

# SAINTFIELD NEWS UPDATE

Issue 4

Wednesday 15th December

A SOURCE OF HELPFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

## WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR SAINTFIELD?

Saintfield is a brilliant place to live, for all sorts of reasons. It is a harmonious community with excellent sports facilities and Rowallane Gardens nearby. It has a range of independent shops on the Main Street and a farmers' market. It is big enough to have good community assets and small enough to feel at home in. Saintfield offers a lot to its residents.

Looking into the medium-term future, it is likely that the Council will have declining income and so the services it provides to residents will likely lessen rather than increase. If communities want to maintain the way of life they have enjoyed in the past, they will have to take on more community activities themselves. This means that more local people will have to volunteer, in some way, to ensure that their children's quality of life is maintained.

In Saintfield there are over fifty community groups, including schools, churches, sports clubs, youth organisations and other interest groups. All of these are maintained by dedicated volunteers, but they all could do more with additional help.



**Martyn Todd, Chair of Saintfield Development Association**

This is a plea, remembering John F Kennedy's inauguration speech, to everyone who enjoys living in Saintfield. Please consider how you can contribute towards the community where you and your family live - consider how you could volunteer for any of the community groups in the area.

Using Saintfield Development Association as an example, below are the community activities that volunteers are involved in. Extra help would be greatly appreciated and would maximise the impact that SDA could have in improving our children's future.

Please consider joining one of these teams. You can help to make community life in and around Saintfield stronger and better.

- SDA Communications Team, led by Brian Gamble and including Ian Mack, David Greer and Val Smyth. This team strives to improve communications within SDA and between SDA, the media and the wider community. Also included are Vivien Lovell and her dedicated team who allocate and deliver the

printed copies of Saintfield News to households and businesses around Saintfield in all weathers.

- SDA Events Team, led by David Greer and including Fiona Watters, Janice McHenry, Bob Pollock, Denis Conn, Lily Henderson, Lawrence Murphy and Paul McGeown. The team organises events to raise funds for SDA and Events use this funding for community benefit, including the Christmas Fair and Community Open Days.

- SDA Infrastructure Team, led by Barbara Graham and including Paul McGeown, Martyn Todd, Norma Mack and others for specific projects. The team lobbies for improvements to the town (including the new Square layout, the community centre, the windmill park project, the new footpath along Todd's Hill and the upgrading of the sewage system).

- SDA Greens Team, led by Lawrence Murphy and including Vivien Lovell, Muriel Massey, Annette Kincaid, Michael Coyle, Heather and Malcom Foreman, Santha and Seamus McGrath, Lyn and Richard Mackender, Gwen Gawly, Lily Henderson, Denis and Maureen Conn, Brendan Burns and Dorothy Walker. The team plants and maintains the floral displays, wild flower areas and shrub beds around Saintfield and also does most of the street cleaning in the village.

- SDA Funding and Finance Team, including Kevin Young, Lawrence Murphy, Paul McGeown, Brendan Burns and Martyn Todd. As SDA is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, this team ensures that its governance is maintained at a high standard and meets all statutory requirements.

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The team also ensures that the Association is financially sustainable, applying for grants and other funding where appropriate.

- SDA representation on the Saintfield Inter-agency group, currently Martyn Todd. This group, comprises all the local councillors and statutory bodies and meets quarterly to discuss the priority needs of Saintfield in terms of policing, Council services, roads, housing, etc. As well as SDA, the Saintfield Community Estates Partnership represents Saintfield residents at this group.

- Rowallane District Electoral Area group, currently Brian Gamble and Lawrence Murphy. The Rowallane DEA is one of nine DEAs in the Council area and meets to discuss and prioritise the local needs that are the responsibility of the Council.

- SDA representation on the Rowallane Advisory Group, recently Janice McHenry and Fiona Watters. This group is led by Choice Housing and focuses on social needs in the area and identifies possible sources of funding to try to meet these needs. The current priority identified is isolation, particularly among the elderly. SDA, with other

community groups would like to find a way to help older people use social media to keep in touch with friends and family.

For Saintfield to get more from all these activities, the load needs to be spread across more people. Please ask yourself "What can I do for Saintfield?" If the pandemic has had a positive effect, it has helped us to appreciate family and community more than ever before.

If you can help in any way to make Saintfield a better place for our children's future, please contact:

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

## SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE SITE - WHAT NEXT?



**Building B**

Newry, Mourne and Down Council, who own the Saintfield Community Centre site, are seeking expressions of interest for the remaining spaces in the buildings on the site.

These are Unit B and the other, empty, part of Unit C. Unit B is the large building at the back of the canopy, comprising approximately 7,500 sq. ft. The front part of Unit C is where the existing community facilities are comprising a large hall, studio,

meeting room and foyer. The remaining part of Unit C is approximately 4,300 sq. ft. The closing date for submitting expressions of interest is 25th January 2021, so time is short for putting a bid together.

From previous consultation exercises SDA knows that the outstanding community priorities include a community gym and a coffee shop. SDA proposes to put in a bid to include additional community



**Building C**

rooms for hire, a coffee shop and a heritage display area, where the history of, and stories about, the past in Saintfield could be told.

Please let us know what you would like to see in the future development of the site.

Contact:

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

with your ideas before 8th January 2021.

## CHRISTMAS SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION

The Events committee of the SDA has arranged a shop window competition for local traders to try and add a little extra festive cheer to the Main Street.

A prize of £100 is being offered for the best window display from Saturday 5th December and it is hoped that this gesture will encourage traders to make an effort to engender some Christmas spirit into the village while at the same time encouraging residents to shop locally.

With the disruption to normal business caused by the pandemic, many traders have suffered a dramatic downturn in footfall and need the support of us all. Shop local!



## SHOP LOCAL

SDA has been approached by an anonymous donor who is funding a shop local campaign in Saintfield. This has been a difficult year for everyone, but especially for the businesses in Saintfield. Moira George, the proprietor of Barn Owl boutique is coordinating the campaign, using the generously donated funds. Look out for music on the Main Street, a treasure hunt for young ones and, just possibly, Santa may visit on the Saturday before Christmas.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a wide range of shops and businesses in our wee town. If we want them all to be there when the pandemic is over, we need to support them now. **USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!**





## THANK YOU FROM THE SDA

The SDA would like to thank Wilson Jebb for allowing the use of the old Norman McBriar premises for the display of the Christmas decorations produced by the children of our local schools.

Thanks also to the children of St. Mary's, Academy and Millennium schools for making the effort to make the decorations, and the team who arranged the display in the window.

And not forgetting the hardy team who erected and lit the Christmas tree outside the Orange Hall – we appreciate your hard work.

Your efforts have helped to brighten an otherwise sombre festive season.



## WINDMILL PARK PROJECT



As has been reported in local papers, the project to provide a community park for everyone who lives in or around Saintfield has taken another step forward.

Thanks to the lobbying by our local councillors, supported by the larger political parties in Newry, Mourne and Down Council, SDA has been granted an easement for access to the proposed park in the windmill field from the Council-owned community centre site. This means that the existing car park at the community centre can be used by those wanting to walk around the outdoor community space.

The next step in the project is to apply for planning approval for change of use for the

field to become a park. As the field is larger than one hectare, it is classed as a major project and so needs a twelve-week pre-application consultation process before a planning application can be submitted to the Council. SDA has initiated this process and has put information about the proposals on the website

(see <http://discoversaintfield.com/category/windmill-park-project/> )

Please take the time to send us your views on the proposals. It is only by hearing opinions from a wide range of people that SDA can be sure of putting in place what the majority of people want to be included in the proposed park. Now is the time to have your say!

## THE GENEROUS GREENS

This winter season, due to the constrained trading conditions, the Green committee of the Saintfield Development Association did not approach local businesses for donations towards winter planting.

However, some generous individuals did come forward with donations and the Green Committee all put in money for the planting as a gesture of support to local businesses.

We can all help their efforts by keeping our village clean and tidy. Pick up your litter and dog poo please!



## SAINTFIELD BOTTLE BANK TO GO

The bottle bank situated in the Downpatrick Street car park is to be removed.

The Council is in the process of appointing a contractor for the job and expects the bottle bank to be removed in January.

Bottles can now be deposited in the household blue bin.



**A FESTIVE  
LOCAL CHRISTMAS**

Saintfield Main Street  
**TREASURE  
TRAIL**  
For Children

Download your entry  
form from  
[discoversaintfield.com](http://discoversaintfield.com) and  
take the trail of  
the Main Street.

Saturday 19th Dec. 11-3  
Music on the Square & SANTA!

Support the  
local businesses who support the  
area where you live, work and play.



### Children's Christmas Treasure Trail 2020

Download your entry form and explore the trail of Saintfield Main Street any time from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December until Christmas Eve. Bring a pen with you to write down your answers. To claim your FREE chocolate prize at Hazel's Newsagents you will need to show them your completed treasure trail sheet.

Enjoy and have fun!





## SAINTFIELD MAIN STREET TREASURE TRAIL.



1. Start at the lamppost on The Square, Comber Street and step into Christmas by following the arrow towards The Memorial Gardens. Search near Tonaghneave for Santa's black marker post that he uses to find his way Downe Saintfield. What number is on Santa's post? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Look across and find Santa's workshop with the red door. Who is peeking out the window? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Head on up the Main Street past the Christmas tree. Hunt for trees all in a row. How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mary and Joseph found no room in The Inn but here Santa has found a place to eat and stay upstairs. Look up and spy how many friends are with Santa? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To wish upon a Christmas star you'll need to find a wishing well. Go on and run up the hill like Jack and Jill. Who has fallen down the well? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Reindeer have called into get their Tresses cut. What other animal is knocking at the door? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Mrs Santa Claus needs some new stockings from the Drapers. She can't believe how many Santas are in the window. Can you count them? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Nutcracker has gone to visit his friend the Owl to buy some new clothes. Can you find him hiding in the Christmas winter wonderland?
9. Rudolph smelt a Sensational Scent and has galloped down to munch on the flowers. What else has Rudolph found to eat that smells sweet? \_\_\_\_\_
10. The Christmas ducks have been looking for a new home. Which shop window have the 3 ducks settled into? \_\_\_\_\_
11. You are nearly finished and can claim your prize but greedy gnomes have their eyes on Hazels Newsagents. Find out how many gnomes are baking up a plan to run over and steal your treasure. How many?