



Pictured at an early morning training session are Orraith O'Brien, Laura Kenny, Aideen Skelly, Sarah O'Boyle, Ciaran Madden, Gerry Quinn, Ciara McNevin, Aoife O'Brien, Sinead McWeeney and Brian O'Boyle.

Successful year for Longford Swimming Club

2011 has been an extremely successful year for the swimming club and its members.

The club, which was reformed in 1992, continues to go from strength to strength, in competitive terms and in coaching children with skills that will enable them to continue to ex-

ercise for fitness, for the rest of their lives.

Another huge benefit is the strong friendships that are forged between the young people outside of the pool. We had great success in the pool, with several medals won in Provincial & All Ireland competitions and national

community games finals. Our young swimmers compete in a sport that is very competitive nationally & internationally and more than hold their own at that level. The club coaches deserve great credit for all of the work that they do, bringing members from basic swimming levels to national

and international competition. The coaches of the younger swimmers also get huge assistance from some of our former club members who give up time every weekend to help out. The club would not survive without the support of the parents, who play a very important role in supporting

and supervising swimming sessions throughout the year.

Also, we would like to thank the management and staff of the swimming pool for all their assistance during the year. Anyone wishing to join is very welcome, details are available at Longford Swimming Pool.

Two in a row for Longford Slashers!



Slashers U-10 who travelled to Edenderry

Back row, left to right, Michael O'Brien, Ronan Kenny, Cian O'Nuallain, Matthew Duffy, Phelim Maher, Mairtin Kenny, Tadhg McNevin, John Nelson, Darragh Maher, Jerry Sheahan. Front row, Aaron Nelson, Donal Sheahan, Darragh O'Connell, Ronan Sheahan, Mark Roe, Stephen O'Brien, Liam Morgan, Sean Morgan.

ship final win over Edgeworthstown was the outstanding performance of the year considering we were missing 8 players from the squad on final day. This squad also represented Longford at the All Ireland 7 a side competition in Kilmacud Crokes and acquitted themselves quite well on the day getting out of the group stage. The U16's had a successful year winning the Summer League. We were defeated in the Semi Final of the championship with half the team away on holidays when this game was played. The minors qualified for the championship semi final in their 1st year in this competition. This team was essentially an U17 team as all players are eligible again next year. This was the first year we had a Senior team and they played in the Junior league where they performed quite admirably

considering they started from scratch this year. We also took part in the championship where we were beaten by eventual winners Rathcline.

CAMOGIE SECTION

Longford Slashers Camogie club is growing in numbers every year and this year they hosted their first U8 & U10 blitz with many teams travelling from Westmeath to take part. The U8s won all games with the U10s only beaten in their last game. The U12s got through to the semi-final of the Westmeath league and put on a very brave performance. Our U14 squad represented their county in the 2011 All Ireland Feile held in Galway and a great time was had by all. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Pauline Gray on 086 8880545.



Pictured here are pupils from St. Michael's National School who were delighted when Slashers won the County Final.

The Senior G.A.A. Club in our parish, Longford Slashers, again captured the Sean Connolly Cup, the Senior Football Championship title in 2011 and this victory brought to 15, the number of senior championship titles won by the Longford Slashers Club. This was a fantastic achievement considering it was following on from their great success in 2010. Would it be possible that they could achieve 3 in a row, which they last achieved back in 1989, 1990 and 1991. The club is constantly upgrading its facilities at Farnyhoogan in order to ensure that the youth of the parish are properly catered for in their quest to play Gaelic games. During the past year, the numbers of girls playing ladies football and camogie increased substantially and this adds greatly to the large numbers of our youth partaking in Gaelic games.

MINOR SECTION

Longford Slashers Minor Football Club caters for approximately 160 boys from the parish, ranging in age from 5 to 18. The Club runs an under 6 Nursery which introduces children to Gaelic football and we enter teams at every age group from under 8 to under 18(Minor). The Club currently have 70 Garda vetted coaches and officials.

Our main focus is to develop the skills levels of all our players in a positive, healthy and safe environment while also encouraging enjoyment and fun.

2011 was a very successful year for the Minor Club with our under 14 team winning the Feile competition, League and Championship. Our Minors won the Special Minor League, while our under 12 team reached the Division 1 Final. Our Club held a number of very successful Blitzes during the year at under 8, 10 and 12 level with Clubs from Tyrone, Roscommon, Cavan and Dublin participating. We also attended Blitzes in Cavan and Offaly.

LONGFORD SLASHERS LADIES SECTION

We had a very successful year in all age groups this year. Our U8/10 age groups had a few challenge games throughout the year against both local & outside opposition. Our U 12 team won the championship again this year after a hard fought final against Ballymahon/Forney. The U14 squad did a clean sweep winning both the championship and the summer league. Our champion-



On the Big Walk were the following: Vinny Finn, John Farrell, Tom Maguire, Noel Maguire, Pat Reid, Jim Gallagher, Padraig O'Meara, Adam Cahill, Thomas Gibbons, Brendan Corcoran.

The Big Walk, Longford to Lourdes

The Big Walk of 2011, thank God, was a success all round, both for participants and the beneficiary. On the Big Walk of June 2011 were the following: Vinny Finn, John Farrell, Tom Maguire, Noel Maguire, Pat Reid, Jim Gallagher, Padraig O'Meara, Adam Cahill, Thomas Gibbons, Brendan Corcoran.

The team completed the 1100km walk in relay stages over nine days. This tremendous success was not without its tireless dedication from all involved, but particular attention out to be paid to Mr. Tom Maguire of Maguire's filling station, Stonepark, Longford. Essentially, without Tom Maguire, the walk would

not have worked and we are so grateful to him for his *inestimable* contribution. The team would like to pay tribute to the people of Longford, Leitrim and the surrounding areas and to those overseas who contributed so generously to the cause. Thank you to Collette Reynolds of Hair Square, Longford, Shannonside Northern Sound and The Longford Leader (In Particular Dessie Connolly), for their constant diligence with regard to the effort between August 2010 and June 2011.

The Big Walk raised €23,000 for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust: www.irishpilgrimage.org providing respite care for children and

young adults with special needs, and also go on pilgrimage to Lourdes annually, and have done so for the past 40 years. In June 2012 a group of special people plan on mirroring our efforts and walking from Carlow to Lourdes. For further information on the 2011 or the upcoming 2012 walk log onto www.thebig-walk.ie

This walk was about the ordinary man achieving the seemingly impossible. We did just that. Pilgrimage begins with effort in the face of a tireless and seemingly insurmountable boundary. Prayer and community were our rod and our staff. Thanks to all involved.