

PUBLISHED AS
A COMMUNITY
SERVICE BY
SAINTFIELD
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION

Saintfield News

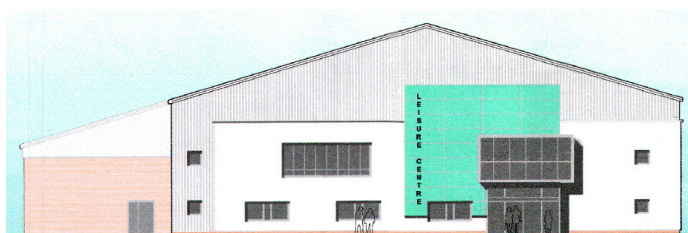
ISSUE 1

SPRING 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	PAGE
Chair's Viewpoint	2
Children's Art Competition	3
Keep Saintfield Clean	3
Francis Hutcheson's Grave Found	4
Editor's Letter	5
The Sound of Music	5
Fun Run & Family Day	5
Join SDA!	6
Dates For Your Diary	6
Contact the Editor	6

SAINTFIELD TO GET COMMUNITY CENTRE



Since Gerry Lowe, the chairman of the Saintfield Development Association, first requested the Council to fund a feasibility study in 2007, there has been steady progress towards a community/leisure facility for Saintfield.

The feasibility study and the subsequent economic appraisal were completed and unanimously approved by Down District councillors by 2010.

The next step was to identify and purchase a site. Negotiations with the owners of three possible sites were initiated but, for various reasons

fell through.

A development plan for Saintfield was drawn up in June 2012, which generated a huge public response and confirmed the need for a community/leisure facility. The Council redoubled efforts to purchase a site.

In February 2013 the Council identified a preferred site, industrial buildings opposite the Saintfield High School, and submitted a planning application for change of use of the site to a community/leisure facility. The Council also approved £3.5

million for Saintfield in its capital budget for 2013/14. Again, councillors were unanimous in approving both of these proposals.

Saintfield Development Association has worked very closely with Rowallane councillors, senior council officials, and the Council chairman, all of whom have been very supportive throughout the process.

The next step is to complete a full public consultation to finalise the facilities to be provided inside and around the new facility.

It is hoped that Sport NI, the schools in Saintfield and the youth service will be involved and a model facility will be achieved to fulfill the needs of Saintfield for decades to come.

Planter Sponsorship

Last year the association, together with some enthusiastic volunteers and help from some of the traders, renovated the well on the Fair Green.

We also worked with local traders to encourage them to put floral displays outside their business premises. There was much praise from local people and comments on how the displays made Saintfield a more attractive place in which to live, shop and visit.

Spurred on by their enthusiasm

we are hoping to have even better displays this year. Your association has decided that instead of hanging baskets, we would like to have planters and



railing displays, which will be easier to see and enjoy.

It would be very much appreciated if any family, business or individual would be willing to sponsor a display for £50. A plaque of acknowledgement would be placed in the planter. Donations in memory of loved ones would also be very welcome.

Should you be interested, please contact Saintfield Development Association committee member Anne Walker on 97 51 1687.

Chair's Viewpoint

(The Origins of Saintfield Development Association)



Gerry Lowe OBE
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"We achieved
greater and
more diverse
community
representation"*

*"Responses to the
public survey were
overwhelming"*

For many years, Saintfield Town Committee, a dedicated group of volunteers, acted as community representatives in dealings with council and statutory agencies. The committee was instrumental in having the village centre designated as a conservation area in 1997, thereby protecting its architectural heritage, and in raising substantial Heritage Lottery Funding for building improvements in 2000.

The Town Committee were best known for two major initiatives, the Christmas Fair and Saintfield in Bloom. For over twenty years the Christmas Fair on Saintfield's Main Street has introduced thousands of children to the excitement and goodwill of Christmas, most of them never realising the huge amount of voluntary effort that made the evening so much fun. Saintfield in Bloom was also very successful in the 1990s, Saintfield winning many categories, including Ulster in Bloom.

Saintfield Regeneration Committee urged our councillors to find funds for the regeneration of our Main Street and footpaths, to create a public park on the town hill, to enlarge the public car park and open the existing alleyways onto the shopping area, to formalize a heritage trail around the village and to clean and sanitise our waterways. By the end of our second year, we had secured

funding for our first village plan which formally identified our wishes.

Realising that they would have more clout working together, the Saintfield Town Committee and Saintfield Regeneration Committee merged to form Saintfield Town Regeneration Committee and, indeed, things began to happen. Two of our original aspirations were the creation of gateway signs on the arterial routes entering the village and the development of a memorial garden to commemorate all those who died at the Battle of Saintfield in 1798. Both of these projects were achieved, bringing with them a degree of civic pride. The installation of decorative benches and a floral village centerpiece followed.

We achieved greater and more diverse community representation and we became more professional in our approach to potential funders. However, the financial crash postponed our hopes of an Environmental Improvement Scheme to re-vamp the Main Street despite many productive meetings with councillors and statutory agencies. We successfully persuaded Down District Council to carry out a feasibility study to show the need for a Community Centre and enhanced sports facilities.

A revised "Integrated Village Development Plan" was produced with the

help and support of the Council and Down Rural Area Partnership. Local responses to the public survey were overwhelming, showing the huge enthusiasm from all ages and interest groups. The Infrastructure Sub-committee has applied for substantial lottery funding for refurbishing properties in the Conservation Area and DRAP assistance has been requested for the creation of an identifiable village square. The Communications Sub-committee has developed an excellent website, interacted very successfully with the entire populace through social media, developed a healthy relationship with the village traders and produced this newsletter. The Green Saintfield Sub-committee is driving forward major projects to clean up the village and to make it more aesthetically pleasing to residents and visitors. The Events Sub-committee is working on a new and exciting programme for the year ahead. Most importantly, though, the irreversible commitment of 4.4 million to Saintfield by DDC to purchase and develop the site of our Community Centre and Sports Facility is a vindication for all those countless hours of leisure time, over many years, sacrificed by the community volunteers and a just reward for the Saintfield ratepayers.

Gerry Lowe
Chair, SDA.

Primary School Art Competition

There are two age categories in the "Floral Saintfield" Art Competition:

Children in P1 - P3

Children in P4 - P6

A representative from Saintfield Development Association will collect artwork from St Mary's PS and Academy PS on Friday 31st May.

The winners will receive their prizes on Saturday 8th June at SDA's "Fun Run and Family Day".



"Floral Saintfield"
Art Competition

For children in P1 - P3

 Saintfield Development Association 

would like you to design a floral display to help make Saintfield a colourful and pretty town

Your picture can be in pencil, paint, crayon or computer generated on an A4 page

Your pictures must be finished by 31st May

 All entries will be put on display in Saintfield Library 

discoversaintfield.com

"See your art on display in the Saintfield Library!"

Keep Saintfield Clean

Like most towns in the United Kingdom, Saintfield has its fair share of litter louts. Rubbish strewn along the hedgerows and verges of the roads into our village give a poor impression to the visitor, not to mention the detritus dropped by careless folk on the pavements and gutters in the village itself.

Saintfield will join a country wide anti-litter campaign launched by Tidy Northern Ireland, and to this end the Saintfield Development Association will stage a Spring Clean event on Saturday 27th April from 10am to 2pm.

If you would like to join in and can spare a couple of hours on that day, your participation would be most welcome. We will meet at The Square at 10am and Tidy NI will provide thick gloves; long handle rubbish pickers and plastic bags to collect the rubbish. One bag for recyclables and the other for general waste. Youngsters who wish to take part must have their parents' permission.

You can help to make a difference, so diarise Saturday 27th April now.

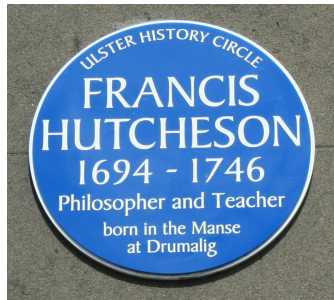
For further information, go to discoversaintfield.com or e-mail info@discoversaintfield.com



SDA Litter pickers cleaning Saintfield's streets

Francis Hutcheson's Grave Identified

Francis Hutcheson is probably the person born in Saintfield who has had the greatest influence for good on the world. In spite of being a famous philosopher during his own lifetime in Europe and the United States he is little known today in Northern Ireland. In fact his exact birthplace is not known today and, until recently, his burial place was unknown.



Fergus Whelan, an enthusiast for the writings of Francis Hutcheson and their influence on the evolution of liberal democracy, has just recently found proof of the exact location of his grave. Hutcheson loved Dublin, and it was known that he died while on a visit to that city in 1746.

Fergus has established the following evidence for the site of Francis Hutcheson's grave.

Dublin City Council has an information display at St Mary's Church which states that Mr Francis Hutcheson and his cousin Mr William Bruce are buried there. This information was gleaned from the St Mary's burial records which are now held at the Representative Church Library, Dublin.

In Stewart, A.T.Q., "The Deeper Silence: The Hidden Origins of the United Irishmen", the author states that Mr William Bruce, who died in 1755, was buried in the same grave as Mr Francis Hutcheson.

In Ray Bateson's book "The End", it states that from the burial records it shows that Francis Hutcheson was buried at St Mary's and that part of Bruce's headstone is still visible.

Therefore it can be concluded that Francis is buried in the churchyard of Saint Mary's, which is also the final resting place of his cousin William Bruce. Today Saint Mary's is a public

park located in what is now Wolfe Tone Street.

Many United Irishmen would have revered the memory of Francis

Hutcheson. Some of the leaders of the Dublin United Irishmen are remembered in the street and place-names of the city. Most Dubliners can direct a visitor to Wolfe Tone Street, Oliver Bond Street, Russell Street, Lord

Edward Street and Emmet Road.

It is ironic that Francis Hutcheson's pupil, Adam Smith, is still remembered and revered around the world when the man whom Smith called the 'never

to be forgotten Hutcheson' lies in what is now an unmarked grave.

In 2003 the people of Saintfield, County Down unveiled a plaque to Hutcheson, very appropriately on the wall of the First Presbyterian Church where his grandfather had been minister and where the young Francis would have first imbibed his Dissenting Protestant principles. Fergus Whelan, as the secretary of the Francis Hutcheson Memorial Committee, on Saturday 1st December 2012 unveiled the plaque below to commemorate the burial site of Francis Hutcheson.

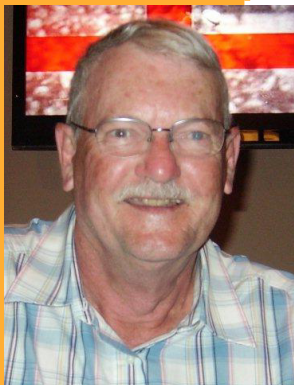
For more information on the life and influence of Francis Hutcheson see:

<http://discoversaintfield.com/francis-hutcheson>

"probably the person from Saintfield who has had the most impact on the world"



Editor's Letter



Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News

Welcome to the first issue of the Saintfield Development Association's newsletter.

Our aim is to provide a forum where we can let the residents of Saintfield know what the SDA is doing to improve the facilities, infrastructure and well being of the town for the benefit of all.

We will also keep you advised of upcoming

events in the town which we hope you will support.

We also hope you will use this as a conduit to let us know your views and opinions as to what you would like to see done to make our town a better place to live in.

Our intention is to publish the newsletter quarterly and perhaps more frequently if we receive a positive response from

residents.

If you have any comments, criticisms or suggestions, please drop an e-mail to editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk and we will do our best to address them.

You can also access our website at:

discoversaintfield.com

or log on to our Facebook page:

DiscoverSaintfield

*"Don't be afraid
of blowing your
own trumpet!
Get in touch!"*

The Sound of Music

Are you a musician, singer, composer or do you just have an interest in music generally? "Musicians of Saintfield" is a recently formed group of people interested in all genres of music and their aim is to bring together musicians in the community in and around Saintfield for their mutual enjoyment and benefit, developing the cultural awareness and involvement of all Saintfield residents.

The first meeting of the core group of enthusiasts has already met to discuss



possible events that could be staged in the Saintfield area, such as street performances, concerts, pub sing-along's, jam

sessions, choral performances, busking, music in schools and worship music. There must be a wide range of musical talent in our area which has yet to be discovered, so don't be afraid of blowing your own trumpet! If you are interested in learning more and contributing to this initiative, please contact the editor at editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk

Summer Fair & Fun Run

The SDA will be staging a "Fun Run" in conjunction with the Saintfield Summer Fair on Saturday 8th June.

The event will be run over the Demesne fields adjacent to the Saintfield Sports Club and will be open to both adults and children.

The adult run will be over a distance of 4km and the children's event will cover 1km.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners and all children finishing the course will receive a certificate. The entry fee is £5 per runner

and registration will be at the Orange Hall from 11.00am on the day. So now is the time to get into shape and show the others a clean pair of heels!

For further details visit our website: discoversaintfield.com/latest

Some of the
competitors
in last year's
Fun Run



Calling Saintfield Residents!

PAGE 6

If you are proud of your town and would like to contribute to its development and have a say in its affairs, we need you as a member of the Saintfield Development Association (SDA).

Saintfield Development Association comprises a group of Saintfield people who work together with local residents and businesses to improve the environs, facilities and social cohesion of the town.

SDA is now a registered company with charitable status and is currently chaired by Gerry Lowe,

OBE, a well known resident and fervent supporter of Saintfield.

SDA also acts as a lobby group to ensure Saintfield is considered by local government for any development projects and funding; and to ensure Saintfield has a voice on issues which may impact on the town.

SDA operates on a purely voluntary

basis and meets monthly to discuss a variety of topics and to plan various events staged during the year, including the Christmas Fair, the Fun Run, Summer Fair, Litter Pick Day etc.

There are four sub-committees operating under the direction of the main committee, covering Events, Infrastructure, Communications and Green Saintfield.

We need people like you to bring your skills and get involved in the affairs of your town, for the betterment of us all.

**SAINTFIELD PEOPLE
WORKING FOR
SAINTFIELD PEOPLE**



**We can achieve more if we
work together for Saintfield**



For more information please contact us at: recruitment@discoversaintfield.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary



Saturday 27th April

Monday 20th May

Friday 31st May

Saturday 8th June

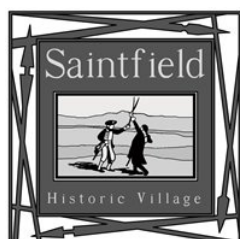
Community Litter Pick

Saintfield Development Association AGM

Close of "Floral Saintfield" Competition

Annual Saintfield Fun Run & Family Day

Details of these and other events can be found at discoversaintfield.com



**Published as a Community Service by
Saintfield Development Association**

Editor: Brian Gamble

editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk



Subscribe to the electronic version of Saintfield News at discoversaintfield.com/subscribe