



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	PAGE
Chair's Viewpoint	2
Village Improvements	3
Green Saintfield Committee News	3
Green Light For Community Centre	4
Editor's Letter	5
Dates For Your Diary	6
Heritage Society News	6
Contact the Editor	6

This year's Christmas Fair should be a Cracker!

The Events Committee of the SDA have been hard at work finalising arrangements for the annual Christmas Fair to be held on Main Street from 6:30pm to 9pm on Friday 5th December. Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6pm until the close of the fair, so motorists

will need to be aware of this and plan their route accordingly.

Santa arrives outside the Orange Hall at 7pm and the Christmas tree lights will be switched on by Kathryn Glover, a gold medallist at the transplant games. Santa will then stroll up and down

Main Street handing out sweets to the children (only if they have been good, of course!)

There will be plenty of attractions for the kiddies,



including the ever popular miniature steam train, children's' roundabout and face painting.

New this year will be two wipe-out type games, Last Person Standing and Assault Course, which will appeal to the older

children. Firepoise, the popular fire troupe, will be giving two performances during the evening.

There will also be carol singing by school choirs and a display of highland dancing by the "Heart of

Down" highland dancing school from Ballynahinch.

There will be plenty of stalls offering a wide variety of goods and treats, as well as the popular SDA tombola stand.

It promises to be an evening of seasonal fun and frivolity to get you into a festive mood, so make a

note in your diary and bring the whole family along for a healthy helping of Christmas cheer.

Remember to check out the latest news on our website discoversaintfield.com and Facebook page for further details.

See you there!

Saintfield Cycle Ride A Success

The third SDA cycle event was the best attended yet. The organisation, the weather and the route all contributed to a great ride for the 53 cyclists who took part.

At 9am on Sunday 21st September the car park in Saintfield began to fill with cyclists keen to enjoy the 33 mile route planned for them. The Saintfield Development

Association volunteers made it work by manning the reception tables, organising, mapping and marking the route and ensuring it was well sign posted and marshalled. Thanks are due to Masseys Butchers, Vivoxtra Supermarket and The Rowallane Inn for their support which ensured that all the competitors were well fed and watered.

The twice a year cycle events are

a very important fund raising source for the SDA Christmas Fair, paying for the main kiddies attractions. So thanks also to the various cycle clubs in County Down and Belfast whose members took part.

All cyclists should watch the Discover Saintfield website and Facebook page for the dates and details of our Pedal the Peninsula and Saintfield Cycle events in 2015.

Chair's Viewpoint



Barbara Graham
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"We have a
great village
and we can
and will make
it better"*

So far this year has been a very busy time for SDA.

Projects which we have been lobbying for over a long period of time have come together in a rush!

Many of the SDA members have put in a lot of time and effort promoting and organizing the projects we have undertaken.

We always like to take a positive attitude and things which appear as problems can often be overcome by a bit of lateral thinking.

These days we are bombarded with negative comments from the media, chat shows and so on. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of the blame game. Our policy is to try to improve things if we can, not to point the finger at others.

Saintfield certainly has its

own problems and improvements can seem painfully slow but, so long as things are improving there is cause for optimism.

Everyone in the town can help if they will. We need our shops, our groups, sports and clubs. Many of them are long established and valued. We need to support them.

community is cemented with contacts and friendships.

We should be outward looking too! We have a great village and we can and will make it better. Visitors should be encouraged to come and see what Saintfield has to offer. Spread the word about our lovely village!

Saintfield is great – you can get anything from a needle to lawn mower here. Let's make a concerted effort to support our own traders and businesses!

Finally, I would like to thank the SDA committees and members for their unstinting hard work during

the year and wish them and all Saintfield residents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Barbara Graham
Chair, SDA.



Shop local when you can – consider the cost of time and petrol going to out of town centres.

Because the organisations are on a small scale everyone can have their voices heard and a

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



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

Martin Phillips,
9A, Portaferry Road,
Newtownards,
BT23 8NN.

martin phillips
carpets • rugs • vinyl • wooden floors
www.martinphillips carpets.co.uk

Village Improvements



As everyone knows there have been major works to Saintfield's Main Street and Square over the last few months.

The Square

This was funded by DARD through a grant scheme which SDA applied for. Match funding was put forward by Down District Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and DDC took over the project management.

Although there are still some loose ends to be tied up, work was substantially completed on time and, we understand, on budget. A feature tree will be planted soon in the Square and we understand there will be an opening ceremony arranged shortly.

We hope that Saintfield residents and visitors approve of the upgrade. DDC liaised with the Saintfield "Steering Group" throughout the project and communications with architects,

council officials and statutory bodies were good. This sort of project can be fraught with difficulties due to the disruption caused.

SDA would like to thank all those concerned for a job well done. We would also like to thank the traders affected for their patience through a difficult time.

Main Street

The SDA has been lobbying for improvements



to be carried out to the Main Street for some time.

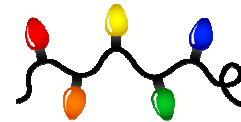
The work was undertaken by the Roads Service to the lower section, which commenced in August this year.

Unlike the Square scheme, Roads Service carry out this type of project independently and the SDA were not involved in the scheme itself. However the steering group did request that the granite curbs and square sets be preserved.

As we all know things went wrong with the programme and traders were put under considerable inconvenience and financial loss over a considerable time. The disruption was also a great deterrent to shoppers.

At least now the pain is over and things are getting back to normal. On the positive side, the road and pavements are much improved and there will be a long term benefit.

Green Saintfield Committee News



After a busy and productive year, the Green committee of the SDA is now winding down for the coming winter months.

They are grateful to all those who helped our village win third place in the Large Village category of the Ulster in Bloom competition earlier this year.

Next year, it is planned to have the same number of tubs and planters around the village. The committee will also concentrate efforts into the gateway signs on the roads leading into the village, to enhance the idea of the Battle of Saintfield, as suggested by Mike Snowden.

If residents have any ideas or suggestions, these may be submitted through the SDA website: info@discoversaintfield.com

Because of the difficult trading conditions experienced by our traders and businesses during the recent upgrades to



the square and the lower half of Main Street, the committee intend to raise funds for their projects by initiating a house to house collection, allowing all

residents to play a part in the enhancement of our village.

All the tubs have now been planted with winter plants and under-planted with daffodils and tulips, ready for Spring.

Highly Commended Award

The SDA was granted a "Highly Commended" award in the Cleaner and Greener and Community Spirit categories of the Housing Executive Rural Community Awards 2014.

This award was earned mainly through the efforts of SDA treasure and Green Committee chair Lawrence Murphy and his small but dedicated team of helpers. Well done!

**"tubs have
now been
planted
with winter
plants"**

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

**Norman McBriar,
33a, Main Street,
Saintfield,
BT24 7AB.**

NORMAN McBRIAR & SON - FUNERAL DIRECTORS
24 HOUR PERSONAL SERVICE

**Golden Charter
Funeral Plans**

Monumental Services

- Wide range of high quality memorials
- Refurbishing and additional lettering
- Wedding Limousines

33a, Main Street, Saintfield, BT24 7AB - Tel: 028 97519739

Green Light For Community Centre



When the Council purchased the site for the new Saintfield Community Centre in July 2013, we all thought that the biggest hurdle was past and that the project would move rapidly to implementation. It was not to be quite like that! As is the case with most councils in Northern Ireland, Down District Council has been going through the preparations for a merger with another council, in DDC's case with Newry and Mourne. This merger has given all council officials much more work which, combined with a level of uncertainty about the future, has delayed most capital projects.

The tender process for the design architects for the Saintfield community centre took until December 2013, when Consarc were appointed. SDA carried out a week of public consultation in early February 2014 and the first public consultation meeting was held in the High School on 3 February.

By July 2014 Consarc were working on a range of options but, as progress was very slow, SDA held an urgent meeting with the council. It transpired that the allocated budget for the project was insufficient to refurbish all three of the existing buildings. We also learned in July 2014 that the new "shadow" council were reviewing all the capital projects from DDC and Newry and

Mourne to decide which were going to go ahead and which would be scrapped. As, at that time, the design for the Saintfield centre had not been finalised and therefore a revised planning application had not been made, the project was not given the go ahead. This was very frustrating for all involved in the project, including the DDC officers working on it.

In September, after discussions with SDA and Sports Club representatives, a design was finalised. This was presented to a second public meeting in early October. Although some concern was expressed that the third hall was not included in Phase One of the project, the general opinion was that the proposals represented best value for available funds and should go ahead. This allowed Consarc to proceed with the planning application and the Council to complete a revised business case for the project. The Council's budget limit meant that only two buildings were included for refurbishment in the project, though the planning application included all three buildings. This was done so that as soon as additional funding is found the third building can be completed quickly.

At a meeting of the shadow council's governance and finance committee on 21st October the Saintfield project

was given the green light to start in June 2015. This was for for a large indoor 3G artificial grass training area 60m x 30m in one building and a suite of meeting rooms, changing rooms, exercise and fitness areas for community use in the second building.

The SDA is actively exploring other sources of finance to refurbish the third building as a multi-use sports hall. One of these potential sources is the Heritage Lottery Fund Space and Place grant scheme. An application has been submitted and this has been deemed eligible. We will know in January if we are through to the second stage of the process.

A group we are calling "Active Saintfield " (a consortium of SDA and sports clubs) has been formed, which has obtained DDC funding and employed the specialist sports consultants, Otium, to prepare a comprehensive Community Sports and Physical Recreation Development Plan for Saintfield and the surrounding area. This plan will guide the development of youth and adult sport as well as community recreation, both indoor and outdoor, for the next decade. It will also prove the need for better outdoor pitches for soccer, Gaelic sports, cricket and, as a priority, hockey.

"Saintfield project was given the green light to start in June 2015"



Handmade chocolates made in Saintfield

Celebration cakes, Christmas cakes, patisserie and desserts made to order

Homemade dairy ice cream

Treat someone to afternoon tea, vouchers available as presents

Now taking bookings for Christmas afternoon tea



NORR & BROWN

**I TODD'S HILL, SAINTFIELD
TELEPHONE 07921 846 468
OPENING HOURS:
TUES - SAT, 10am-5.30pm**

Editor's Letter



Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News

*"We can all
play our part
by making a
concerted
effort to shop
locally"*

The recently completed refurbishment of The Square and the upgrade of the lower half of Main Street have improved the infrastructure and appearance of the village, although the works caused a great deal of upheaval over the months taken to complete the projects.

Not only was the smooth flow of traffic disrupted, shoppers had difficulty negotiating the roadworks and seemed to avoid the area as much as possible. This has had a disastrous effect on our traders and businesses, many of whom have experienced a quite dramatic drop in turnover and profits. We need our traders to maintain and develop a commercial hub in the village, for without them, Saintfield would lose its appeal to both residents and visitors alike.

Our village has already seen the closure of a number of businesses over the last few years and the consequences of a domino effect due to a lack of support do not bear thinking about!

We can all play our part by making a concerted effort to shop locally whenever possible and giving our full support to the shops and businesses in our village.

Saintfield is blessed with a wide variety of traders and most goods and services can be obtained right here. Regular shoppers are able to develop relationships with our traders and benefit from personal service and advice.



Sionan Mullan performing at HarFest

It is all very well to do your main shop in one of the big supermarkets in the various shopping malls in the area, but remember that every penny spent elsewhere is a penny denied to our own community.

A vibrant, busy and well patronised local shopping

and business hub is essential to the continued growth and prosperity of Saintfield. We must all play our part to ensure the survival of the traders we have as well as to attract new businesses to open up in our village. Please shop locally!

The Harfest weekend of music at the end of October was a treat for residents, who were spoiled

for choice with the variety of performances on offer in different venues in the village.

This was the second year the festival had been staged and Saintfielders responded by supporting the eclectic mix of music themed events. There was something for everybody and it was a treat to walk down Main Street in the evening listening to the different sounds in the

air.

The Events committee of the SDA staged the festival under the direction of Edward Craig of "Musicians of Saintfield". It has the potential to become a major attraction for Saintfield, given sufficient funding to grow the event.

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

Blain Brothers Limited,
1, Station Road,
Saintfield,
BT24 7DU.

Blain Brothers Limited

Building Supplies - Timber Merchants – Plumbing Supplies

See us first for the keenest prices, personal service and advice

1 STATION ROAD, SAINTFIELD, BT24 7DU

Phone: 028 97510246 E-mail: blainbrs@aol.com





Friday	5th December	Saintfield Christmas Fair Main Street, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Saturday	6th December	'Messiah' For Cancer (Ards Choral Society) 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Church 7:30 pm
Thursday	8th January	"The Annesleys and Mount Panther" (Saintfield Heritage Society: Terence Reeves-Smyth)
Thursday	12th February	"Architectural Curiosities of Belfast" (Saintfield Heritage Society: William McCullough)

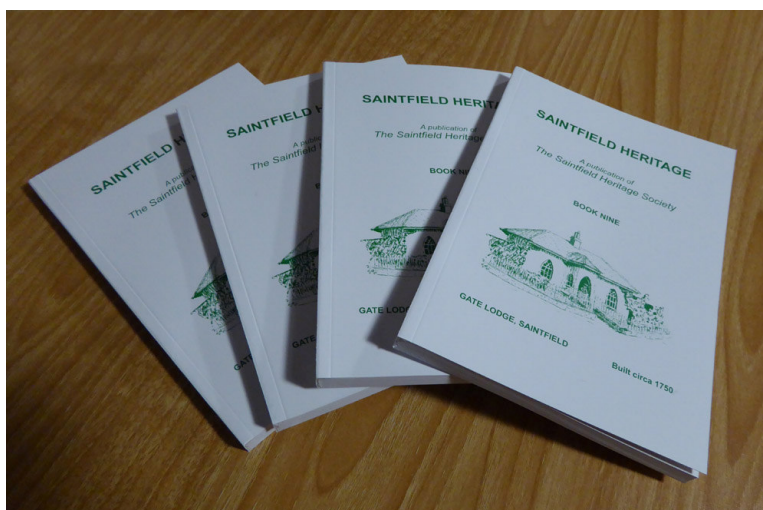
Saintfield Heritage Society News



The Saintfield Heritage Society has had a successful start to its new season, with talks on The Somme, in this anniversary year, and on the life of a musician by Elizabeth Bicker.

The wide range of subjects covered by the Society is demonstrated by two of the forthcoming talks in the programme listed above. Talks are in the Woodrow Room of Saintfield Parish Church Hall at 8.00pm and visitors are always welcome.

Every four years the Society brings out a book about local history. The latest one, Book 9, was launched by Mark Carruthers on Wednesday 22nd October and is available



now in the Post Office, Jacksons and VivoXtra in Saintfield. Comprising 175 pages and 35 articles on local history, it is on sale for £8 and makes an excellent

Christmas present for the person who is difficult to find a present for!

Among the items covered are reminiscences of local people and information about Saintfield's blood brother, a synagogue in Saintfield, The Temple 100 and the formation of Rowallane Gardens.

It also lists all of the Saintfield servicemen who lost their lives in World War One and Two and gives the story of William

Kenny, born in Saintfield and awarded the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty" in 1920.



**Published as a Community Service by
Saintfield Development Association
DTP by Ian Mack**

Editor: Brian Gamble
editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk



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

Peter Bowles & Company, Solicitors
70, Main Street, Saintfield, BT24 7AB.

WEB: www.bowles-law.com
EMAIL: info@bowles-law.com
PHONE: 028 97512722

We provide a wide range of legal services including:

- Personal Injury claims including medical negligence
- Insolvency and Debt Recovery
- Civil Litigation including defamation and contractual disputes
- Residential and Commercial Conveyancing
- Employment Law
- Family & Matrimonial Law