

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
<b>Location</b>	Anthony's home, Killeenadeema, Co. Galway
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anthony Kelly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Galway
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Killeenadeema NS, Co. Galway <b>Secondary:</b> De la Salle / CBS Loughrea, Co. Galway
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 sisters and 3 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Ida); 6 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Killeenadeema GAA [Galway]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farming
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Irish Farmers' Association

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<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Ben Kelly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Galway
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Killeenadeema NS, Co. Galway <b>Secondary:</b> De la Salle / CBS Loughrea, Co. Galway <b>Third Level:</b> Agricultural College Mount Bellew
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 sisters and 3 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Bernie); 3 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Killeenadeema GAA [Galway]; Salthill – Knocknacarra GAA [Galway]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Civil Servant in the Dept of Agriculture
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Member of Bushy Park Golf Club.

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<b>Date of Report</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1889 - 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Galway, Leitrim
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Anthony and Ben discuss their family's long association with the GAA, starting with their grandfather who was President from 1886-1889. They share what they have managed to piece together about his life and times. The GAA bug was also in the brothers' genes and they were instrumental in forming the Kilnadeema club, working hard to establish a successful team and secure grounds to play on. Later the club amalgamated with another nearby, and they recall that process. Both were involved in an administrative capacity, Ben involved with the Salthill club as he was living there. Anthony and Ben are passionate supporters at heart and between them they have attended close to 200 All-Ireland finals in Croke Park. The brothers share their standout memories from over the years, revisiting the heartbreak and reliving the unique joy that success at the very highest level of the game brings.</p> <p>00:25 Ben born 1943</p> <p>00:35 Anthony born 1942</p> <p>00:55 (Anthony) How long they are living in their house.</p> <p>01:40 (Ben) Grandfather, Peter Kelly, raised in the area. Was GAA President from 1889-1895</p> <p>02:15 (Anthony) Grandfather was a member of the IRB and involved with the Land League.</p> <p>02:45 (Ben) He was a compromise president between</p>

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	<p>different factions. Also a full-time farmer.</p> <p>03:25 (Anthony) Peter spent time in jail. Not a lot of written material about him. Reason for that. His daughter researching Peter through Connacht Tribune office in Galway.</p> <p>04:45 (Ben) Peter buried in local cemetery. Headstone erected by the GAA and possibly the IRA. Spent a lot of time in Thurles. Farm suffered as a result.</p> <p>05:40 (Ben) Peter had less time for family due to his commitments. Married a woman from a wealthy family.</p> <p>06:30 (Ben) Wife was a Conway woman.</p> <p>06:40 (Anthony) Professions Peter's children went into.</p> <p>07:05 (Anthony) Peter died in 1908 at the age of 61. Young family at the time. His family had a passion for hurling, which was prominent in the area.</p> <p>08:05 (Anthony) Going to a game in Bullaun with his father in a pony and trap to see Kilnadeema play Kiltullagh. Others travelling on bicycles. Father cycling to games in Birr. Galway playing Kilkenny in Birr in 1947.</p> <p>10:15 (Anthony) Irish Independent coming to the house every day. Cutting out photographs of players. Going to see Tipperary play Galway in Ballinasloe in 1952. Goalkeeper Seánie Duggie in goals a hero of his.</p> <p>11:40 (Ben) Admiration for Billy Duffy of Galway.</p> <p>11:50 (Ben) Listening to games on the radio.</p> <p>12:05 (Anthony) Broadcast from Cavan-Kerry All-Ireland final in New York in 1947. Not many radios in the locality. Charging the battery on a Saturday. No electricity in the area. Micheál Ó Heiher commentating.</p> <p>13:30 (Ben) Playing games themselves after listening to a game.</p> <p>13:55 (Ben) Not having enough numbers in school for a team. Struggling at underage level.</p> <p>14:15 (Anthony) Playing overage players.</p> <p>14:30 (Ben) Playing minor hurling with Leitrim. Also played with Kilchreest at minor level. Reason for that.</p> <p>14:55 (Anthony) Population of area expanding over the years. Reason for that. Being at mass in Kilnadeema and counting</p>
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	<p>people from eight different counties.</p> <p>17:40 (Anthony) Their teacher had little interest in hurling. Reason for that. Michael Kelly a teacher from Cong in County Mayo who had a strong interest in GAA.</p> <p>18:30 Cycling to games when they were playing as kids. Their brother Peter organising the players. Little structure. Fundraising.</p> <p>19:35 (Anthony) Starting the club from nothing in the late 1950s.</p> <p>20:05 (Ben) Seán Cunningham organising their fundraising efforts. Hurls made in the parish.</p> <p>20:30 (Anthony) Looking for and stealing ash trees. Shaping out the hurls themselves. Bishop of Clonfert living in the area. Lots of wood on on his land. Going to cut trees there.</p> <p>22:55 (Anthony) Lack of a pitch when they were young. Farm divided by Land Commission in the 1960s. Teacher, Michael, Kelly, organising a committee to secure land for a pitch.</p> <p>24:40 (Ben) School getting use of the field. How it has benefited youth of the area.</p> <p>25:40 (Anthony) Lack of success in early years. Club making a senior final in 1908. Beaten by Kilconieren. Success at junior level. Moving to intermediate level. Amalgamating with nearby club, Leitrim. Splitting in 1981 and getting back together in 1990. How people felt about the amalgamation. Rivalry before they came together. Club became known as Kilnadeema-Leitrim. Move to change the name completely. What he thought of that and why.</p> <p>29:15 (Ben) Playing for many years at midfield and in the forwards along with older brother Peter. Anthony in goals.</p> <p>30:00 (Anthony) Different sets of brothers on the team - McLoughlins, Leahys, Deelys.</p> <p>30:35 (Ben) Wide range of ages on the team.</p> <p>31:25 (Ben) Problem of emigration through the decades. Some returning for a summer and rejoining the team for a few months.</p> <p>32:25 (Anthony) No league system so less games on offer. Different tournaments held.</p> <p>33:05 (Ben) 11-a-side tournament in Ardrahan. Snow falling.</p>
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	<p>22:55 (Ben) losing Connacht Colleges finals to Portumna and Garbally.</p> <p>34:15 (Ben) Brother Justin and Brother Hillary interested in hurling. Playing Loughrea regularly.</p> <p>35:25 Joining Dept of Agriculture in Kerry in 1965. Returning for games at weekends. Returning for good in 1969 and getting involved with Salthill club. Training footballers. Son playing hurling with Sligo. Salthill playing local club.</p> <p>37:20 (Anthony) Son with Salthill marking his brother who was a Kilnadeema player in a game.</p> <p>37:55 (Ben) Inter-firm football in the 1970s. Gardaí, Digital, Post Office involved, along with teams from Tuam as well as Shrule in Mayo. His team known as the Vets. Why that was. Competitive nature of games. Agricultural students from Athenry joining in, as did players from Institute in Corofin. Playing in 'the swamp' in Claddagh.</p> <p>41:05 (Ben) Administrative involvement and reason for that.</p> <p>41:15 (Anthony) Being proposed without asking for it.</p> <p>41:45 (Ben) County board meetings in Athenry. Meeting seasoned GAA players there.</p> <p>42:10 (Anthony) Having to give up his administrative position. Reason for that.</p> <p>43:10 (Ben) Delegates voting on senior county team manager. Important issue. Deciding on fixtures and competitions. Drawn-out meetings.</p> <p>44:50 (Anthony) Preoccupation with finance at club level. Cost of running a club in modern-day era. His opinions on that. John Kennedy training them to a county final in 1982, also playing for the team. No financial reward for him or back-up trainers. Payments for managers and problems with that.</p> <p>47:40 (Ben) Costs incurred by outside managers. How outside managers are received by players.</p> <p>49:10 (Ben) Costs of running various Salthill teams.</p> <p>49:35 (Anthony) No helmets worn when he was playing. Breaking his front teeth during a game. Compensation he received. Looking for a dentist.</p> <p>50:35 (Ben) Starting out with Salthill. Player giving a strange reason for not attending a game. Competing sports.</p>
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	<p>51:25 (Ben) Mostly football at Salthill. Trying to kick on with hurling. Producing the club's first minor county hurler, Tadhg Ahern.</p> <p>52:25 (Ben) Between them he and Anthony have attended 194 All-Ireland finals.</p> <p>52:45 (Anthony) First All-Ireland football final in 1963. Taking a train from Loughrea. Going into Hill 16 by mistake. Dublin supporter hit with an apple at half-time.</p> <p>54:00 (Ben) 87,000 people at the game. Poor crowd control.</p> <p>54:45 (Anthony) Deciding in 1963 to try and go every year. How that worked out. Hurling finals he has missed.</p> <p>55:40 (Anthony) Keeping the tickets and programmes from finals. First all-ticket year was 1977 final between Dublin and Armagh. Reason for that. Cost of a stand ticket then and in 2007.</p> <p>57:00 (Ben) Value of All-Ireland final tickets. What the trip to Dublin means to him. Match-day routine. Parking in Mountjoy Square.</p> <p>59:05 Galway losing the 1983 football final. Enjoying the 1963 final. 1977 football semi-final between Dublin and Kerry. Bernard Brogan goal. Eddie Cahir starring in hurling games. Shedding tears in 1980 when Galway won the hurling final.</p> <p>01:00:25 (Anthony) Offaly's Séamus Derby scoring a goal in 1982 to deny Kerry the five-in-a-row.</p> <p>01:01:00 (Ben) Galway hurling wins in 1987 and 1988 and Tipperary and Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:01:50 (Anthony) Enjoying the 1989 football final between Galway and Kildare. Michael Donnelan, Pádraig Joyce, Seán Óg de Paor on song.</p> <p>01:02:20 (Ben) Pádraig Joyce impressing against Darren Fay against Meath in 2001.</p> <p>01:02:35 (Ben) Going to the 1966 football final. Driving a mini. Number of people in the car. Pat Mahony along too. Car breaking down. Where the car halted.</p> <p>01:03:50 (Ben) Getting worked up at a minor hurling club game against St Thomas'. GAA as addiction.</p> <p>01:04:55 (Anthony) Consciousness of family's GAA heritage. His daughter proud of it. Going to the GAA museum with her.</p>
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	<p>Things they saw.</p> <p>01:06:35 (Ben) Not talking about family heritage too much. Hayes' Hotel in Thurles. Photograph of their grandfather.</p> <p>01:07:25 (Anthony) Getting tickets for the All-Ireland because of who they were.</p> <p>01:07:40 (Ben) Tickets arriving for a function in Gresham Hotel, Dublin for centenary year. Who was invited. Meeting Liam Mulvihill.</p> <p>01:09:10 (Ben) Tickets arriving to the wrong address. What happened. Getting a letter from Páraic Duffy about the system changing.</p> <p>01:10:35 (Ben) GAA and his sense of identity. Being a member of the 'GAA mafia'. Going to three matches in one day. Anthony has less time due to work commitments. Going to All-Ireland semi-finals regardless of teams involved.</p> <p>01:13:10 (Anthony) GAA bringing people together. Making friends.</p> <p>01:14:30 (Ben) Effort put in by people from Aran Islands.</p> <p>01:15:10 (Ben) Salthill playing a game against St Vincent's in Dublin at underage level. Bus broken into. What was taken.</p> <p>01:17:20 (Ben) People he got to know through GAA.</p> <p>01:18:35 (Ben) How GAA benefits individual parishes.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Anthony:</b></p> <p><input 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 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><b>Ben:</b></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 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>



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<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<b>Anthony:</b> Played from underage until he was 50yrs. Won Galway Junior B Hurling Championship (1982) <b>Ben:</b> Played hurling from underage until he was 38yrs; also played inter-firm football with 'The Vets' Department of Agriculture team (1975 – 85)
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<b>Anthony:</b> Chairman of Killeenadeema GAA (1982-87); Club delegate to Galway County Board (1988 – 91) <b>Ben:</b> Salthill-Knocknacarra delegate to Galway Hurling board (1999 – current)
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:19:22
<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: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012