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Saintfield In Bloom 2016

The Green Committee of the SDA are most grateful to everyone in Saintfield who helped by giving donations, having their own floral displays, either on their premises or

homes, watering, dead heading and all the numerous tasks involved. A special thank you goes to the First Presbyterian Church, not only for their generous donation but for allowing the use of their railings to show off our floral displays.

Thanks also to those who told us that we were doing a good job as they were passing by. It makes it all worthwhile.

Our own competition for the best floral displays for both small and large businesses has taken place and the winners are:

1st Large Premises:-
R. Savage and Company.

Runner-up:-
Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church.

1st Small Premises:- **Masseys of Saintfield.**

Runner-up:- **Town and Country Antiques.**

The judges were Nicky McGarry of Flowerish Design and Michael Quinn of Cumran Landscapes.

They were very impressed with the overall standard and it should be noted that the SDA's own floral displays were not taken into account when judging took place.



Saintfield in Bloom judges Nicky McGarry and Michael Quinn with small business category winner *Masseys of Saintfield*.



SDA Green Committee member Anne Walker with Noel Gibson of *R. Savage & Company*, winner of the large business category.

Our sincere thanks go to Nicky and Michael for taking the time out of their very busy lives to come to Saintfield and to Anne McCandless of Norr & Brown for providing afternoon tea.

A new project was the placing of planters and stones in the area beside the Maxol Service Station on Crossgar Road. The space was derelict and the owner kindly allowed us to improve it.

However we could not have done so without the help of CES Quarry Products, David Hill and his team and Maxol Service Station, Saintfield, who between them, provided materials, labour and a generous donation.

Two wildflower beds have been developed, one on Belfast Road, opposite the junction of Ballygowan Road and the other on the Lisburn Road. The bed on the other side of the same road was also cleared and planters placed there.

We are grateful to Beth and Gillian Lunney of Saintfield Nurseries who have worked so hard with us to provide colour in the village all year round and James Lappin of Greenbank

Nursery who provided his expertise with the plants on Crossgar Road.

The results of the Ulster in Bloom 2016 competition are due out in the autumn, so keep your fingers crossed!

Chair's Viewpoint



Brian Gamble
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

At the SDA annual general meeting in June, I was elected to chair the Association, taking over from Martyn Todd, who had so ably headed the SDA during his year in office. His will be a hard act to follow but I know that I can rely on his expertise and guidance in the year ahead.

As Chair, I have two main priorities for my year. One is to maintain the drive towards the successful completion of the community centre project and secondly to increase the membership and involvement of residents in the Association. The quest for a community centre for Saintfield has been an ongoing mission for years, almost as long as the SDA has been in existence.

Lack of a suitable site, lack of funding and the fact that Saintfield is not considered a "deprived area" are just some of the reasons given why our town has not enjoyed the benefits which a community centre can bring.

My contention is that if Saintfield is considered by the powers that be as being lower down the list of needs, it will not be too long before we do become a deprived area! However, now a site has been obtained, funding is in place and

we are at the stage of selecting a private partner for the venture. The recently formed Newry Mourne and Down Council have a project team, headed by the very efficient Justyna McCabe, who are tasked with seeing the project through to completion. The SDA is naturally a major partner in the project team and we are working closely with Council to ensure that the community centre meets the requirements of the residents of Saintfield and the surrounding area. We are fortunate that our small team comprises dedicated people who freely give their time and much hard work, attending numerous meetings.

You will recall the public consultations which the SDA undertook in 2014 and last year to research the requirements of our population. All this data had to be collated and the results analysed to provide a basis for the proposed composition and facilities of the centre, within the limits of the funds available. Until I became a member of the team, I had no idea of the complexities, statutory requirements, health and safety concerns, environmental issues, building clauses, contractual requirements, legal, tax and management issues which all have to be taken into account.

There are a number of pessimists in our midst who are sceptical of the centre ever happening, so I am pleased to report that everything is on track to date and barring any major disruptions, the centre should be open before the end of 2018.

Now to membership. The SDA has just over 50 members, of whom possibly about a third take an active part in the Association by serving on one of the sub-committees or helping out at the various events we hold.

I would like to see our residents take a greater interest in the affairs of the town and put in a little time and effort to improve the lives, facilities and infrastructure for all of us.

The Association's tagline is "Saintfield people working for Saintfield people" and it would be great to see this actually happening!

You can get involved and share your expertise or just give some of your time to help. Just visit our website, Facebook page or e-mail me at

editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk

and find out what we do and how you can help.

SDA Committee Members 2016/7

The committee members of the Saintfield Development Association for the year 2016/2017 are as follows:

Brian Gamble – Chair

William Dick – Vice Chair

Martyn Todd – Immediate Past Chair

Peter Gregg – Hon. Secretary

Lawrence Murphy – Hon. Treasurer

The Chairs of the various sub-committees are:

Barbara Graham – Infrastructure

Bob Pollock – Events

Ian Mack – Communications

Lawrence Murphy – Greens

Paul McGeown – Funding & Finance

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Community Centre Update

The monthly project meetings between the Saintfield Development Association and Council are progressing well and a project plan has been agreed and actions are reported and recorded at each of the regular meetings.

The exercise seeking expressions of interest from potential private partners has been completed and sufficient bidders approved to proceed to the next stage of the process, which is the invitations to tender (ITT).

All local community groups were invited to the last SDA general meeting, where the final prioritised list of facilities, as identified in the full public consultation in 2014/15, was accepted for forwarding to NMD Council. This, together with a

design brief, will be included in the ITT documents. It is planned that these will be issued this month, with responses due back and assessed by the end of the year. The Council has stipulated that the new centre should be managed by a community trust, probably comprising NMD elected representatives (2 persons), SDA (2 persons), centre users (2 persons) and other local representatives (4 persons).

The project team members recently met a representative from Lowestoft Council, who have been operating similar trusts for a few years, to gain an insight into the process.

Council has agreed to manage the design and build phase of the project and then

hand over the management of the community centre, once completed (probably late autumn 2018), to the community trust (working name Saintfield Community Trust).

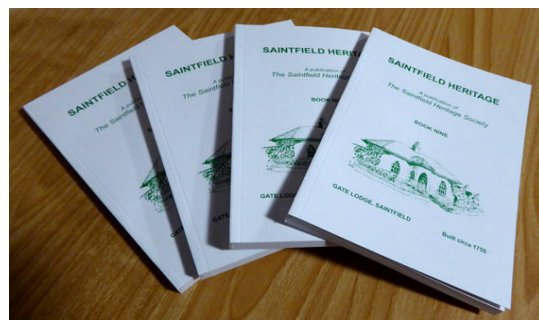
In the interim, a shadow trust will be established to set up the necessary formalities. At the recent SDA general meeting there were eight volunteers for the shadow trust, who will receive the necessary training and support in the coming months to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Trust.

There will probably be open recruitment to the Trust during the next year, with shadow trust members and others from the community eligible to apply.

Useful Contact Numbers

The PSNI – 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (only in an emergency)
 Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111
 Saintfield Health Centre – 97 510 575
 Samaritans – 116 123 from any phone
 Lifeline – 0808 808 8000
 Childline – 0800 1111
 PIPS (Suicide Prevention) – 0800 088 6042
 Royal Group of Hospitals – 9024 0503 (switchboard)
 Ulster Hospital – 9048 4511 (switchboard)
 City Hospital – 9032 9241 (switchboard)
 Saintfield Library – 97 510 550
 Citizens Advice Bureau – 4461 4110 (Down area)
 Victim Support – 9024 3133 (Belfast)
 NI Water Waterline (emergencies & enquiries) – 03457 440088
 NI Water Leakline (Reporting leak in mains only) – 0800 028 2011
 Flooding Incident Line (to report any flooding) – 0300 2000 100
 Transport NI (formerly the Roads Service) – 9054 0540
 NI Electricity – 08457 643 643
 If you smell gas – Emergency gas services 0800 002 001 (24 hour)
 Translink Contact Centre – 9066 6630
 Belfast International Airport – 9448 4848
 George Best Belfast City Airport – 9093 9093
 UK Passport Office – 0300 222 0000
 Academy Primary School – 97 510 407
 Saintfield High School – 97 510 356
 St. Mary's Primary School – 97 510 758

Saintfield Heritage 10



The Saintfield Heritage Society produces a book comprising articles on local history and heritage every four years.

The next edition, Book 10, is currently being prepared and the Book Committee are looking for ideas for articles, old stories and photographs.

If you have an idea for something that has not already been covered in Books 1-9 (available for reference in Saintfield Library or for sale from the Heritage Society) please contact Martyn Todd, via email address:

martyntodd@me.com

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Wildflower Progress



been implemented locally by the Green committee of the SDA, with support from volunteers. The sites have required constant watering during the germination period. The wildflowers comprise the one year hi-colour mixes which are reliable to grow and provide a



The wildflowers planted in May at the junctions of Belfast Road and Comber Roads, and Lisburn and Old Belfast Roads are now blooming and adding a much needed display of colour to the entry roads into Saintfield. The project, part of the "Grow Wild" nationwide campaign, has

high density of colour over a long flowering season. Varieties are Corn Poppy, Corn Marigold, Corn Chamomile, Cornflower, and Corn Cockle. Annuals are the flowers that usually sprout quickly in August, grow fast, and are now in bloom. They normally bloom heavily, set seed, and then are

killed by frost. Annuals are the plants that live for only one growing season. They may reseed themselves somewhat, but for a yearly show of these flowers, need to reseed.

Plug plants are Scabious and Oxeye Daisy and weeds are Oilseed Rape, Spurge,

Docks, Creeping Buttercup, Dandelion, Bindweed, Common Chickweed, Knotweed, Mustard Redshank, Groundsel, Deadnettle, Sow Thistle, Stinging Nettles and Thistles. About 12 bags of weeds were removed from the sites before the first spurt of growth began.



Well Done To Our Residents

It appears that the "Saintfield in Bloom" and "Ulster in Bloom" initiatives to tidy up the village and make it more colourful through floral displays has had an effect on residents as well. It is commendable to see the effort many residents have put in to present their gardens, containers or window boxes to best effect. The presentation of private residential gardens

and frontages is a factor taken into account by the Ulster in Bloom judges, so it is hoped this will increase the chances of Saintfield doing well in the competition this year. You may have noticed teams of SDA volunteers in their Hi-Viz vests doing clean-ups in various sectors of the town over the summer months. The volunteers meet each Thursday evening

with the objective of cleaning up a specific area which most needs it. They spend two or three hours working away, unpaid, unheralded and undaunted! Their work would be made much easier if residents would just respect their surroundings and the environment generally, put litter in bins, control dog fouling and encourage their children to do the same.



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Profile of Brian Gamble



Brian Gamble
Editor of
Saintfield News



Brian Gamble, the Editor of Saintfield News, was elected Chair of the Saintfield Development Association at their annual general meeting held in June.

He was born in Romford, Essex, in 1945 and at the age of seven the family boarded a ship bound for Africa in search of a better life than post war Britain could offer.

The family ended up in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where, after leaving school, he joined a national newspaper publishing group as a trainee in

their advertisement department. He worked his way through the ranks before ending up in their head office as Group Marketing and Public Relations Executive.

He took early retirement in 1998 after 35 years service with the company, then took a couple of management positions in other media companies to supplement his pension.

He left Zimbabwe in 2007 due to the rapidly declining economic and political situation there and settled in Saintfield,

where his sister and brother-in-law live.

He became involved with the SDA after meeting the late Gerry Lowe, a former chairman, who was on the lookout for new members. He joined the Association in 2011 and has served on both the Events and Communications committees and edits Saintfield News. Brian has been married to Joan, a Lancashire lass, for 42 years. They have two married daughters, who both live in Dublin, and are proud grandparents of five girls.

Saintfield Crime Report

There were 16 crimes reported in Saintfield for the month of June 2016, the latest month for which statistics are available.

Nine of these incidents involved anti-social behaviour, which is a sad reflection on our community. Our policing district in the Newry, Mourne and Down area is Downpatrick and it is worthy of note that anti-social behaviour comprised 40% of all reported crime in this area. In Saintfield, this percentage rises to over 50%.

This figure reflects not only the high incidence of anti-social behaviour in Saintfield but also the low number of other reported crimes. Do these figures indicate that Saintfield is a relatively safe place to live as long as you don't mind being irritated by yobbos?

Other reported crimes included one each of burglary, theft, shoplifting, criminal damage and violence/sexual offences. There were two "miscellaneous" offences in our area.

What these might be is anyone's guess!



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TITANIC: THE WORKERS' STORY (8th September)

Author and historian Allison Murphy of the Belfast Titanic Society takes a different angle by exploring the life and times of the workers who built the ill-fated ship.

LISSAN HOUSE AND DEMESNE: A STORY OF DECLINE OR SURVIVAL (13th October)

This enchanting country residence near Cookstown, a family home for nearly 400 years, opened to the public in 2012. Our guide to its history and those associated with it will be Dr Neil Watt, manager of the demesne.

SAINT COLUMBANUS (10th November)

Dr Ian Adamson OBE, the well-known politician, historian and author, will talk to us about this famous Irish missionary closely associated with Bangor Abbey and a key figure in Irish missionary activity in early medieval Europe.

**All meetings are held in the Woodrow Room of Saintfield Parish Church Hall at 8:00pm.
Membership for the year (seven talks) is £10, but visitors are welcome as well.**

Diary Dates



Sunday **4th September**

Pedal The Peninsula Cycle Ride

Leaves Downpatrick St car park at 9:30am

Saturday **10th September**

European Heritage Open Day

"Music in Rowallane Courtyard"

Featuring Baillies Mills Accordion Band (2pm) & Cahard Flute Band (3pm)

Sunday **11th September**

European Heritage Open Day

"Guided Tour of Saintfield"

Members of the Saintfield Heritage Society will relate the events and stories of early Saintfield, the Battle of Saintfield in 1798, the old windmills and railway line. The tour starts at 3:00pm in the Memorial Garden at the bottom of Comber Street and will last for around an hour. There is no charge for the tour and everyone is welcome.

Monday **19th September**

SDA General Meeting

Saintfield Sports Club, 7.30pm

Everybody welcome. Come along and see what we do for the community and you may wish to join us!

Friday **2nd December**

Saintfield Christmas Fair

Main Street (6:30pm - 9:00 pm)

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



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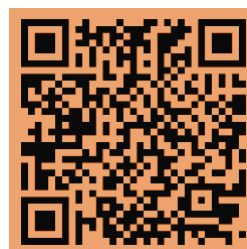
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Saintfield in Bloom 365



The Saintfield in Bloom 365 committee of the Saintfield Development Association would like to thank all those traders, businesses and residents who contributed to making this year's competition a great success.

Our combined efforts have made Saintfield an attractive and colourful place to live or visit and the displays have been the subject of many favourable comments.

Our hard working and dedicated Green committee is always on the lookout for new, enthusiastic members, so if you would like to get involved, please contact us via our website discoversaintfield.com or Facebook page or e-mail editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk

We would love to have you join us!



THANK YOU

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Saintfield in Bloom 365

