



Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December

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The Saintfield Christmas Fair will be held along Main Street from 6-30pm to 9pm on Friday 6th December.

The road will be closed to traffic during this period to provide a safe environment for all the family.

Santa Claus will arrive at 7pm and will be dishing out sweets to all the children. He will arrive by a very rare and special means of transport, so be sure to get there in time.

Once Santa has arrived, the Christmas lights will be switched on – and this year we have a very special guest to do the honours.

Saintfield man Paddy Jackson, the Ulster and Irish rugby international and current member of the Irish rugby squad will be outside the Orange Hall to throw the switch to illuminate

the village in a festive aura. He will be available to sign autographs and will also judge the window displays in the shops to decide the winner of shop competition.



FirePoise in action on Main Street last Christmas

Attractions for the kiddies will include the ever popular miniature railway and the roundabout. This year there are two new attractions – a bucking bull and the Touch Down bungee game - which should prove to be great fun. There will be carol singers and choirs to give the fair a Christmas

atmosphere, including the popular Tonaghneave Wassailers.

The Events committee have again secured "FirePoise", who thrilled the crowd last year with their breathtaking display of dancing with fire, so don't miss that!

Most of the local traders will remain open for late night shopping and there will be numerous stalls along the street to tempt you with a variety of wares.

All the attractions are free, thanks to the generous support of

the traders and businesses in and around Saintfield. The SDA has put much time and effort to make this year's fair bigger and better than ever, so please bring the whole family to enjoy our village's largest community event.

Check out our website discoversaintfield.com for further details. See you there!

The SDA Needs YOU!



The SDA is always on the lookout for new members who can contribute to the affairs of the Association and be a part of the development and improvement of our village.

If you have a few hours to spare each month to attend meetings and would like to become involved, please consider joining – you will be made very welcome. In particular, the

Association is seeking people who have skills or experience in the following disciplines: -

Accountancy (to help with the financials); Social Media (for the SDA Facebook page and website); Public Relations (to assist with the dissemination of news about the SDA); and Event Management (to help with the planning and staging of events and functions in and around the

village). These positions are voluntary, but you will be rewarded by meeting new people and contributing to the development of your village.

For more information on how you can become involved, please email

recruitment@discoversaintfield.co.uk or contact Paul McGeown on 07780700303.

Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd MBE
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"We operate
on a very
small
budget"*

I hope you all heard that Saintfield was awarded third place in its category and most improved overall in Ulster in Bloom this year! We did not expect to win anything and the efforts of the Green Saintfield committee were just aimed at making Saintfield more attractive to local people and visitors. It is really great that these efforts have been recognised so publicly. There will be a presentation of the awards at the Ulster in Bloom launch next spring and we intend to celebrate then (and, hopefully, with the help of additional volunteers), do even more displays next year.

The project team for the new community centre has been formed and has had its first meeting. Represented on this are Saintfield Development Association, Saintfield Sports Club, South Eastern Education and Library Board and Saintfield schools together with Down District

Council who are managing the project. Down District Council are now appointing the design consultants for the project and we expect the public consultation to begin as soon as they are appointed. Please start thinking about what you want in and around the new community centre, for you, for your clubs and societies and, most of all, for our young people. Do come along and have your say.



We operate on a very small budget and have recently formed a Funding and Finance committee to assist in applying for grants and other sources of funds so necessary for the continued success of our events and projects. Such funding is essential if we are to grow as an association and will enable us to plan and initiate our ideas for the

betterment of Saintfield for all its residents and traders.

Also in this edition we are inviting more of you to support the activities of SDA in whatever way you can, whether by joining in to help at events, joining one of the organising committees, or, if you don't have spare time at the minute, donating a little money towards the activities you think are most important or just coming along to support SDA events.

Finally, the Saintfield Christmas Fair will be bigger and better than ever this year. Put it in your diaries now and come along on Friday 6th December with your friends and, most importantly, lots of children and grand children. This is the main event of the year for SDA, funded mainly by Saintfield traders with some support from Down District Council. All your favourite attractions will be there plus some new surprises. Don't let your children miss it!

Martyn Todd
Chair, SDA.



The Chairman and committee members of the Saintfield Development Association wish all residents and traders a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year



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Village Improvements



The Infrastructure sub-committee of the SDA are busy with a number of projects to improve the appearance of the village.

Fair Green

Efforts are being made to brighten up the area around Fair Green.

Discussions are being held with Down District Council to carry out a new planting scheme including more suitable tree planting on the grass in front of the Health Centre. It is hoped that this will be completed soon.

Some may have noticed that the derelict row of properties alongside the green is having some work done.

The owner has given permission and a substantial contribution for the improvement of the external appearance of the block. It may be a while before a permanent scheme takes place here so it seemed a shame to allow the block to remain in its unsightly condition in the interim. The idea is

to create the impression of windows and doors while they remain blocked up. Each property will be painted a different shade to brighten up their appearance.

All the work is being done by the South East Regional College students and instructors to whom we owe great thanks. A substantial contribution is also being made by Blain Brothers in the form of materials. Other costs are being met from the funds raised at our recent Film Night. Everything is being done and organised by a coming together of the people of Saintfield.



The Square at Comber Street

In August, the application for a substantial grant from DARD with matching funding from Down District Council for resurfacing and landscaping to this area of the town was approved.

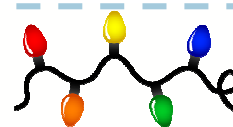
DDC has kindly agreed to take over the administration of this scheme.

Completion is due by September 2014 with work progressing over the summer of 2014.

Grants and Finance

The SDA have a team who give of their time to scour the many and varied grant schemes that are available from time to time from bodies such as DARD, The National Lottery and NIEA. These often become available with little notice and with very tight time scales. Their requirements are strict and demanding. If it were not for their efforts, Saintfield would miss out on opportunities for investment to improve the amenities and prosperity of our village.

Saintfield in Bloom 365



The Green Saintfield Committee have been busy over the last few months and the fruits of their efforts can already be seen around the village. The committee have now renamed themselves "Saintfield in Bloom 365" as they intend to have flowers around the village all year round.

Winter planting has been completed in the tubs, with under planting of daffodils and tulips to come up in the Spring. The committee members have clubbed together to buy the daffodils and have also given several hundred, along with tulips donated by Saintfield Nurseries, to the three schools for the pupils to plant. Some have been planted in the Memorial Garden.



Saintfield won awards in two categories of the 2013 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition

The committee requests that the keen gardeners among you get planting as they want to hold a plant sale in May in aid of the flower fund. Down District Council have agreed to

replace the trees outside the Health Centre with more interesting varieties and will also erect two lampposts for hanging baskets.

Litter and dog fouling are a constant annoyance to residents and the Council have erected signs warning that CCTV will record offenders. "Down Our Street" is a new Council initiative to encourage

residents to care for their own surrounds. In the current economic climate, the Council cannot be expected to clean up after us and residents need to take responsibility for their own actions.

"keen gardeners among you get planting"

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Supporting SDA



During the last few months members of the Saintfield Development Association have made a point of learning from other community groups who have been in existence for a long time and have achieved successes that SDA would like to achieve in Saintfield.

We have visited Broughshane, talked to people in Ahoghill, Portaferry and Cloughy and heard from a dozen other community groups in seminars about their projects and how to make things happen. What we have learned is:

- there is always goodwill from the community to help, though different people want to help in different ways. It is important for the community association to ask local people for help but it must accept that help in flexible ways to suit individual people
- there is a lot of money available for community projects, from government bodies, charities and other sources. Applying for these grants is tedious, time-consuming and not always successful, but can bring in tens or even hundreds of thousand of pounds when

done well and persistently

- the communities that achieve most will have a wide network of interest groups, volunteers and people raising funds. Both Broughshane and Portaferry, who are leaders in community development, have around one hundred different groups in their networks

- local councils and government bodies do more for communities that are active on their own behalf

With this learning SDA has now to match its ambitions to the available volunteer contributions and successful grant getting and fund raising. At our last meeting we formed a Funding & Finance Committee to focus on getting grants, local fund raising and budgeting SDA finance across community events and activities

SDA ambitions include

- Upgrading sports pitches
- Working with Down District Council and Sport NI to complete an excellent community centre

- Working with Down District Council to prepare a 5-10 year community plan

- Even better floral displays

- Tidying up other derelict property

- Improving the Main Street

- A town park

- Bringing more visitors to Saintfield to spend money with local traders, including more events and festivals

- Sheltered accommodation near the town centre

SDA currently has about 50 members, of whom about 25 members are very active on committees and organising events.

Between them these people are putting in hundreds of hours per month on SDA activities, all for free.

If we are to realise more of our ambitions and create a better place to live in, work in and visit, we will need many more people contributing either some time or some money to the ambitions that they want to see come to fruition.

"we need many more people contributing either some time or some money"

Please support SDA by filling in this slip and returning it to SDA, c/o Honorary Secretary, 19 Windmill Road, BT24 7DX

Name: _____ email address: _____

Phone No: _____

I am willing to contribute _____ hours per month to the following ambition / project _____

I am willing to help out once per year at the following event [please tick]: Christmas Fair _____ Summer event _____ Music festival _____

At the minute I don't have time to volunteer but I am willing to contribute £ _____ :

[a] to any of the above ambitions OR [b] only to the following project _____ [Please circle appropriate option]

[Please make cheques payable to "Saintfield Development Association". SDA undertakes to ring fence any donation made for only one project, e.g. the Christmas Fair or floral displays, and will only spend the money on that project]

Saintfield Development Association would like to thank you for your support.

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Editor's Letter



Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News

*"Performances
at various
venues in the
village"*

Saintfield's got talent – that was proved over one weekend in late October at the "Harfest" music festival in the village.

The event was organised by Musicians of Saintfield in conjunction with the events committee of the SDA. The leading light and organiser was Edward Craig, Head of Music at Carrickfergus Grammar School, who is also the Director of the well known Grosvenor Chorale.

There was live music, singing and workshops in the pubs, cafes and churches in the village, offering a wide and varied choice of events to attend.

The support given to the weekend by Saintfield residents was very satisfying and most venues reported excellent attendances. It seems that Saintfield residents have a definite musical bent and will give their full support to events such as this.

The writer was impressed by the talented youngsters

we have in our midst.

The "Have a Go" workshop for the kiddies was an eye opener. The children were more than happy to try out the various instruments on offer.

One tiny lad was keen to give the electric bass guitar a go, even though the

development of future musicians in the village.

Stephen Hamill was on hand at the Second Presbyterian Church to demonstrate their Phoenix organ. His skill, expertise, musicality and passion for his instrument were evident and he enthralled

the audience as he put the organ through its paces and showed its versatility, power and range.

The weekend was a great success, garnering many compliments from both audiences and participants alike.

It is hoped to make it an

annual event on the SDA calendar. Well done to all concerned.

You can view photos taken at Harfest on the SDA website

discoversaintfield.com



instrument was bigger than he was! A young girl had a go on the drums and showed she had a great sense of rhythm.

It was a great initiative and should bode well for the



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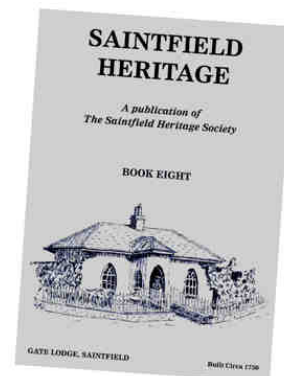


Saintfield Heritage Society Programme

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

Thursday	9th January	Hidden Gems of Ireland (Speaker: Patrick Devlin)
Thursday	13th February	The Story of Punjana Tea (Speaker: Ross Thompson)
Thursday	13th March	Squares of Belfast (Speaker: Norman Weatherall)
Thursday	10th April	In the Steppes of Marco Polo (Speaker: Diana Gledhill)



Tornado Hits Saintfield



On 10th August 2005 a tornado touched down in Saintfield. Don't worry, you didn't miss it, it was in the other Saintfield, Saintfield Ontario and little damage was done.

Very many place names in Ireland are replicated in Canada and the United States. Early settlers often gave the name of where they came from in the old country to where they staked a claim in the New World.

A search of the Internet reveals only one other place with the name of Saintfield. The village community of Saintfield in Ontario is part of the old Reach Township about 35 miles north-east of Toronto and is situated on the King's Highway (Route 7/12) which forms part of the Central Ontario route of the Trans-Canada Highway. According to Craig Belfry, (Manager of Culture & Heritage Services, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Department, Scucog Shores Museum, Ontario), Saintfield Ontario was founded around 1800.

By 1869 it had a population of 100 and continued to grow into a large settlement with a school, doctor, Methodist Church, blacksmith and a hotel



with stables and popular dance hall to which people came from miles around.

Saintfield Ontario was outgrown by neighbouring settlements during the second half of the twentieth century and is now lost in the urban

sprawl of Scucog. It is very likely that, as our Saintfield is the only place in the old world with that name, Saintfield Ontario was first settled by someone from here. Craig Belfry has no records of the first settlers but knows that they arrived before 1831.

If you have any family history of a Saintfield emigrant going to the Toronto area at about that time who called their house or farm "Saintfield" please let us know. They might have shown this in letters back to the family left at home. It would be great to

know who it was who took our unique village name with them to Ontario.

(Taken from an article in Saintfield Heritage Society Book Seven, which is available from the library, the Post Office or Jacksons.)



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DTP by Ian Mack**

Editor: Brian Gamble
editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk



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