GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of	Regina Fitzpatrick
Interviewer	
	Lath
Date of Interview	8 th Nov 2010
Location	St Joseph's Handball Club, Wexford Town.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Meyler
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Wexford
	Secondary: CBS Wexford
Family	Siblings: 9 siblings
Talliny	Sibilitys. 9 sibilitys
	Current Family if Different: 8 children
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]; Faythe Harriers GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Financial Advisor
Parents' Occupation	Wholesaler [Father]; Homemaker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Wexford Golf Club

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Denton
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
	Secondary: Enniscorthy Vocational School, Co. Wexford.
Family	Siblings: 3 siblings
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]; Faythe Harriers GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Life Assurance Representative
Parents' Occupation	Farm Labourer [Father]; Homewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Wexford Golf Club

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Buggy
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: N/A
	Secondary: Wexford Technical School.
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 5 sons & 4 daughters
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]; Faythe Harriers GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Eircom Worker
Parents' Occupation	Butcher [Father]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ned Buggy
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Wexford
	Secondary: CBS Wexford
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 1 son & 2 daughters
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]; Faythe Harriers GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Sports Shop Proprietor
Parents' Occupation	Factory Foreman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Browne
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Wexford
	Secondary: CBS Wexford
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 2 daughters
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Publican
Parents' Occupation	Publicans
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Wexford Harbour Boat Club

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom Rossiter
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Wexford
Familia	Oth Harvey Coath Harve
Family	Siblings: 6 siblings
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]; Faythe Harriers GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Marine Engineer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gavin Buggy
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1974
	Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS Wexford
	Secondary: CBS Wexford
Family	N/A
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Shop Clerk
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Richie Culleton
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960
	Home County: Wexford
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 4 siblings
	Current Family if Different: Wife & 2 children
Club(s)	St Joseph's GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Truck Driver
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	27 th June 2012
Period Covered	1959 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Great Britain
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Fundraising, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community Volunteers, Rivalries, All- Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	This interview focuses on Saint Joseph's GAA club from its beginning in 1959 to today. The group talk about the building of the club and the volunteers that helped. They discuss the successes of the club under Fr. Sinnott and then how it fell away when he left, before returning to form and the men and women involved. They speak of their earliest memories and playing at the club and for the county as well as involvement in other sports. They speak about the club focusing on handball and their hopes for having handball champions in the future. After discussing the ban on foreign sports and dances the group talk about the future of the club. Finally they speak with pride of the achievements of the club in many sports and how the club is a focus for young people in these harsh economic times.
	00:48 Talks of the club being started in 1959 when Fr. Sinnott a local priest came across a group of boys playing cards and joined them and told them about setting up a hurling and football club for U14's.
	02:06 Speaks of collecting money in a biscuit tin at the Pat Adam's Field where they played and the club being built by volunteers.
	02:55 Talks of there being no planning permission and having to move because of being situated on a bad bend. Mentions the Wexford team coming home in 1960 and this being the push to build. Also mentions those involved in the design and construction of the club.
	04:34 Talks of being involved in table tennis in the hall but it being too narrow for the length of the tables because of available timber lengths. Mentions Saint Joseph's and the local publican giving £300 on the condition that the corner of the field was not sold.

06:33 Speaks of the volunteers being bought drinks by the local priest. Mentions Aidan Roche a stone mason who was fond of a few pints. Also mentions the ladies committee who supported the volunteers.

08:05 Talks of the small local church and people attending 10 o'clock mass in bad weather and the priest Fr. Harry requesting permission of the bishop to use the club house as it was bigger and closer to the town. However it was refused.

10:24 Speaks of Fr. Harry going to the Minister for Justice and getting access to a military fort in Duncannon for two weeks a year. Mentions having mass in the open in the square in the fort.

11:29 Talks of Fr. Harry Sinnott and his life in the mission house and Manchester and back to Ireland. Mentions him being president of Faythe Harriers GAA hurling club before setting up Saint Joseph's.

14:44 Speaks of the reasons for setting up the club in 1959 being around the success of Wexford hurling and Faythe Harriers being successful at senior level. Mentions the need for another club due to new housing estates. Also mentions the agreement that hurlers played for Faythe Harriers while footballers played for Saint Joseph's.

17:48 Talks of the building of the club taking about two years and the success of the underage teams and winning many titles. Mentions reaching senior status in twelve years and six of the club players playing on the county teams.

21:04 Speaks of the two clubs doing well in tandem. Mentions Saint Joseph's also having cross country teams, table tennis teams, basketball teams and a handball alley.

22:34 Talks of being second to none in terms of facilities and mentions a boxing club that came on board in the 1960's along with badminton.

23:43 Tells of Fr. Sinnott going to another parish and winning seven senior football titles with the Fitzhenry clan in Duffy Rovers. At this time football in Saint Joseph's was not very good. Mentions the football club being back in action and putting the club back on the map.

25:58 John talks of his earliest memory being listening to Wexford beating Tipperary in the League final in 1956 on the radio. Mentions the Rackard brothers and getting involved in the boys club in Enniscorthy and then in Saint Joseph's as secretary. Also mentions Sarsfield's club being the main

rivals.

28:13 Talks of the first title win a juvenile level which was followed by many others with fifteen titles between 1966 and 1974.

29:14 They speak of winning the first county Bord na nOg in 1971. Mentions the 1968 minor team and the final in Enniscorthy and Tom McGuinness taking photos of a Castletown team they were playing and finding six of the Dublin county minor team.

31:23 Talks of six of the club players from the 1969 team playing for Wexford under Fr. Sinnott and winning the Leinster final and losing to Derry in the All-Ireland semi-final. Brendan Murphy, Tom Gormley-Walsh, Ger Howlin, Pat McGuinness, David Clancy who was only sixteen and had beaten Eamon Coughlan in the All-Ireland U14 cross country final.

32:47 Talks of the club after the mid 1970's not winning titles but also hurlers including Ned Buggy who was a hurling All-Star and the Ireland leading scorer for several years.

Mentions him playing Junior football for Wexford.

34:07 Talks of Jackie Shields, who was one of the best players the club had and mentions Seamus Buggy who played hurling with Faythe Harriers and is a world handball champion 1970. Also mentions Billy Roche, the author, who was a member of the club.

36:01 They discuss a group from Cork roofing the building and young lads of ten or twelve carrying boiling tar up ladders to them without any concerns for health and safety.

37:07 Speak of Fr. Sinnott's plan to grow ash for hurleys which if it had been done would have meant that ash would not have to be imported now.

37:39 Talks of having the club but no pitch and still playing in Pat Adam's field until he was told by the Blessed Virgin Mary in an apparition that the club should not play in the field again. Mentions moving to another field then and changing in someone's garage. Mentions Seamus Murphy a Kerry footballer training the team and giving lessons and kicking points the length of the pitch.

40:17 Talks of the club being Saint Joseph's boys club and every boy playing a sport not necessarily Gaelic football or they would not be welcome in the club. Mentions running

cross country barefoot across the fields.

41:43 Speaks of girls coming into the club and many marriages within the community and club members.

42:40 Talks of trips to Duncannon fort and how they looked forward to it and improved their skills. Mentions the success of all those involved.

44:36 Speaks of the impact of the club on the community when it was set up. Mentions the vision of Fr. Sinnott and how he was charismatic in how he approached everything. Also mentions his language when training the teams.

46:58 They talk of how easily the area could have been a ghetto but that with so much to do youngsters hadn't got time to get in trouble.

47:31 Tells of him involving the parents in the club and of the fundraising that he started and is still going well. Mentions the friendliness of the people involved.

49:02 Speaks of the three handball alleys and developing them. Talks of the first handball alley 60' x 30' which was built primarily for hurling training. Mentions the first wall falling down before this was built. Also mentions training many young players and it is hoped they will go on to do as well as Paul Everett.

53:45 Seamus talks of his parents playing camogie Waterford for and hurling for Mount Sion in Waterford although he was from Kilkenny. Mentions listening to matches on a Sunday and then all hurling. Talks of the handball court near the house and playing handball and hurling there.

55:17 Talks of playing hurling and winning a Junior medal and then turning to handball. Mentions Wexford winning the Senior, Minor, U21 and Camogie finals and how Seamus and his partner lost the Senior Doubles final by one point in the third game. Mentions going on to win the All-Ireland in 1970 and going on to win the World Championships after winning the Trident.

57:55 Speaks of getting up on bicycles on Sunday morning aged eight and riding from Clonard to Kilbannon and then on to Tralee, a round trip of twenty miles for a game of handball.

59:05 Talks of how handball became a focus of the club and the difference in size between international alleys and the old Irish handball alleys. Mentions Paul Brady and the official opening of the handball alleys. Mentions his brother Ned

Buggy who as well as handball played hurling for Wexford.

01:01:32 Speaks of Ned's son Gavin winning an U17 All-Ireland handball title but turning then to hurling before returning to handball.

01:03:13 They speak of it going back to the 1960's and how those involved kept the handball side of the club going.

01:04:17 Talks of the athletics in the club and how those involved were coached by Fr. Ray Mc Nicholas. Mentions emailing him recently and getting a reply within the day and meeting him soon afterwards.

01:08:59 Speaks of Tom McGuinness and his involvement in the table tennis and badminton. Mentions boxing and Billy Walsh the current National coach being a member of the club. Also mentions snooker being played.

01:11:03 Talks of those that were involved at the start of the club, Michael Terry, Paddy Rossiter, Tom Rossiter, John Merton, John Hendrick, Oliver Sinnott, Mick Grady, Tom McGuinness, Michael Murphy, Joe Walsh, Dick Murphy, Humphrey Moore, Paddy Quirke, Peter O'Connor, Johnny Byrne, Nicky Rossiter, Stan Malone and Willie Edwards.

01:11:51 Speaks of the ladies committee and fundraising and the summer field days and the children's entertainment. Talks of the descendants of those mentioned above who are still involved in the club.

01:13:59 Tells of the club being very much a community centre. Mentions Willie Everett and his family. Also mentions the fiftieth anniversary of the club and a booklet being prepared to commemorate it.

01:15:50 Speaks of the ladies involved in the club, Joan Rossiter, Mrs. Myrtle, Peggy Murphy, Nora Terry, Mrs. O'Connor, Stella Walker, Mrs Walker, Mrs. Mooney, Peggy Carthy, Mrs. Murphy, Alice Edwards, Peggy Sinnott, Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Reddy.

01:17:43 Speaks of there being large families in the parish and it was not unheard of that there would be thirteen or children or more. Mentions the GAA suffering from there being smaller families these days.

01:19:55 Talks of the U21 Wexford hurling team and the Wexford Senior football team recently fielding no players from the four main towns in Wexford county. Mentions the urban

clubs versus the country clubs.

Also mentions working for Billy Rackard in 1961 and being in Duncannon and cycling twenty five miles each way to work.

01:23:14 Talks of the summers in Duncannon and the fond memories. Mentions attending Fr. Sinnott's funeral. Also mentions Fr.Sinnott teaching him to drive and how he got a promotion because of it.

01:29:01 Speaks of getting interested in pitch and putt and Fr. Sinnott buying eight pitchers and putters.

01:30:37 Tells of being expected to be the best at whatever they turned their hand to regarding sports. Mentions going to Croke Park also the ban on foreign sports being lifted at a convention held in the club. John also mentions speaking against the lifting the ban although he was mandated to vote in favour.

01:34:25 Talks of hurling until it was dark and then walking to the football for twenty minutes and on to the club to play table tennis or basketball or go running until 2 am.

01:35:30 Speaks of fielding a team to play soccer and an incident during a game.

01:37:35 Talks of working for Billy Rackard and a challenge in 1962 between Wexford Wanderers rugby club and Enniscorthy rugby club to field two hurling teams. Mentions being asked to play on the team with Billy Rackard, at a time when buying a ticket for a rugby club raffle would earn you a suspension. Also mentions Billy being captain of the Wexford Senior hurling team at the time.

01:40:29 Talks of the members of the county board forming the vigilante team and being able to attend any soccer or rugby match. Mentions the families of many of those involved having suffered at the hands of the Black and Tans. Also mentions Jimmy Roche and his thoughts on the ban and on those that reported offenders.

01:42:47 Richie discusses his involvement in the club since the age of twelve in all aspects of the club. Talks of the running of the club and the ease of organising the various sports. Mentions there being a full time manager who looks after the day to day running of the club. Also mentions the redevelopment of the club and those involved over the last twenty five years.

01:46:47 Talks of the future of the club and the awareness of

	the history of the club. Tells of looking up to various players over the years and the legacy that Fr. Sinnott left behind. Mentions the poems that are recorded in the hall and what they mean to them. 01:49:33 Speaks of the club being recognised locally and around the county, for football in the past and now for handball too.
	01:51:05 Paul talks about his success in handball and how those who have come before help to push younger players forward.
	01:53:09 They talk about what their involvement in the club has meant to them over the years. Mentions being tired and having to hand on to others. Also mentions hoping to produce champion handballers over the next five years.
	01:57:28 Talks of the pride they have in their achievements within the club in so many sports. Mentions their lives being empty without the GAA.
	02:00:30 Speaks of the demands of modern life making it harder for people today to switch off and concentrate on sport.
	02:01:59 Talk of the club being a focus for young people in these times of mass unemployment to ensure they are not depressed.
Involvement in	John Meyler:
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ☐ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	John Denton:
	☐ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ☐ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):

Seamus Buggy:
✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
☐ Other (please specify):
Ned Buggy:
✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
☐ Other (please specify):
James Browne:
✓ Supporter □ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ☐ Grounds-person
☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
□ Other (please specify):
Tom Rossiter:
✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
□ Other (please specify):
Gavin Buggy:
✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
☐ Chairperson ☐ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person

	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	Richie Culleton:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	John Meyler: Played hurling and football for many years and won Wexford U21 hurling titles and a Wexford special junior title.
	John Denton: Won Wexford U21 Hurling Championship with Faythe Harriers (1967); Won 1978 Enniscorthy District Junior Championship.
	Seamus Buggy: World Doubles 60 x 30 Handball Champion (1970); won 3 All-Ireland Senior Doubles 60 x 30 Handball championships (1970, 77, 79).
	Ned Buggy: Won Wexford football titles with St Josephs 1963 and 1974; Won Wexford hurling titles with Faythe Harriers, 1 juvenile title (1964); 1 junior title (1965); 1 minor titles (1966); U21 titles (1967, 68, 69); Senior titles (1965, 91)
	James Browne: N/A
	Tom Rossiter: Played for 10 years and won 6 Wexford titles
	Gavin Buggy: Won Wexford Senior Hurling Championship (2001); Wexford 40 x 20 Senior Singles titles (2006 – 2009)
	Richie Culleton: Won 1 Wexford Football title; Won 1 All- Ireland, 5 Leinster and 8 Wexford titles in Handball
Record as an Administrator	John Meyler: N/A
(Positions held; how long for)	John Denton: Secretary and Chairman for St Josephs GAA (12 years); Faythe Harriers GAA Secretary and Chairman (3 years); Wexford Football Board Secretary (3 years); Wexford Coiste na nÓg Secretary (1991 – 1993); Wexford GAA Referees Secretary and Chairman (5 years).
	Seamus Buggy: Chairman of Wexford handball Board;

	Chairman of St Joseph's Handball Club.
	Ned Buggy: Chairman of Faythe Harriers GAA club, 1980 – 82.
	James Browne: St Joseph's GAA Club committee member (10 years)
	Tom Rossiter: Member of Wexford County Board; Member of Wexford Park Committee
	Gavin Buggy: N/A
	Richie Culleton: Chairman and Secretary of St Joseph's GAA (15 years approx.)
Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:02:40
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: 27th June 2012