

## SDA Celebration Event

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Ian Murray, Chair of the Saintfield Development Association, assisted by Vice-Chair Martyn Todd, hosted a Celebration event at Saintfield Sports Club earlier this month.

Around 50 people attended the event, which was held to acknowledge the contribution members, volunteers, sponsors, traders and businesses have made to the success of the Association since its inception.

The occasion was made possible through the generosity of the Big Lottery Fund for which the SDA is most grateful. The fund had given a grant for the staging of the public Open Days in October last year, which gave

residents an opportunity to tour the site for the planned community centre on Belfast Road and to examine the proposed layout of the centre.

There was a small amount left over and the Big Lottery Fund gave their permission for the surplus to be used for the celebration event.

The evening took the form of an informal, light hearted get-together and after a buffet supper, the Chair thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the Association and then presented a number of "Golden Globe Awards" to SDA committee members. These "awards" were

humorous and added just the right touch, reflecting the roles of the various members.

Guests attending included Rowallane councillors Billy Walker, Terry Andrews and Harry Harvey, together with Ellen Brennan, Coordinator of the Rowallane District Electoral Area and Frances McCormick, Development Officer with the County Down Rural Community Network. The aforementioned have all supported Saintfield in both their official and personal capacities.

The list of award winners, photographed above with their awards, was as follows:

#### AWARD

Golden Litter Picker  
Golden Rain Man  
Number One Networker  
Green Queen Bee  
Golden Admin. Queen  
Shining a Light on Inefficiency in Bureaucracy  
Editor in Chief  
Techie-in-Chief  
"I can do it" Caffeine King  
Infrastructure Queen  
Rembrandt Award  
Gazebo A Team  
Barrier A Team  
Christmas Tree A Team  
Golden Donor

#### WINNER

Lawrence Murphy  
Denis Conn  
Bob Pollock  
Anne Walker  
Vivien Lovell  
Lyn Mackender / Norma Mack  
Brian Gamble  
Ian Mack  
Paul McGeown  
Barbara Graham  
Janice McHenry / Fiona Watters  
Saintfield United FC  
Saintfield Striders  
Peter Burgess  
CES Quarries

#### PRIZE

Golden dustpan and brush  
Golden watering can  
Golden No 1  
Bee torch  
Golden stapler  
Solar lights  
Editor's visor  
Cleaning pod  
"I need caffeine" mug  
Golden brick  
Gold tipped paint brushes  
Golden tent peg  
Golden barrier  
Miniature Christmas Tree  
Chocolate gold coins.

## Chair's Viewpoint



**Ian Murray**  
Chair of Saintfield  
Development  
Association

Spring has sprung or at the very least we hope it has and large snowfalls are a distant memory. Spring is a time for the birth of new things, new aspirations and new hopes.

This spring sees the birth of something new and exciting for the good folk of Saintfield.

The Community Centre plans have been approved and building should be underway

very soon with completion planned for the year end.

To take this project from its birth was due to the determination, perseverance and commitment over a number of years of a small group of dedicated members of Saintfield Development Association.

As Chairman I fully recognise their achievement and it is my

sincere wish that the people of Saintfield share this recognition and will not only give credit where credit is due but will also offer the new Saintfield Community Trust their support to make this project the success it deserves for the benefit of the whole community.

Please feel free to contact me by email at [editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk)

## Focus on the Saintfield Women's Institute

The Saintfield Women's Institute is a member of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland and will celebrate its 80th birthday on 29 May this year.

The Institute was founded by Miss Mary Ward in 1938. Miss Ward resided in Saintfield House and was devoted to the advancement of education for women and the WI was a means for her to achieve this.

The WI is an organisation for women and is non-sectarian and non-political and welcomes women of all ages. It is province wide with over 160 institutes divided into 21 areas with Saintfield WI in the Rowallane area.

During the War Years from 1939 to 1945 members were very active in contributing to the war effort. They bottled fruit and made jam which was sold at the WI food stall in Belfast. Many members made hats, gloves, socks and scarves to send to

the forces. Christmas Parcels were sent to local lads who were serving in the forces.

Down through the years members lobbied for a district nurse, baby clinic, and traffic lights at the crossroads. Members were also involved in Meals on Wheels and Riding for the Disabled.

Today there are around 60 members who attend monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May. The place of meeting is the Parish Church Hall at 7.45p.m. A programme of speakers on a wide variety of topics is organised each year. These have included Daniel Clarke from Ross's Auctions, a Craft evening with the girls from Windmill Fabrics and an Outing to the Pantomime.

At Area level there are competitions for bowls, badminton, a quiz, baking, craft and floral art. The area winners of the bowls and quiz go forward to

the Federation's finals. The Federation also organises golf, painting, calligraphy and handwriting competitions. All members are encouraged to take part in various crafts in the handicraft syllabus.

Over the years many friendships have been made and members are often asked to look "outside the box" and become involved in the community in its area and through the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) to support various projects in many countries set up to empower women and enhance their lives and the lives of their children.

The motto of the WI is "Women involved in family, friendship and community"

If you want more information contact any member or

Email: [wini@btinternet.com](mailto:wini@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.wini.org.uk](http://www.wini.org.uk)

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## Green Committee In Action

Now that the fairer weather is approaching, the Green Committee of the SDA will be starting work in preparation for the "Saintfield in Bloom" competition. Pruning, laying the groundwork for the wild flowers and of course, the litter picking is all part of the process. Litter is a big problem, not only in Saintfield but in the rural roads surrounding the village.

The floral tubs, hanging baskets and railing planters should all be going on display in June, in time for the judging of the competition which usually takes place soon after the 12th July.

The committee really needs help to keep our village looking clean, welcoming and attractive. Our committee is small in number but very friendly and we would love to welcome anyone who could spare a little time and

effort. A warm welcome, especially, would be given to any new residents, as this is a great way to meet new people and make new friends.

All our traders, businesses and landlords are urged to keep their premises in good condition. Washing windows and sills and making sure that entrances are free from mud and dirt would make such a difference and by working together, we could make our village one that will be on the tourist trail and be attractive to day trippers.

The first litter pick of the season will take place on Saturday 5th May. Everyone is invited to meet at The Square at 10.00am for a briefing and allocation of area and will be supplied with gloves, bags and litter pickers. The litter pick is scheduled to finish at 11.30am. Hope to see you there!



## Saintfield Library Introduces Out Of Hours Service

Saintfield library is one of six libraries piloting an out of hours service for members.

This service has been funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to support computer access in rural areas.

Out of Hours libraries offer adults (aged 18 years and over) controlled access to library facilities outside of normal opening hours, providing a limited but important range of services on a self-service basis, including broadband / Wi-Fi access, printing facilities, study space and book borrowing.

The six pilot libraries are Lisnaskea, Irvinestown, Dungiven, Maghera, Whitehead and Saintfield.

The Out of Hours Service is enabled by technology which works with the existing infrastructure to provide self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, and security.

Adults register as an Out of Hours member and then can access the library when in Out of Hours mode using their PIN and card. To get into the library they will use an access point at the front door.



CCTV cameras record who is coming in and out and staff will view this video the following day to ensure customers are working within agreed conditions.

If you are 18 and over you can sign up by visiting Saintfield Library, signing up to the terms and conditions of use, showing proof

of address and photo ID and completing a short induction session with library staff. The next induction session is on Saturday 5th May from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Telephone 028 97510550, email [Saintfield.Library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:Saintfield.Library@librariesni.org.uk) or call into the library to book your place.

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# Goal In Sight For Saintfield United

Saintfield United Football Club have been given the green light to undertake a massive redevelopment programme at their ground on the Comber Road.

Established in 1972, the community-based club has over 250 members with three adult and four juvenile teams and a thriving mini-soccer section.

To cater for the ever-expanding numbers at the club, additional land was acquired last year and following a three-month public consultation exercise with key stakeholders, proposals for a major development scheme were submitted.

The proposed redevelopment includes a full-size intermediate standard pitch, floodlit training area, junior pitch, clubhouse extension, community garden, ancillary storage and parking facilities.

The club was one of the first in the district to establish a youth programme — a programme which has borne much success with many of those coming through the youth ranks representing the club at senior level and going on to play in the upper echelons of the Irish League.

More importantly, however, this programme has provided an outlet for the youth of the area when current resources, support and facilities in Saintfield are scarce.

Saintfield United has provided training and match facilities to all members at their Comber Road base and the adjacent soccer pitch which is leased from the education authority, but the club has seriously outgrown its current facilities, demonstrated by a number of teams utilising facilities at other venues, where and when available, for training. In addition, five of the club's seven teams play home games outside the village.



Planning permission for the programme was secured and over recent months the club has been successful in securing offers of financial support to commence stage one of the development — completion of a full-size soccer pitch, community garden and associated parking facilities.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, through their Sports Capital programme, have provided the club with an offer of funding. In addition, the popular Alpha Programme has provided the club with £50k of support to help them develop the new grass pitch and improve the environment. The Alpha Programme initiative was launched in 2008 by Alpha Resource

Management, a waste and green energy company, who distribute funding four times per year through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Work is expected to commence this summer, with the club planning to undertake significant fundraising activities to support the development.

In order for the development to be successful, support from club

members and the wider Saintfield community is essential — and that is not lost on club chairman Andy Bishop. "This project is another milestone in the development and growth of the club," he said. "With support of key stakeholders, this redevelopment will help sustain an active sporting community within

Saintfield and help build on the extremely successful youth policy that is the foundation of the club."

Club president Jim Spratt is also delighted to get the redevelopment underway and paid tribute to the hard-working club members behind the initiative. "I would commend the hard work undertaken by the Officers and Committee of Saintfield United Football Club, together with our community partners, in bringing this project to its current stage," he said.

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## Editor's Letter - Christmas Lights



**Brian Gamble**  
Editor of  
Saintfield News

The Saintfield Development Association has used a substantial portion of its financial reserves to purchase new Christmas lights to brighten up the village over the festive season.

The existing illuminated figurines were becoming dull and tired and did little to project the Christmas spirit in the town.

The new lights are of the modern, brighter, LED technology and should last for a good number of years.

A total of 16 lights were bought at a cost of £5500, with 12 for Main Street and four for The Square. The lights will be attached and wired through the existing lamp poles in the village.

The SDA is grateful to local traders and businesses whose donations and support, together with SDA fund raising activities, made this purchase possible.

The photo shows one of the designs.

If you have any issues you would like raised then please contact me via email:

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

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

You can also keep in touch through our Facebook page:

[Discover Saintfield](#)



## Sewage Spill Poses A Health Hazard

The sewage which spills out onto the Old Grand Jury Road in heavy rain has been an ongoing problem for residents, as well as for the pupils and staff of St Mary's school, for years.

The SDA, with the assistance of Councillor Patrick Brown, has been urging the authorities to take effective action to rectify the problem once and for all.

Over the Easter holiday some work was carried out and was completed on Friday 6th April.

There was very heavy rain that day and the accompanying photo was taken after the contractor had left.

It shows the manhole still overflowing and spilling sewage across the road, leaving huge puddles of effluent.

The repair of the road was very poor by any standard and so the SDA are continuing to communicate with the "Waterline" division of NI Water to try and spur them into action.

More extensive remedial work is obviously needed and the SDA will continue pressing the relevant bodies until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of residents in the area.



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The Saintfield Development Association is staging a "Saintfield to Sketrick" cycle ride on **Sunday 20th May**.

The route is over 34 miles through the scenic County Down countryside, starting and finishing in Saintfield. This ride is a social outing, not a race and will appeal to all categories of cyclist, from the novice to the club enthusiast.

The route will be fully signposted and there will be marshals at strategic points around the course. A sweeper car will follow the field to attend to any riders in difficulty.

The entry fee is £10 online or £15 on the day, which includes delicious home-made tray bakes and refreshments at Sketrick Island, as well as light refreshments at the finish at the Rowallane Inn, Saintfield. All proceeds will go towards SDA community projects.

Registration will be held on the day at the Downpatrick Street car park, behind Danske Bank in Saintfield from 8.30am for a 9.30am start, or can be done online at:

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



## Christmas Fair 2017 - A Great Success



The Christmas Fair held in early December last year was a great success and arguably the best yet.

The very mild weather attracted great support from both residents and visitors with an estimated attendance of 3000 people. The youngsters enjoyed the many attractions on offer and you could almost feel the seasonal goodwill and community spirit surrounding the fair.

The SDA would like to record their sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who so willingly gave of their time to make the fair a reality.

Staging an event like this requires funding as well and this is only achieved thanks to our traders and businesses who give so generously to the SDA appeal each year.

The funds raised help to pay for the children's attractions and other costs associated with an event of this nature.

This year the Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 7th December**, so make a note in your diary now!



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DTP: Ian Mack

Editor: Brian Gamble

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

Newsletter Distribution: Vivien Lovell



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

WEB: [www.bowles-law.com](http://www.bowles-law.com)  
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