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Christmas Fair Should Be A Cracker!

The popular Saintfield Christmas Fair will be held this year on Friday 4th December on Main Street from 6.30pm until 9.00pm.

The Events Committee of the Saintfield Development Association have been hard at work planning the fair and making sure that there will be something to appeal to everyone, from the toddlers to granny and granddad.

Santa will arrive outside the Orange Hall at 7.00pm to officially open the fair by switching on the Christmas lights and this year he will travel on his sleigh pulled by two reindeer! He will then be available to pose with the children and the reindeer for photos for a small fee, before strolling up and down the street distributing sweets to the children (but only if they have been good!)

Attractions for the kiddies will include a giant slide and the popular "Last Man Standing" game. The traditional miniature

stalls to appeal to the adults, offering a range of gifts and goodies, as well as refreshments for the hungry and thirsty. It is

hoped that many of the shops will be open to afford an opportunity for some late night shopping.

The fair seems set to provide an evening of fun, frivolity and seasonal good cheer for the whole family, so make a point to be there and get into the Christmas spirit.



Last year's street market.

steam train and children's roundabout will also be there.

All the children's attractions are free, thanks to the fund raising activities undertaken by the SDA during the year.

It is hoped that choral groups from our local schools will be performing Christmas songs and carols during the evening.

There will be a wide variety of

Please note that Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6.00pm to 9.30pm so those needing to travel through the village will need to find alternative routes during this period.

Keep up to date with what's happening in Saintfield through the SDA website discoversaintfield.com or through our Facebook page.

"Pedal the Peninsula" A Winner

The third annual "Pedal the Peninsula" cycle ride staged by the SDA in September was a hit with cyclists.

Over 150 riders took part in the 53 mile ride around the scenic Ards peninsula, starting and finishing in Saintfield. The ride was not too strenuous and appealed to all categories of cyclists, from the novice to the enthusiast.

Riders were full of praise for the organisation and marshalling of the event and every finisher was awarded a commemorative medal.

The funds raised from the entry fees will go towards the cost of providing entertainments for the youngsters at the Christmas Fair on Friday 4th December.



Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"building good
relationships"*

In the last edition of this Newsletter, I said my priority was to ensure that all the councillors and senior officials in the new council would come to understand Saintfield's needs. We have engaged with the new Chief Executive and Directors of Newry, Mourne and Down Council and are building good relationships with them. We have also invited the current Chair of the Council, Councillor Naomi Baillie, to Saintfield. She, with two Council Directors, Michael Lipsett and Eddie Curtis, spent over an hour in Saintfield, when we were able to share our plans and take them on a tour to see what community facilities we have and what we need for the future.

A few of us also accepted an invitation from Eddie Curtis to visit three community centres in

South Armagh, two newly built ones and one older, refurbished one. This was very useful and we found the meetings with community groups there very helpful.



At various Council events we have used the opportunity to engage with councillors of all political parties. I believe we are making steady progress towards establishing good working relationships with the new councillors, representing all political parties, and senior officials. Better relationships can only help the Saintfield Development Association in realising its ambitions for

the Saintfield Community.

The last three months have also been successful for SDA in other ways. The Events Committee, led by Bob Pollock, organised a cycling event, Pedal the Peninsula, which attracted over a hundred cyclists.

This committee also helped Edward Craig to organise and run the music festival, Harfest, which people of all ages enjoyed. The Green Saintfield Committee of SDA won another two awards for the floral displays and

environmental improvements around Saintfield. You will all have noticed Lawrence Murphy and his team cleaning where the Council doesn't - they have lifted over 600 bags of rubbish and sweepings this season!

The next big event for SDA is the Christmas Fair. Put Friday 4th December in your diary for all the family. Don't miss the fun!



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



You Could Win £10!

The SDA is keen to have your views on Saintfield News, the association's quarterly newsletter.

Do you enjoy receiving it? Do you read it? Do you have any comments or suggestions?

Send an e-mail to editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk We will select the £10 winner at random from the responses received.

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

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Green Committee Report



The Green Committee of the SDA has been hard at work as usual over the summer. Their efforts have contributed greatly to Saintfield winning two environmental awards over recent months, which have been reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

Their weekly clean-ups have resulted in 636 bags of rubbish being collected to date. Many residents have commented on the marked improvement over the last three years, stating that there are great improvements. The approach roads are commendable.

The two wooden gates between Scentsations and the Maxol Garage have been tastefully replaced

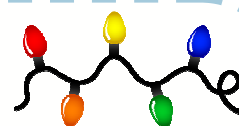
and the windows in Scentsations' yard have also been painted to match.

Currently, work is ongoing to plant and beautify the Point, the junction of Belfast Road and Comber Street.

The Green committee work hard all year round on a purely voluntary basis to keep Saintfield clean, tidy and presentable. It is such a pity that a few misguided people seem to derive pleasure from destroying much of what has been achieved. It is disheartening and very saddening to think that we have such people within our community.



HarFest A Success



Saintfield's third Festival of Music and Art, HarFest, took place over the last weekend in October with a rich variety of styles to suit all tastes.

The Friday night saw a steady stream of art lovers climb the stairs of the Top Floor Art Gallery on Main Street where they were rewarded with a refreshing glass of wine and many stunning works of art; several of which were snapped up quickly by those with a discerning eye!

They then wandered down Main Street to take in the wonderful array of contemporary art in Antiques At The Stile and chat with well known Irish artists. It wasn't just here that you could catch a glimpse of an attractive piece of art but also in a number of shop windows throughout the town, as many of Saintfield's traders supported the cultural event.

Across the road in the Parish Hall there was laughter for two hours with the lighthearted chat and comedy together with the musical genius of Ivan Black. With plenty of jazz and some folk alongside popular classics, Ivan's one man show even saw him compose pieces on the spot with suggestions from the audience.

In the relaxed venues of Saints Café, The White Horse Inn and The Rowallane Inn, musicians took to the stage to enhance the atmosphere for their regular customers.

Saturday morning saw over twenty young children enjoy a musical treat with Squiggles

and Giggles in the excellent facility of the Rowallane Hub. In the afternoon over 30 children were treated to an excellent percussion workshop along with musical performances by both St Mary's Primary and Cedar Integrated Primary Schools. It is hoped that at the next festival, more local schools' children will be able to take



Mairead Healy

part. At the same time the AYC was buzzing with art and music as the audience was wowed by the sublime voice of Mairead Healy and mesmerised by the incredible guitar playing of Gavin Ferris.

If this wasn't enough, many were enjoying Afternoon Tea in Norr and Brown's Tearoom entertained by Von Day, DANI and Emily-Rose and across the road in Saints the live music kept streaming throughout the day.

As evening fell, the Second Presbyterian

Hall soon filled up with folk looking for a dance and to support the RVH Liver Support Group. A total of £360 was raised and those attending were treated to a hearty supper prepared by Saints. The Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band were excellent and gently led the gathering through many traditional Scottish and Irish dances. They are a top rate band and nothing was too much trouble for them. For those not too exhausted from their twirling and twirling, the White Horse and Rowallane Inn again offered live music for everyone to unwind before the night of the extra hour!

The festival drew to a close with a tribute to Garth Brooks in the Rowallane Inn. At the same time, in the Parish church, almost a hundred folk were treated to classical music of the highest calibre. Flautist Richard Douglas, accompanied by a string trio and harpsichordist as well as a viola solo from David Strange. Central to the recital was the prodigious talent of 13 year old clarinetist Tom Myles, accompanied by his father Gary.

The Saintfield Development Association thanks all those who have supported or contributed to the festival in any way, particularly the NMD Council.

"the audience was wowed"

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Community Centre Update



Progress has been slow over the summer. It is taking more time than everyone thought to appoint people to the middle level positions in the new Council and as a result there has been no-one there dedicated to the Saintfield community centre project. Hopefully this has now been resolved as someone has now been appointed to be the community liaison person for all of the Rowallane District Electoral Area.

Following visits to new community centres in South Armagh, members of the SDA Infrastructure Committee have met with a number of private sector companies who provide leisure facilities services to councils in NI and GB. Through these contacts we have established a layout of rooms, halls, studios and services that we feel would be suitable for Saintfield's community and sporting needs. It is very possible that one of these private sector companies would be prepared to



manage the new community centre in a partnership arrangement with either the SDA or a new consortium of local community and sports groups.

The next steps are to meet with senior council officials to gauge their support for the planned facilities and the private sector partnership proposals. If this Council support is confirmed, then the SDA will arrange meetings with community and sports groups in and around Saintfield to

assess their support for the planned facilities and the proposed way of managing them. With good community support for an agreed layout for the new community centre, we would then be in a strong position to negotiate the necessary funding from the Council to progress the project to implementation.

It is hoped to have these steps completed before the middle of December.

Can
You
Lend
A
Hand?

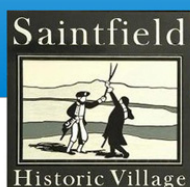
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Saintfield Crime Report



Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News

The latest PSNI crime statistics for Saintfield are for the month of August 2015. They show a total of 25 reported crimes in and around the village.

The majority of offences were anti-social behaviour, which accounted for 13 incidents. Violence/sexual offences made up a further eight offences, while there were three reports of criminal damage/arson and one of theft.

Regarding crime in the village, it seems that Saintfield is experiencing an unprecedented anti-social crime wave over recent weeks.

It appears that groups of youngsters are running amok in the evenings, paying no regard to property or infrastructure.

Damage inflicted by these vandals include the following: Four of the newly planted lime trees on Fair Green have been uprooted; the waste bin there was burnt and is now a lump of melted plastic; Plant tubs have been upended and the plants destroyed, window boxes have

been pulled down; an antique shop window was smashed and the light above the door was broken; soil and mud smeared on church property; fences on some residences on Ballynahinch Road have been knocked down and plants uprooted. Coupled to this is the rubbish left on a nightly basis by youngsters who gather in the Downpatrick Street car park.

The above is a sad chronicle of damage done by marauding youths in the village and it is incumbent on us all to be aware of and report this type of behaviour which is totally unacceptable.

PSNI Contact Numbers

Neighbourhood Policing Team Contact Telephone Number: 101

Crimestoppers Telephone Number:

0800 555 111 [Skype 0800 555 111 FREE]

Emergency Telephone Number: 999

Non Emergency Telephone Number: 101



Christmas Lights: ON or OFF?



In recent years the Christmas lights on the lamp posts in Saintfield and the Christmas tree outside the Orange Hall have been arranged and paid for by Saintfield Development Association. Down District Council provided a grant towards the cost of erecting and taking down the lights and the electricity used by the lights. The funding from the Council was conditional on using their specified contractor for putting up and taking down the lights, including the lights on the Christmas tree. SDA usually had to fund raise about £2000 to cover the shortfall, much of which was donated by traders, churches and individual donations.

The new Newry, Mourne and Down (NMD) council brought in a different arrangement for funding community activities, including Christmas lights. They required each community who wanted funding to apply for a

grant. SDA did this and was awarded funding towards the Christmas Fair, but the application for funding for the Christmas lights was unsuccessful. At that time we were told that nowhere in NMD would receive grant funding through that programme for Christmas lights.

We have learned that some of the larger towns in NMD are receiving council funding for Christmas lights, but smaller places, including Saintfield, have not. This leaves SDA with a projected shortfall of £1500 for the Christmas Fair and lights. The Council has suggested that SDA transfers some of the funding granted for the Fair to be used for the Christmas lights. The SDA Coordinating Committee feels that its priority for the funding available is the Christmas Fair. This is the one occasion in the year where Saintfield

families from all backgrounds get together and celebrate a common festival. It is an event for all the children of Saintfield, one that we want to maintain for the future.

We are negotiating with the relevant council officials to try to reach an agreement where there will be Christmas lights to some extent in Saintfield, but if there is no additional funding from the Council then there may not be Christmas lights in Saintfield. Of course, if any generous benefactor is willing to donate around £1500, then our worries would be over!

STOP PRESS:

Good news - after lengthy negotiations, the Council has agreed to fund the Christmas lights in Saintfield, Crossgar and Killyleagh this year.



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Times vary [Normal admission charges apply]
- 4th December** **Saintfield Christmas Fair**
Main Street, Saintfield
Fun for all the family!
Friday 4th, 6:30pm - 9:00pm
- 5th December** **The Saintfield Charity Santa Ride**
Hundreds of Santas leave Saintfield Livestock Mart at noon and arrive on Main Street at the Christmas tree at 1:00pm
- 12th & 13th December** **Yuletide Market**
National Trust's Rowallane Garden, Saintfield
Enjoy the seasonal festive feeling!
12:00pm - 5:00pm [Normal admission charges apply]
- 14th January** **"Heroes, Banshees and Fairy Trees: Aspects of the Irish Folk Tradition"**
Saintfield Heritage Society talk by Roise ni Bhaoill
Woodrow Room of Parish Church Hall at 8:00pm
- 11th February** **"Capturing Northern Ireland's Past In Film"**
Saintfield Heritage Society talk by Francis Jones
Woodrow Room of Parish Church Hall at 8:00pm
- 10th March** **"The Building of the Mourne Wall"**
Saintfield Heritage Society talk by Ernie Wilson
Woodrow Room of Parish Church Hall at 8:00pm
- 14th April** **"The Downpatrick High Cross"**
Saintfield Heritage Society talk by Michael King
Woodrow Room of Parish Church Hall at 8:00pm



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Laura Meharry has been appointed Honorary Auditor for Saintfield Development Association.



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