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# Saintfield News

ISSUE 18

WINTER 2018

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## Christmas Fair Should Be A Cracker!

The Saintfield Christmas Fair will be held along Main Street from 6-30pm to 9pm on Friday 7th December.

Please note that the road will be closed to traffic during this period to provide a safe environment for all the family.

Santa Claus will arrive on his sleigh drawn by his reindeer at 7pm and will distribute sweets to all the children. Once Santa has arrived at the Orange Hall, the Christmas lights will be switched on by a very special little boy.

This year our guest will be Cllr. Mark Murnin, Chair of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Attractions for the kiddies will include the ever-popular miniature railway and the roundabout. There will also be the favourite Assault Course and Last Man Standing for the older children.

This year two street entertainers, Becky and Cleo, will thrill the crowd with dazzling light displays which they will perform at intervals throughout the evening.



LED light performances will be one of the attractions at the Christmas Fair

There will be carol singers and school choirs to give the fair a Christmas

atmosphere and a variety of stalls on the street to tempt you.

Most of the local traders will remain open for late night shopping, so please support them as they support us.

All the attractions are free, thanks to the generous support of the traders and businesses in and around Saintfield. The SDA has put in much time and effort to make this year's fair a treat for all the family, so please support the Fair and enjoy our village's largest community event.

The SDA would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who will be assisting on the night to ensure the Fair runs smoothly with minimum disruption.

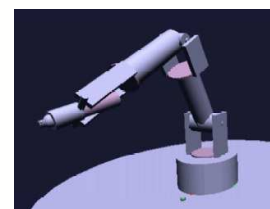
Check out our website [discoversaintfield.com](http://discoversaintfield.com) and Facebook page for further details. See you there!

## Animation Workshops To Continue



Saintfield High School continues to work closely with the SDA, and building on the successful animation workshops held at the school in the summer holidays, there will be a further series of workshops running for 6 weeks

beginning on 15th January 2019. These will be delivered in collaboration with Down Community Arts and involves children from our local community in creative projects using animation tools and iPad technology.



# Chair's Viewpoint



**Martyn Todd**  
Chair of Saintfield  
Development  
Association

*"learn more  
about the  
activities of over  
50 community  
groups in  
and around  
Saintfield"*

Firstly, congratulations to the SDA Green Committee for winning an award in the "Ulster in Bloom" competition this year. Coming joint third with Hillsborough in the Large Village category is a major achievement, especially as Hillsborough went on to win the "Britain in Bloom" competition in their category. Saintfield was the only place in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area to win an award in "Ulster in Bloom" this year.

The Greens would really appreciate more volunteers to continue and expand their excellent work. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could beat Hillsborough next year - very possible with just a few more people volunteering for a couple of hours a week during the spring and summer months. Contact Lawrence or anyone on the Green Team to be a part of making Saintfield a more attractive place in which to live. (See our website [www.discoversaintfield.com](http://www.discoversaintfield.com) for contact details or e-mail [editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk))

Secondly, I hope you will all appreciate the new Christmas

street lights, bought by SDA with money donated by Saintfield people and traders and raised through SDA events. Thanks are due to NMD Council for covering the costs of putting these up and taking them down in the New Year. Don't miss the Christmas Fair when Santa will turn on the Christmas Tree lights at 7:00pm on Friday 7th December.

In the last Saintfield News I mentioned a series of events called Discover Saintfield Community. I'm delighted that these are now all confirmed and details are published in this issue. This is a unique opportunity to hear about the history of Saintfield and learn more about the people and events of the past that have made Saintfield the special place that it is today.

The events are free because of funding received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Community Cohesion Fund. Tickets need to be obtained in advance as demand will be high. The final event of the series will be a community open day at the

new Community Centre on Belfast Road opposite the High School on Sunday 24th March. Don't miss this opportunity to see the new facilities available, which have great potential for new activities for all ages. As soon as the centre opens, I plan to start a Saintfield Ukulele Jam similar to the very successful ones in Belfast and Bangor. Contact me through the website if you are interested in having fun making music together.

Finally, I just want to remind you that there are close to 50 church, school, sports and community groups in and around Saintfield. All these are kept going by dedicated volunteers giving of their precious free time. We are very fortunate to have so many people in our small town giving their time and skills for the greater good.

As this is the last Saintfield News of 2018, on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Saintfield Development Association I wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and contented New Year.

## Draw My Life

The Down Community Arts project "Draw My Life" has been one of their most successful over the past couple of years, partly due to the project's adaptability, meaning it can be applied to a range of groups with varying needs.

The project allows participants to benefit from workshop opportunities that enable them to express their views on life.

Through a series of workshops, project

facilitator Graham Ginty encourages participants to discuss, visualise and produce short films relating to moments in their lives.

The participants learn to develop storyboard and camera skills, and even narrate their own work.

The most important part of the scheme is that participants do not need drawing skills of a high standard, so artistic ability is not a barrier to taking part.



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## The Greens At The Rock Face

Keen-eyed observers may have noticed big changes this year at the side of the Lisburn Road opposite the Old Belfast Road. This area, which has been overgrown for years, could once have been a quarry and, underneath all the foliage, there was an interesting cliff-face. It was envisaged that, if this feature was revealed, it would complement the exposed rock on the other side of the road rather well.

Work started last November when members of the Green Committee set-to and cleared as much of the undergrowth as possible. Another day's effort in February this year finished the job. Many builders' bags of recyclable green waste was cut, collected and carted off the site.

Planting began in the spring. The rock strata lie at a steep angle, therefore soil does not stay on the sloping ledges. To help it stay put, stones were cemented into place to build up small "ledge beds" where the existing thin soil could be mixed with compost and planted with small drought-tolerant plants; pink Saxifrages, blue Prattia, white Vinca minor, and small blue Campanula. Empty toothpaste tubes with the ends cut off



The cliff face plant and poppy beds at the Lisburn Road / Old Belfast Road junction

and buried at the back of the ledge-beds acted as reservoirs for water. There were already some beautiful ferns on the site so these were left in place and are thriving.

Planting out the rest of the area at the base of the cliff was deliberately delayed because of the drought but restarted once the rains came. After raking, rotavating and levelling, last year's recovered basket compost was added to the mix.

It was then planted with pink and blue Hydrangeas kindly donated by a passer-by, a pinky-orange Primula var. Rowallane, pink London Pride (another donation), orange Montbretia, Syserynchium, yellow Hypericum var. Rowallane, and orange and yellow Phytolius and oodles of Digitalis (foxgloves to you and me) which were recovered from the site.

More of these (in white and pastel shades) are being grown from seed and will be planted out next spring, together with some Alchemilla mollis and geraniums.

Variegated ivies were also planted at the base of the rock so that, in time, they will clamber up the cliff.

They are slow-growing, so shouldn't be too invasive. Finally, stones gathered up from the site were arranged at the edge of the planted area to finish it off and the grassed area was regularly cut to keep everything looking neat and tidy.

## Saintfield Needs YOU!

We all know that Saintfield is a lovely place in which to live, work and grow. However, as the village continues to grow and many new people are joining our community, the Saintfield Development Association and its partner organisation; the Saintfield Community Trust, are facing growing demands on their small group of volunteers. In case you were unaware, the Saintfield Community Trust will be the group which manages the new Community Centre.

The SDA currently organise events such as the Christmas Fair, food taster sessions, cycle rides and more; keep Saintfield beautiful with floral displays and unfortunately often need to litter pick. We also assist other village groups with their events, providing marshals and volunteers for athletic groups, and the Saintfield show to name but two. In addition to this the SDA increasingly work in partnership with other organisations, council, schools and

community arts. We lobby to improve facilities such as roads, traffic, car parking, drains and of course the new community centre due to open in March 2019. More information on who we are and what we do can be found on our website:

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

or our Facebook page:

**Discover Saintfield**

where you will find posts on what's happening now.

*Continued on Page 4*

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

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# Saintfield Needs YOU! (concluded)

## How can you help?

Volunteers form the backbone of the SDA; our members are not paid for the time they give. The greater the number of volunteers the better service we can provide for the village and the more we can do.

Volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Volunteering can help reduce stress, keep you mentally stimulated, provide a sense

of purpose, reduce loneliness or can be done simply because you enjoy meeting people and being involved in your community.

People can volunteer for a few hours a year, a month, a week, join a committee or help at a one-off event. If you don't have time perhaps you know someone who does. It's a great way to meet new people or indeed old friends.

If you or someone you know (ask them first) would like to become an SDA

volunteer then contact Janice McHenry:

[janice.mchenry@hotmail.com](mailto:janice.mchenry@hotmail.com)

stating your name, contact details, and available time. We will add you to our list.

We can also be found at any of our upcoming events the Christmas Fair, and the Discover Saintfield Community talks, tour and open day.

Talk to one of our volunteers if you would like to become involved. You will be made very welcome!

## Learn More About Saintfield

Find out more about the history, people and events that shaped Saintfield by attending a series of three **FREE** talks:



### The Early History of Saintfield

Tuesday 15th January @ 7.30 pm

2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballynahinch Road, Saintfield, BT24 7AE

[SPEAKER: Alister McReynolds]



### Professor Francis Hutcheson - Saintfield's most influential person

Tuesday 22nd January @ 7.30 pm

1st Saintfield Presbyterian Church Hall, Main Street, Saintfield, BT24 7AA

[SPEAKER: Philip Orr]



### The 1798 Rebellion and the Battle of Saintfield

Tuesday 29th January @ 7.30 pm

Hall at Church of Mary, Mother of the Church, Crossgar Road, Saintfield, BT24 7JD

[SPEAKER: Eamon Phoenix]

Discover more about historical Saintfield, and the many community groups active in Saintfield today, attend these **FREE** events!



### A Tour of the Historical Sites of Saintfield

Sunday 3rd February from 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Meet at Rowallane Community Hub, 35 Main Street, Saintfield, BT24 7AB

The tour will be followed by refreshments at the Masonic Hall, Downpatrick Street.



### The Community Open Day

Sunday 24th March from 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Saintfield Community Centre, 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield, BT24 7DS (Opposite Saintfield High School)

Take this opportunity to view the facilities of the new community centre and meet representatives from the wide spectrum of clubs, associations and societies in Saintfield. You can get involved with the community and perhaps volunteer to help by sharing your expertise and time with a group having similar interests.

For your **FREE** tickets to these events, go to Eventbrite at: <http://discover-saintfield-community.eventbrite.co.uk>  
If you do not have internet access, you can reserve your place by telephoning the ticket hotline on 028 97511917



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# Editor's Letter



**Brian Gamble**  
Editor of  
Saintfield News

**"We need to shop local whenever possible to ensure the survival of our traders and the continued growth of our town."**



Christmas seems to come around quicker every year and this year is no exception.

Saintfield has its annual Christmas Fair on Friday 7th December and the SDA events committee has again worked hard to ensure a good evening out for the whole family.

The town has been decorated with a new set of L.E.D. Christmas lights which will add some much-needed brightness to the gloomy winter evenings.

The lights were purchased by the SDA using funds raised from various events during the year, together with donations from our traders and businesses. Council has again covered the cost of erecting and dismantling the lights.

The long-awaited Community Centre on Belfast Road is due to be opened shortly.

The realisation of this project is the result of years of negotiation, planning, sweat and a fair number of tears.

A small committee of the Saintfield Development Association has been driving the project forward with the Newry Mourne and Down District Council to

bring it to this point.

Funding for the construction of the centre has been granted by the Rural Development Programme and Peace 4, together with a grant from the Council, who purchased the site and contributed to the funding of the construction.

With the official opening a couple of months away, we now have to find the people to help run the facility so that we obtain optimum use from it for the benefit of all the community.

A trust has been formed with representatives from all sectors of the community to direct the centre and now a general management committee and team of volunteers needs to be set up to control and manage the day to day operations of the centre.

If you are able to offer your time for an hour or two a week, during the day, evening or weekend, we would welcome your help. You will meet new people and make new friends and will contribute to the success of the centre.

If you would like more information on how YOU can make a difference, please phone the Editor on

**07760 334 234**

or e-mail him at

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

without any obligation.

You can also attend the Open Day at the community centre on Sunday 24th March next year and see first-hand how you can help.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are fortunate that in Saintfield we have just about everything we need within the borders of our town. A health centre, library, bank, supermarket, petrol station, churches and pubs and a main street with a wide variety of shops. There is also a range of businesses to cater for most of our needs.

In these difficult economic times, it is even more important that we as residents support our local traders. We need to "shop local" whenever possible to ensure the survival of our traders and the continued growth of our town. Their future and ours, depends upon it.



May you enjoy a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2019.



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Saintfield came joint third with Hillsborough out of 22 entries in the large village category of the 2018 Translink “Ulster in Bloom” competition.

The winner in this category was Culleybackey, with Groomsport in second place.

Saintfield was the only award winner in the competition in the Newry Mourne and Down council area. The competition attracted 121 entries representing all local council areas as well as 31 bus and train stations.

Four SDA Green volunteers attended the prize giving event held in Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy on Thursday 20th September. This well organised event took place in a large marquee within a walled garden on the estate. The competition itself was celebrating 40 years and Translink marked 20 years of sponsorship.

The annual horticultural competition encourages cities, towns and villages across Northern Ireland to look their best, boosting civic pride through

beautiful plant and floral displays.

Saintfield has featured regularly in the annual competition, thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers on the Green committee of the Saintfield Development Association, who work tirelessly all year round to beautify and tidy our town.



Members of the SDA Green committee proudly display Saintfield's award with Cllr. Mark Murnin, Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council at the Ulster in Bloom prize giving ceremony

The volunteers planned and executed this year's colourful displays on Main Street and the network of arterial roads, together with numerous street-cleans and litter-picks. Thanks are also due to our traders and businesses who

make a concerted effort to keep the frontages of their premises tidy and attractive.

This summer was particularly difficult due to the hot weather and the high watering demand. The competition expects of all entrants the following; trim hedges, keep gardens tidy,

everywhere to be litter free, evidence of planning and biodiversity work, applications for grants, community participation, soil preparation, sustainable planting, annual flower planting, the planting of shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

So far this year, the team have collected a total of 1,113 bags of rubbish comprising grass, street dirt, cuttings, weeds, litter and leaves.

An enormous amount of work is done by this small group of community-minded volunteers with the common goal - to make Saintfield a beautiful place.

This follows the SDA credo

of “Saintfield people working for Saintfield people”.

If you would like to join us, please contact SDA – you will be most welcome.



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