level:</b> Loreto Teacher Training College, Nottingham, UK.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Michael); 1 daughter & 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Drom and Inch GAA [Tipperary]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Primary School Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Home Craft [Mother]; Farmer / Construction [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	INTO; Retired Teachers Association; Legion of Mary; Drom and Inch Parish Committee

<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1880s - 2012
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tipperary, Dublin, Kilkenny, Wales, England, Great Britain
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Alice reflects on her involvement with Drom &amp; Inch GAA Club, Thurles, Tipperary, and her passion for Gaelic games. She recalls her earliest memories of the GAA and describes her first trip to Croke Park at the age of 8. She discusses her various roles within the club, including selector, secretary, and chairperson, and she considers changes in the role of women in the GAA. Alice also describes her involvement in Irish dancing and the importance of preserving the Irish language and culture. Finally, she ponders her satisfaction with the continuing strength of the GAA in the community.</p> <p>00:28 Describes being brought up in a mostly Protestant area in Thurles. Mentions the landlord, Trants. Church, forge, shop on the estate. Movement of Catholics into the area. Estate sold to centenary co-op, becoming AI centre, employing locals. Outlines parish boundaries of Loughmore.</p> <p>02:13 Discusses tradition in 1800s of landlords hosting hurling games. Mentions local rivalry between Trants and Purcells in Loughmore. Before the founding of the GAA. The GAA's role in providing rules, avoiding injuries.</p> <p>03:11 Recounts stories about landed gentry. Hurlers the people who worked for them. Unusual style of hurl. Intense rivalry between landlords.</p> <p>04:09 Discusses her family background. Her mother's family involved with Moyne-Templetuohy club, her father's family involvement with Holycross/Ballycahill club. Passion for hurling. Recalls listening to Michael O'Hehir commentating in the 1950s. Cycling to Central Stadium, spending most</p>

	<p>Sundays there.</p> <p>05:07 Describes other pastimes in area. Some football in Loughmore. Also pitch and toss. Gradual development of hurling. No hurling in local school in the 1950s, changed now. Attending Leugh national school. Two female teachers.</p> <p>06:59 Recalls having neighbours in to listen to matches on wet battery-operated wireless. Tipperary hurlers of the 1950s. Mentions Phil Cahill. Her uncle playing minor with the county, Bobby Manton. Club rivalry between her parents. Describes excitement of going to matches. Violent incidents. Stalls selling snacks. Lots of people cycling.</p> <p>09:32 Describes Thurles Hurling Field. Children playing on bank of grass. Cement steps. Driving to Limerick for inter-county matches. Recalls trip on train to All-Ireland final aged 8. Train, bus. Discusses first time in Croke Park. Excitement. Crowds. Eating bar of chocolate. Bringing sandwiches.</p> <p>13:10 Recalls playing a little hurling. Irish dancing with her sister, attending feiseanna. Competitive. Awareness of preserving Irish culture. Dominance of Irish in school. Interschool competitions for fáinne. Winning scholarship to go to the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>15:32 Discusses attending the Ursuline Convent in Thurles in the 60s, then called St. Angel's Academy for Young Girls. Playing tennis and hockey. Nurturing a love of learning. Holistic development of students. Speech and drama, Irish. Mostly nuns teaching. Describes progressive style of discipline. Cycling 4 miles to school every day. No Gaelic games in the school then. Girls playing camogie at a later stage.</p> <p>18:26 Describes playing hurling in the evenings after school, with boys. Playing in a neighbour's field, improving skills. No televisions. Some boys playing with Thurles, some playing football with Loughmore. Reason for lack of club in parish.</p> <p>19:44 Recalls moving to England after leaving school. Describes missing 1967 All-Ireland final, watching Tipperary play. Flying to England from Cork, taught with Ursuline College in Wales, attending all-girls college. Tennis and hockey played. Moving back to Ireland after 4 years to work. Irish dances in Nottingham. Writing letters and phoning home, hearing about Tipperary hurling team,</p> <p>21:49 Recounts teaching in Bellough, near Clonoulty. Mentions Declan Ryan. Strong hurling area. Returning to</p>
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	<p>Loughmore, students involved in football. Marrying into Drom and Inch parish. Marrying into Langton family, passionate about GAA. Her children's involvement in hurling. Community involvement.</p> <p>23:25 Recalls her uncle's happiness at her connection with the Langton family. GAA community in Drom &amp; Inch. Mentions Páidí Butler's contribution to GAA in school. Joy of watching Under-14 Christy Ring trophy being brought home. Increase in standard of hurling in locality.</p> <p>25:14 Recalls bringing her children to training and matches with Drom &amp; Inch GAA Club. Alice's roles: washing jerseys, selector, manager, various administration roles. Retiring recently.</p> <p>26:08 Outlines the change in role of women in the GAA. Mostly men years ago, now more women involved. Since inception of club in 1887, she was the first female secretary and chairperson of the club. Reasons for lack of female involvement. Role of women in juvenile GAA. Both physiotherapists women now. Acceptance of men. Earning male respect.</p> <p>28:08 Discusses responsibilities of roles of assistant chairperson and chairperson: organising volunteers, liaising with divisional representatives, organising young people, referees. Outlines set-up of meetings.</p> <p>29:36 Considers changes in dealing with children. Transporting children in cars, better organised now.</p> <p>30:09 Describes being approached to move from juvenile club to senior club roles. Responsibilities involved. Refurbishing facilities. Lotto funding. Discusses fundraising events: dog night. Also fundraising for ball wall recently. Strong camogie club.</p> <p>32:09 Discusses size of parish. Former hurlers volunteering in club. Passing on expertise to next generation. Difference in coaching now: coaching courses available.</p> <p>33:43 Ponders the role of the club in the community. Unity, good rapport, social events. Annual dinner dance, medal presentations. Changes in culture of alcohol: juvenile medal presentations in parish hall now, not pub.</p> <p>35:26 Describes Drom &amp; Inch's contribution to county hurling. Mentions Tony Forrestall inter-county tournament. Rule changes about age levels. Mentions intercounty players Seamus Callanan, James Woodlock, Johnny Ryan. Mentions</p>
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	<p>injuries hampering players.</p> <p>37:08 Considers the positive impact of a club having inter-county players. Inspiration for younger players.</p> <p>38:02 Reflects on success of club's camogie players. Funding issues. Camogie an independent body, using club facilities. Her disappointment that camogie left the GAA. Reasons why she didn't get involved with camogie.</p> <p>39:12 Recalls camogie in school she taught in. Range of sports available, including basketball. Skill of rural players. Refereeing camogie matches.</p> <p>39:59 Reflects on her favourite GAA role: satisfaction of being secretary.</p> <p>40:47 Explains how her involvement in the GAA and her Irish dancing teaching helped her to become part of the community.</p> <p>41:12 Recalls celebrations for Lá na gClub to mark 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GAA. Organising committee. Starting with mass, Irish singing. Procession from church to pitch, pipers. Involvement of people of all ages. Speeches, project display, marquee, Scór, set-dancing, fancy dress match.</p> <p>43:09 Outlines success of Scór in club. Pride. Her son, Edward, coaching. Planting tree for Lá na gClub. Benefits of the GAA for children.</p> <p>44:36 Considers the impact of the GAA on her life. Encouraging players to do their best. Bonds forged by involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>45:32 Describes her GAA highlights: club winning Christy Ring trophy; winning Dan Breen trophy, county final; Tipperary beating Kilkenny in All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.</p> <p>46:28 Considers her joy at the speed of progress in the GAA. Mentions Cúl Camp, involvement of huge amounts of children.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

**REFERENCE NO. TP/1/26**

<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played informally
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Vice-Chairperson of Drom and Inch Juvenile Club (3 years); Chairperson of Drom and Inch Juvenile Club (3 years); Secretary of Drom and Inch Senior Club (7 years); Manager and selector for Drom and Inch teams.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 47:07:00
<b>Language</b>	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:              25<sup>th</sup> June 2012