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Saintfield News

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Community Centre Dream To Be A Reality

The need for community facilities in Saintfield has been recognised for some time and was highlighted in the Integrated Village Development Plan in 2012.

Proposals for these facilities started almost a decade ago, with a dream of a new community centre and better pitches for all local sports. With the purchase of the Belfast Road site by DDC for the community centre, all the other parts of the overall dream can be progressed as well. The current plan is that the new community centre will be delivered through a structured partnership, to include the Department of Education and Saintfield schools, the SEELB Youth Service, Saintfield Development Association (SDA) together with other local community organisations and sports clubs. The partnership approach ensures that funds will be released from both central and local government, so that the final construction costs will not fall solely on the ratepayer of the district.

The next important step for the

project will be a consultation process with all community groups, sports clubs, residents and schools to ensure that the final specification of the building and the site will provide the best range of options to suit the greatest possible number of



opportunities with Sport NI and a number of other sources. It is hoped that this development will see a new building with a multi-court sports hall, boasting a stage for community arts performances and local talent promotion,

community and youth rooms, fitness suite, associated changing facilities, entrance foyer, communal areas and associated training surfaces. It could also have dedicated facilities for the schools in the area and possibly house

people, thereby providing best value for money.

The detailed design through to the construction and future management of the new facilities will be the shared responsibility of all key stakeholders, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project into the future.

The ambition is that the project will serve as an exemplar of best practice across the whole of Northern Ireland. Down District Council, Saintfield Development Association and Saintfield Sports Club are also pursuing further grant applications and funding

youth workers for SEELB.

This is a great opportunity for the people of Saintfield and the surrounding area. The community centre has the potential to become a new hub for Saintfield, complementing the existing activities of churches, schools, community groups and sports clubs. The hard work starts now and by bringing the people of Saintfield together working alongside Council officers, the dream will become a reality in the near future.

(An overview by Lawrence Murphy, SDA Treasurer.)

Chair's Viewpoint

(The year ahead for Saintfield Development Association)



Martyn Todd MBE
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"Each edition [of
Saintfield News]
costs about £300
to print, which
is the only cost"*

We have received some very positive feedback on the first edition of the newsletter (thanks to Brian Gamble and Ian Mack). The Saintfield Development Association regards the newsletter as a very important means of communication from the SDA to the residents and traders of Saintfield.

We will try and maintain the standard and frequency of publication as long as we can generate the funding to produce it. Each edition costs about £300 to print, which is the only cost as the preparation and distribution is all done on a voluntary basis by committee members.

Since the last edition of Saintfield News, there have been two major developments for the village. These are the provision of floral displays around the village and the purchase of the site by Down District Council for a community centre.

The floral displays were inspired by Anne Walker, who was heavily involved in "Saintfield in Bloom" some years ago, and has been implemented by the Green Saintfield

committee of the SDA, led by Kathy Owen. There are some excellent photos on our website, discoversaintfield.com

Please let us have your reaction to the floral initiative and let us know of any suggestions you may have to keep Saintfield colourful.

The big news is the purchase of the site for the community centre, on the Belfast Road opposite Saintfield High School. This follows years of discussion and negotiation for various sites. The advantages of the selected site are its proximity to the High School and the existing buildings on the site. Some of these can be converted to new use.

The next step in the process will be the formation by Down District Council of a project team to include representatives of the SDA, Saintfield Sports Club and the schools in Saintfield. Their first task will be to consult with all interested community groups and residents to ensure that the facilities of the new centre and its surrounds will offer the widest range of activities

for the greatest number of people of all ages in the village.

It is planned to have a week of consultations as was done last year for the village plan. With the generosity of Martin Phillips Carpets once again, we have been given the use of a shop in Main Street where there will be a questionnaire giving various options and seeking your input, so keep a look out in the weeks ahead.

SDA's co-ordinating committee has agreed the objectives of the association for the coming year to be:

1. to build on the great goodwill in the association
2. to recruit new members who can assist with various projects, and
3. to improve communication within the association and to the residents and traders of Saintfield.

Martyn Todd
Chair, SDA.

SDA has been able to publish this edition of **Saintfield News** thanks to sponsorship by:

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Summer Fair and Fun Run a Limited Success

The annual Summer Fair and Fun Run held in early June was a limited success. The weather was glorious and a good number of runners, young and old, turned up to compete in the Fun Run.

There were stalls along Main Street with the vendors offering a range of goodies at reasonable prices, as well as a display of art on the railings alongside the First Presbyterian Church, which attracted a lot of interest. The Dance Amore group demonstrated their dancing skills outside the Orange Hall and there were three musical groups to entertain the passers-by.



There was a film show relating the Battle of Saintfield in the Masonic Hall, where refreshments were also served.

Attendance was not as expected and the SDA events committee was puzzled as

to why there had not been a greater turn out of residents and visitors. Perhaps the good weather encouraged people to go to the seaside or have barbecues? It was disappointing after so much effort had been put into the event by the committee – perhaps we are on the wrong track with the events we stage? Let us have your comments on this event and suggestions for future ones.

E-mail: editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk or visit our Facebook page:

DiscoverSaintfield

Saintfield Is Blooming Colourful!



The village is looking much prettier, thanks to the efforts of the SDA Green Saintfield committee, sponsors and local traders, who have combined to arrange planters, railing mangers and other floral displays along Main Street and Crossgar Road. The traders have agreed to take responsibility for the watering of the plants, with the committee taking over during holidays.

Smaller arrangements have been planted at the gateway signs on the approach roads to the village.

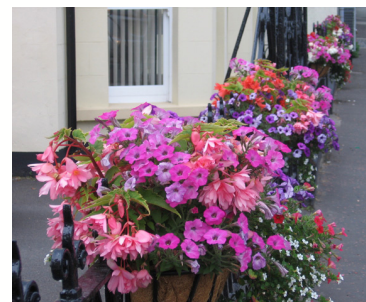
The Department of the Environment has also given permission for the planting of wild flowers on the approach roads, which will attract bees and butterflies. A grant to implement this has been applied for and it is hoped to have this project completed by next spring.

The SDA is very grateful to the following donors who have sponsored tubs and planters to help make Saintfield a more attractive village. All the tubs have plaques on them. A

very big "Thank You" to Tonia Macdonald of AMD Trophies, who made the plaques for the planters and tubs.

The sponsors are:-

Saintfield Nurseries, NFU Mutual, Salon 68, Saintfield High School, David McNarry UKIP, Maxol, Saints Deli, First Saintfield Presbyterian Church, Massey's Butchers, Carvalho Hair Stylists, Kirk's Butchery, Computers R Us, VivoXtra, Beechill Pet Supplies, Bryan Somers Travel, R. Savage & Co., Saintfield Credit Union, Blain Bros. Building Supplies, Saintfield Pharmacy.



"The village is looking much prettier"

Save Energy!

The "Green Saintfield" sub-committee of the SDA, in conjunction with Northern Ireland Electricity, have arranged a talk on how to improve the energy efficiency in our homes and businesses.

The speaker will give practical advice on utilising solar energy for heating and electricity production, the costs involved, as well as the benefits of joint action.

The talk will be held at Saintfield Sports Club on Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm so make a note to attend and you could be on your way to saving money!

Martyn Todd - Chairman of SDA

Martyn Todd was unanimously elected chairman of the SDA at its annual general meeting held in May. He takes over the reins from Gerry Lowe, who held the position for many years.

Martyn has lived near Saintfield on and off since 1955 although the Todd family have been in the area since around 1650.

He has worked in engineering and then business development in England, France, the United States as well as Northern Ireland. He retired from Down District Council in 2010 as

Director of Recreation and Community Services and was involved with new recreation facilities for all of Down district, including Saintfield, since 2006.

He has been an active SDA committee member working towards a new community centre for Saintfield since 2010 and served as vice-chairman of the association in 2012/13.

Martyn has been a board member of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board from 2009 and an independent board member of the Northern Ireland

Environment Agency since 2010.

He has been a member of the Saintfield Heritage Society for many years and is a great fan of Saintfield's most famous son, Francis Hutcheson.

Martyn was awarded an MBE in 2000 for leading the Strangford Stone project, which brought 1000 young people together from all over Northern Ireland to pull up the 47 ton megalith in Delamont Country Park. A keen hill walker and sailor, Martyn is married to Jane and they have a son, John and a daughter, Katy.

*"a keen
hill walker
and sailor"*

Art Competition Winners

The winners of Saintfield Development Association's "Floral Saintfield" children's art competition held earlier this year, with prizes awarded at the Saintfield Summer Fair in June, were:-

Children in P1-P3 **Max Neilly**, Academy Primary School.

Children in P4-P7 **Annie Haughey**, St. Mary's Primary School.

The photograph shows Art Competition organizer Anne Walker presenting Max Neilly with his prize.

After the winners were announced many of the entries were displayed in Saintfield Library.



Become Involved With The SDA

There are three levels of membership of the Saintfield Development Association and it won't cost you a penny to become involved.

Firstly, you can become a "Friend of Saintfield" and receive our newsletter via e-mail and be informed of what the SDA are doing. There is no requirement to go to committee meetings, although you would be welcome to attend.

The second level is to be a volunteer, which includes the points mentioned above together with a willingness to assist with the various events we stage, depending on your interest, ability and area of expertise.

The third level is to become a committee member, which involves attending the monthly meetings and contributing your ideas and talents to the discussions. As you become

more familiar with the Association, you may wish to join one of the sub-committees which appeals to your particular area of interest.

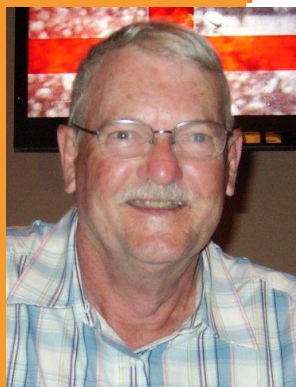
Membership is open to all individuals and businesses, so for more information please contact Paul McGeown on 07780 700 303 or email him at recruitment@discoversaintfield.co.uk

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Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News

Editor's Letter

The Saintfield Development Association (SDA) is a community based organisation dedicated to supporting the infrastructure, well being and appearance of Saintfield for the benefit of all residents and traders.

Its biggest success to date has been gaining approval for a community centre for the village and plans are now well in hand for the realisation of this long awaited facility.

The SDA also plans and runs various events during the year, such as the Summer Fair and Fun Run,

the Christmas Fair as well as a number of fund raising activities.

All members of the association are volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. Contrary to some reports, no member of the SDA receives remuneration of any kind.

What do they get out of it? I can only speak for myself, but as a resident of the village for not quite six years (yes, I am a "blow-in") and a member of the SDA for not quite three years, I have gained a lot.

Not only have I made a number of new friends, I have also got to know many of the traders and have gained an understanding of Saintfield's history as well as its plans for the future.

If you would like to become a member of the committee and have a say in the affairs of your village, you can find more information on our website,

discoversaintfield.com or log on to our Facebook page **DiscoverSaintfield**.

You will be made to feel very welcome.

Music Festival for Saintfield

"Musicians of Saintfield" is a group of people interested in music in all its forms.

In conjunction with the Saintfield Development Association they are planning a "Harfest" musical event in the village over the weekend of Friday 25 October to Sunday 27 October.

Plans are to have different types of musical and choral performances at various venues in the village covering a wide range of genres.

Some of the confirmed acts

are Quicksilver (one of Northern Ireland's leading and most popular classical quintets), Grosvenor



Chorale (the award-winning Belfast choir founded 20 years ago by SDA member Edward Craig) and Malojian (who supported Snow Patrol at Ward Park, Bangor, in

2010 - a performance that saw them play in front of an audience of 46,000 people).

There will also be workshops covering such diverse topics as drumming and song writing. It is hoped to have something for everyone, from senior citizens to toddlers.

So keep your diary free for that weekend and watch out for further details in the coming weeks on our website

discoversaintfield.com

*"Performances at
various venues in
the village"*

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How much do you know about Saintfield and its history? When you have friends and relatives staying with you, do you know all the interesting places in the area to show them or the story of Saintfield to share with them?

Here is your chance to learn more about your village, as on Sunday 15th September, as part of European

Heritage Open Day, there will be a guided walking tour of Saintfield leaving from the Memorial Garden in Comber Street at 3:00pm.

It will last for about two hours, cover the history and evolution of Saintfield and describe some of the listed buildings. Come along and learn about the Saintfield story.



Dates For Your Diary

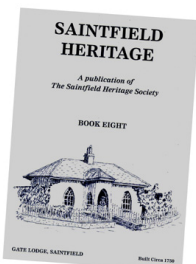


Sunday	8th September	Cycle Ride (30+ miles)
Sunday	15th September	European Heritage Open Day "Walking Tour of Saintfield"
Wednesday	2nd October	Film Night in Tudor Cinema
Wednesday	16th October	"Save Energy!" (SDA & NIE)
Fri/Sat/Sun	25/26/27th October	HarFest Music Festival
Friday	6th December	Saintfield Christmas Fair

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

Saintfield Heritage Society Programme

Talks are in the Woodrow Room of Saintfield Parish Church Hall at 8.00pm. Visitors are always welcome.



Thursday	12th September	Place Names of the River Lagan (Speaker: Dr. Desmond O'Reilly)
Thursday	10th October	The Legend of Danny Boy (Speaker: Jim Hunter)
Thursday	14th November	The Donaghadee Lifeboat (Speaker: Alan Crouser)



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