

PUBLISHED AS  
A COMMUNITY  
SERVICE BY  
SAINTFIELD  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

# Saintfield News

ISSUE 14

SUMMER 2017

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chair's Viewpoint	2
Profile of Ian Murray	2
Striking the Right Note	2
Community Centre - A Council Update (concluded)	3
Pedal The Peninsula	3
Green Saintfield	4
Editor's Letter	5
Saintfield Crime Report	5
Saintfield Heritage Society	5
Christmas Lights	6
New SDA Committee	6
Useful Contact Numbers	6

## Community Centre - A Council Update

*This article was submitted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and gives their perspective on the progress of the project.*

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would like to thank the Saintfield Development Association (SDA) for the opportunity to provide an update through the Saintfield Newsletter to the residents of Saintfield and surrounding areas on the current status of the two community projects – the upgrade of the shale surfaced hockey pitch and the

development of a community and sports facility on the Belfast Road site.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Director of Active and Healthy Communities, Michael Lipsett outlined the progress towards the development of the two projects, "Since the last edition of Saintfield News, Council Officers have prepared a Planning application for the upgrade of the Hockey Pitch.

The application seeks to provide a sand dressed synthetic pitch with fencing and dugouts which meet the Federation of International Hockey (FIH) standards. This new surface will also be suitable for a wide range

of training for other sports.

The drawings were circulated and agreed with the members of sports club in May 2017 and were subsequently submitted to the Planning Department. Planning Permission was granted for the upgraded synthetic pitch on 23 June 2017.

Works are now progressing and Council Officers are

to apply for funding and to secure partners to share the development and running costs of the projects. Negotiations with the Education Authority and a Private Sector Operator have been unsuccessful in our attempts to find a suitable outcome for Saintfield."

At a meeting held in early June between Council Staff, elected members, SDA and the sports

and cricket clubs it was agreed by those present to move forward with the design and development of the Belfast Road Site.

A follow-up site visit to the Belfast Road Site to discuss the designs took place last week. A few

design and layout changes were identified and new Planning design drawings have now been prepared by Council Officers. The revised drawings have been circulated within the SDA for consultation and we await feedback on the modifications.

The drawings display a sports theme in Building A for an indoor synthetic sports pitch and associated changing facilities and toilets. The layout of the facility lends itself to soccer and Gaelic training as well as three 5-a-side pitches played across the main pitch.



*The existing Building C at the Belfast Road site*

gathering supporting information for the Tender Documents such as topographical surveys and site investigation detail to establish below ground conditions for drainage purposes. We expect works to commence on site between the Autumn and Christmas period with completion of the new synthetic pitch in the Spring of 2018."

The budget for the development of both projects is £1.5 million plus potential Rural Development Programme funding.

Mr Lipsett added, "Over the past few years the Council and the SDA have made attempts

**Continued at the  
top of Page Three**

## Chair's Viewpoint



**Ian Murray**  
Chair of Saintfield  
Development  
Association

It was my privilege to be elected chairman of SDA at this year's AGM. It is common knowledge that behind every successful man stands an astonished mother-in-law! However it is essential that behind every chairman there is a dynamic, hard working committee with a broad range of experience and the SDA are lucky to have such a committee who then spread their talents through the various sub committees you will read about in this issue.

These are exciting and challenging times for both the

SDA and the Community Centre Working Group. If you have a talent, skill or experience that would allow you to contribute to either, please get in touch.

If committee work is not for you how about volunteering?

You will read that there is a cycle ride on Sunday morning 17th September. There is a need for as many marshals as possible to ensure the safety and smooth running of this event. Can you give up one Sunday in the year to help?

You may have noticed on

Thursday evenings in the summer months, a motley crew of SDA volunteers in their high vis vests and armed with various tools tidying the streets, pavements, grassed areas and lifting litter. Have you got a hoe or a shovel and are you able to join them?

It is my wish that in the year ahead, residents will think "Saintfield - how can I contribute?"

If you have any issues you would like raised I can be contacted by email at [editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk)

## Profile of Ian Murray

Ian Murray was elected chairman of the SDA at their annual general meeting in June.

He was born in Bangor in 1947 and graduated from Queen's University in 1971 with a degree in Agriculture and spent five years teaching at Greenmount College. He then joined Unilever in their agricultural merchanting business. In

1988 he obtained a post graduate certificate in Commercial Law.

In 1986 became CEO of the central body for agricultural cooperatives and in 2000 became Regional Director of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He retired in 2007. From 1986 to 1993 he was Chairman of the NI support group of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and

from 2009 to 2015 was Chairman of Home Start Lisburn/Colin. He joined the SDA in 2016 after reading in this newsletter that they were looking for volunteers.

He has been married to Liz for 43 years. They have a daughter and three sons, all married and have five grandchildren to date.

## Striking the Right Note

Earlier this year, a group of enthusiastic people attempted to set up a singing group. It was not intended to be a choral society or indeed even a choir. The object was just to get together and sing for the enjoyment of it. Alas, it fell apart due to lack of funds to pay for a tutor.

Is there in the community a retired choirmaster or music teacher or indeed

anyone with a bit of experience, who would be willing to freely give some of their time to teach and lead such a group if it were to be reconvened?

If you can help or advise, please contact the editor at:

[editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk)



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](http://www.martinphillips carpets.co.uk)

# Community Centre - A Council Update

## Continued from the front page

In Building C designs have been prepared for half of the building where a community-based theme is displayed. The accommodation comprises a main hall (19 x 10m), studio (10 x 6m), meeting room, kitchen, toilets and large entrance foyer/social area with considerable glazing to provide attractive views over the mill pond and surrounding area.

It is intended that the other half of this building will be developed at a later date. Some extensive site works are to be completed as part

of this project which will include changes to the main entrance for vehicular access, removal of boundary walls and gates, cutting back and pruning of trees and removal of a lot of overgrown vegetation. The improvements will consist of new fencing and gates, footpaths and a new main entrance with right hand turn in lane, reprofiling of the existing car parks, new planting and some landscaping with external seating and lighting.

A further meeting with the SDA is proposed during September before the Planning application for the Belfast Road Site is lodged.

Mr Lipsett concluded, "As a Council we are committed to both these proposals with the upgrade of the shale hockey pitch and the development of the Belfast Road Site in Saintfield being on our Capital Works programme since the start of the new Council in April 2015."



The existing Building A at the Belfast Road site

## Pedal The Peninsula



The Events committee of the Saintfield Development Association is staging their fifth "Pedal the Peninsula" cycle ride on **Sunday 17th September**.

The route will take riders on a scenic 56-mile circuit around Strangford Lough, starting and finishing in Saintfield. Details of the route are on the website [www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/1684895105](http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/1684895105)

This event has attracted an increasing number of cyclists each year, reflecting the growing popularity of what is an exhilarating but not strenuous ride through the rolling countryside of County Down.

The event is open to all classes of cyclists and the route will be pre-marked. Marshals will be situated at strategic points around the course to ensure nobody gets lost!

There will be a pace car for the first few miles and a sweeper car will follow the riders to assist with any problems they may encounter.

Registration takes place at the Downpatrick Street car park in Saintfield (behind Danske Bank) from 8.30 am and the ride commences at 9.30am.

The entry fee is £20 per rider and includes refreshments halfway and at the finish, as well as the ferry crossing. Registration online will reduce the entry fee to £15.

Funds raised will go towards providing entertainment for the children at the SDA Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December and other SDA community projects.

Further details and booking on the SDA website: [discoversaintfield.com](http://discoversaintfield.com)

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 Saintfield

The Green Saintfield committee is extremely grateful for the support received from local businesses and individuals, whether by donation or in kind. Special mention should be made of our schools and churches for their help with our various projects, as well local traders, who have put up and maintained their own very attractive floral displays.

The committee has been very busy as usual keeping Saintfield and its environs tidy and attractive.

The small band of committee members and volunteers have done a good job beautifying the village for the annual Translink sponsored "Ulster in Bloom" competition.

Judging for the competition took place from July onwards and the results are expected to be announced in September.

Saintfield has featured in the awards in recent years against some very stiff competition.

This year, eight roads and five different areas have had around forty floral displays, five shrub areas, three wildflower areas, three tree plantings, five grass areas and two bulb areas.

The Green committee looks after almost twenty areas, while the council maintains around five areas and the churches three spots. Other community organisations look after three sites, public sector bodies two areas and individual residents look after another five areas. Local

businesses have put up over 20 displays.

These efforts have all combined to make an extremely colourful and attractive village which we hope will once again result in Saintfield winning an award in the competition.

The committee and a few volunteers have worked for a couple of hours every Thursday evening cleaning up the village as part of the "Down Your Street" initiative. Members and volunteers will also be seen on other days and evenings working away at various tasks around the village in their hi-vis vests.

Their tally is impressive! To date this year, they have a count of 30 bags of litter, 60 bags of weeds/green waste, 70 bags from cutting back, another 70 bags of grass cuttings and a massive 200 bags of dirt.

It is amazing how a few people can make such a difference to the appearance of the village and it is incumbent upon every resident to do their bit to keep it looking attractive and tidy.

The Green committee is always on the lookout for new people who are willing to give a few hours of their time to help with their projects. If you would like to help, you will make new friends, contribute to the village and gain great satisfaction from the results of your efforts.

To volunteer, call Lawrence Murphy on 07792 921 966.



**CES Quarry Products**

T: 028 9751 9494  
www.cesquarryproducts.com



**Quick Drying Screed  
High Strength Screed  
Traditional/Fibre Screed  
Liquid Screed**

## Editor's Letter



**Brian Gamble**  
Editor of  
Saintfield News

This issue of Saintfield News is the 14th since the newsletter was first launched in 2013.

The quarterly publication was intended as a vehicle to inform residents and businesses in Saintfield of the activities of the SDA and other developments which would impact on the village.

I as editor and Ian Mack as desktop publisher produce the newsletter, while Vivien Lovell and her team of volunteers hand deliver the publication to homes and businesses throughout the village.

Printing costs are covered by the revenue generated from the sponsor strips in the newsletter and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Over the four years of

publication, we have had very little feedback from our readership, although most

should be included, or if you have a suggestion as to how we could improve the newsletter, please let us know.

You should also let us know if you have difficulty in receiving a copy.

Most readers will have access to the internet and Saintfield News is available to read online at our website

[discoversaintfield.com](http://discoversaintfield.com)

and you can also keep in touch through our Facebook page, [Discover Saintfield](#).

All comments, positive or negative, will be welcomed and considered, so please contact me at

[editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk) or write to me

c/o 60 Woodrow Gardens,  
Saintfield, BT24 7WG.



*The launch of Issue 1 of Saintfield News*

people spoken to have welcomed the newsletter and look forward to it.

However, we would like to canvass YOUR views to ensure that we have the right mix of articles and information and are fulfilling the original purpose of the publication.

If there is any topic you feel

## Saintfield Crime Report

The latest crime statistics available, for May this year, show that there were 16 incidents reported to the police in that month.

Yet again, the most common crime was anti-social behaviour accounting for eight incidents, half of all criminality in the area.

There were six reports of violence/sexual offences, followed by one each of burglary and vehicle crime.

Make sure all your property is secured and keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviour.

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime

## Saintfield Heritage Society

Thursday September 14

**Talk: The History of the Newry Canal**

Speaker: Sean Patterson

Thursday October 12

**Talk: Building Bridges from the Foyle to Ojague (Guinea, West Africa)**

Speaker: Dr Philip Donald

Thursday November 9

**Talk: Clifton House**

Speaker: Louise Canavan

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.

  
**GORDONS**  
CHEMISTS

exceptional savings, every day.  
[www.gordonsdirect.com](http://www.gordonsdirect.com)   



Saintfield's Christmas lights have been looking increasingly drab over recent years and the SDA committee felt that this year it was time to update the display and bring a better seasonal ambience to the Main Street and Square.

To this end, the SDA has dug deep into its financial reserves and with assistance from a Council grant, is currently negotiating with a supplier to provide Christmas illuminations which will brighten up the village and at the same time preserve the "Olde Worlde" atmosphere which is part of the town's character.

It is hoped that this improvement will not only brighten up the main street for the festive season but will also help to foster the ethos of Christmas among residents.

The SDA is solely responsible financially for the Christmas illuminations in the village and is grateful for the small Council grant and donations from local traders which help to offset the considerable cost.

## New SDA Committee

The AGM of the Saintfield Development Association was held in June and the following office bearers were elected for the year 2017/18:-

Chair	Ian Murray
Vice Chair	Martyn Todd
Treasurer	Lawrence Murphy
Secretary	Peter Gregg

The Committee Chairs are :-

Funding & Finance	Pamela Dooley
Infrastructure	Barbara Graham
Events	Bob Pollock
Green Saintfield	Lawrence Murphy
Communications	Brian Gamble

## Useful Contact Numbers

<b>PSNI</b> (non-emergency) –	101
<b>PSNI</b> (only in an emergency) –	999
<b>Crimestoppers</b> –	0800 555 111
<b>Saintfield Health Centre</b> –	97 510 575
<b>Samaritans</b> (from any phone) –	116 123
<b>Childline</b> –	0800 1111
<b>PIPS</b> (suicide prevention) –	0800 088 6042
<b>Royal Group of Hospitals</b> (switchboard) –	9024 0503
<b>Ulster Hospital</b> (switchboard) –	9048 4511
<b>City Hospital</b> (switchboard) –	9032 9241
<b>Downe Hospital</b> (switchboard) –	4461 3311
<b>Saintfield Library</b> –	97 510 550
<b>Transport NI</b> (formerly the Roads Service) –	9054 0540
<b>Translink Contact Centre</b> –	9066 6630
<b>Belfast International Airport</b> –	9448 4848
<b>George Best Belfast City Airport</b> –	9093 9093
<b>Academy Primary School</b> –	97 510 407
<b>Saintfield High School</b> –	97 510 356
<b>St. Mary's Primary School</b> –	97 510 758



Published as a Community Service by

**Saintfield Development Association**

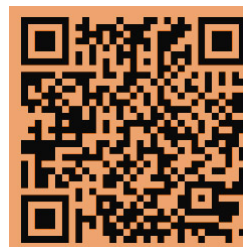
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC103001)

DTP: Ian Mack

Editor: Brian Gamble

editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk

Newsletter Distribution: Vivien Lovell



Subscribe to the electronic version of **Saintfield News** at: [discoversaintfield.com/subscribe](http://discoversaintfield.com/subscribe)

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

WEB: [www.bowles-law.com](http://www.bowles-law.com)  
EMAIL: [info@bowles-law.com](mailto: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