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Local Youth Wins Award

Lorcan Doran, 17 years old and a resident of Saintfield, was the winner of the 2021 Young Rural Volunteer award, sponsored by the N.I. Housing Executive as part of their Rural Community awards programme.

Lorcan was put forward for the award by the Green Team of the Saintfield Development Association for his voluntary work with the team in and around Saintfield.

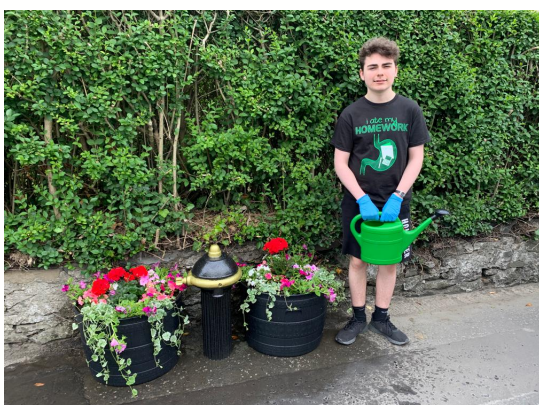
He was presented with his prize, an iPad, at a function at the Saintfield Community Centre, attended by representatives from the Housing Executive, the Green Team and Lorcan's family.

Lorcan successfully completed a number



Lorcan with his Apple iPad prize and family members. L. to R. Conor, Tiernan, Mum Christine, Lorcan, Dad Damian and Keelan, with Cathy Wright of the N.I.H.E.

of regular weekly litter picking activities throughout the year in Saintfield. With support and



Lorcan next to the Victorian water pump on Crossgar Road.

guidance from the Green Team, he has helped to clean the south side of Saintfield of litter.

Saintfield is fortunate to have this enthusiastic volunteer willing to help keep our village clean and tidy. The SDA is rightfully proud of our beautiful village

and is grateful for the support of all the volunteers who willingly give their time to keep it so.

Lorcan is also in his first year of volunteering with 'Ulster in Bloom' and has created his own floral display of flowers in planters around a Victorian water pump on Crossgar Road, which he maintains.

He is also working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Community Centre Development Plans

It is about 18 months since Newry Mourne & Down District Council launched the Expressions of Interest process to rent the unused buildings on the Community Centre site. Council have now issued a Letter of Offer to Saintfield Development Association/Saintfield Community Trust for the building to the rear of the community centre site which extends to approx. 7,500 sq. ft (700 sq.m)

The next step will be to obtain the necessary statutory approvals which in turn will trigger the lease.

The current plans include a large multi - user area to complement the existing community centre facilities, a Heritage Centre to link with the proposed Windmill Community Park and a coffee shop. It is envisaged that it will be another 12 to 18 months work to achieve these objectives.

Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"The easing of
restrictions gives us
the opportunity to
resume meetings
in person"*

Covid restrictions may be almost totally eased, but I know of more people who have had the virus in the last two weeks than in the previous two years! The easing of restrictions gives us the opportunity to resume meetings in person, although the rapid spread of new Covid variants means we still need to be careful to protect the vulnerable among the community. As we move into better weather, we can have more outdoor gatherings which enables social mixing in a safer environment.

I would like to commend Lawrence Murphy, who heads our green team, for his steadfast work to create a community garden in the space between the community centre buildings and the windmill field. This is now nearing completion and Lawrence and his team are very keen to recruit new volunteers to work on the raised beds to provide additional attractive planting for the local area. With the warmer weather, this is a sheltered place for people to enjoy growing

vegetables, pollinators and other plants which are beneficial to the environment.

When the new community centre was opened some three years ago, Saintfield Development Association (SDA) set up a separate organisation, Saintfield Community Trust (SCT), to run the centre. The objective was to have a different set of people running the centre while SDA carried on with other projects for the benefit of the Saintfield community. In practice this has not happened and the majority of people on the SCT management committee are also on the SDA coordinating committee. At the end of last year, both organisations' committees met to discuss coming together again, with the objectives of reducing duplication and combining assets to carry out larger projects. At the Annual General Meetings of both organisations, it was unanimously agreed to explore ways of SCT and SDA uniting.

Development Trust NI has kindly provided funding for a facilitator to work with both organisations to

explore the best way of them coming together. This process will involve legal changes and so is likely to take 4-6 months. In the meantime, SCT and SDA will carry out their usual functions, but will have regular joint meetings so that everyone is aware of all that each organisation is doing.

In the coming weeks, SDA and SCT plan to have more meetings open to their wider membership and meetings with the general public. Progress on the amalgamation will be discussed at these so please look out for notices publicising the meetings so that you can stay up to date.

Also, in the next couple of months we hope to be able to update everyone on progress with our application to the Heritage Fund for developing the windmill field as a community park.

Congratulations to the team led by David McMinn for winning the bid to extend community centre facilities as reported on the front page.

NHS Hearing Aid Users

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (R.N.I.D.) is a charity supporting deaf people and those with hearing loss and tinnitus.

They are running a free 'Hearing Aid Users Support Service' for users of NHS hearing aids, funded by the Health Board, and run sessions throughout Northern Ireland. Users can drop in and collect free batteries, have their NHS hearing aids serviced, and get advice on inserting, wearing and maintaining their aids.

They work with a team of trained volunteers and liaise with Sensory Support teams and Audiology.

The SE Trust area have monthly sessions running in Downpatrick and Lisburn throughout 2022. Hearing aids may be brought in by family members or friends.

The sessions are as follows:

Downpatrick:

At the Ballymote Community Centre (next to SuperValu) 40 Killough Road, BT30 6PY on the first Thursday of the month from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

Lisburn:

At the Trinity Methodist Church and community venue, Ballymacoss Avenue, BT28 2GU on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.



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Darragh Cross GAC News

The local GAA club in this area is St Mochai's Darragh Cross. The club is situated just over two miles from Saintfield. New members are always welcome, so if you haven't already done so, why not pay a visit, watch a match, enjoy one of our events, or even give football or camogie a go!

So far this year they have had a Covid vaccine clinic, a Step Challenge in the winter months, a Big Breakfast morning and there will be a Dawn Walk in aid of a mental health charity on Saturday 7th May.

There are teams for both boys and girls from Under-6 level up to adult level. All enjoyed training indoors at the Saintfield Community Centre over the winter, but have now moved onto the pitches in Darragh Cross during the brighter evenings.

The new season has just got underway in the last few weeks, but there is always room and a warm welcome for new members.

Current training times are as follows:

Under 6 Football – Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Under 7.5 Football – Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Under 9.5 Football – Thursdays @ 6.15pm

Under 11.5 Football – Wednesdays @ 6pm

Under 13 Football – Saturdays @ 3pm

Under 15 Football – Sundays @ 4pm

Under 17 Football – Tuesdays @ 7.15pm

Adult Football – Monday and Wednesdays @ 7pm

Under 6 Camogie – Mondays @ 6.30pm

Under 7.5 Camogie – Mondays @ 6.30pm

Under 9.5 Camogie – Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Under 11.5 Camogie – Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Under 13 Camogie – Sundays @ 11.45am

Under 15 Camogie – Sundays @ 11.45am

Under 17 Camogie – Sundays @ 11.45am

Senior Camogie – Monday and Wednesdays @ 7pm



Darragh Cross GAC Under 11.5 Camogie Team

To keep up to date with upcoming events, training times, fixtures and results you can follow or message the club on: Facebook - @Darraghcrossgac : Twitter - @DarraghcrossGAA : Instagram - Darraghcrossgac

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Our Volunteers Are Appreciated

The Green Team of the SDA appreciate all the support given by our Rowallane Councillors, Saintfield Community Trust, Traders, Churches, Businesses, Schools, Voluntary Gardeners and local Ulster in Bloom Groups, amongst many others.

Members of the community who see us working in and around the village will sometimes hand us a cash donation towards our planting costs. The lovely comments we receive when out with our working parties make the effort worthwhile. We appreciate people taking the time to come and chat to us. Local coffee shops kindly supply us with free coffee and cakes as well as displaying our posters and thank you certificates in their windows.

This year we have already had two new volunteers come forward with offers of help and sponsorship. We are looking forward to working with them.

Our Facebook page contains some wonderful comments from people who appreciate the natural beauty of our area and the effort we put in to keeping it both environmentally friendly and attractive with colourful floral displays and wildlife areas.

We welcome new people who can support us with new ideas, practical gardening help, donations or sponsorship and we are always happy to take photos of sponsors for joint publicity promotions.

If you would like to get involved, you can contact us through our Facebook page or website.

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Saintfield Men's Shed



The Saintfield Men's Shed provides facilities, amenities, and access to tools and equipment for men aged over 18 who live in and around the Saintfield area.

Participants engage in horticulture, making and up-cycling outdoor furniture, inter-generational activities, sharing skills and learning together.

The men also take part in training and development and have an opportunity to socialise, enhance their skills and engage in enjoyable creative and recreational activities, including trips and away days.

Men involved with the shed have opportunities to take part in awareness raising sessions on various relevant health issues with a number of community and voluntary sector partners.

The Men's Shed is located off Main Street at the end of the alley between the Turkish Barbers and Peter Bowles solicitor's office.

Keep a lookout for notices advising of our open days!

Currently the meeting times are: -

Tuesday	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

For further information contact: -

Chairman	Colin Fleet 07846803414
Secretary	Leslie Frew 07935777931
Treasurer	Stephen Wilson 07969444195



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New Community Centre Management Team

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The board of the Saintfield Community Centre has announced the appointment of Simon and Rachel James to manage the Community Centre. They take over the role from Anna Walker, who has managed the centre since its opening three years ago and guided it through the challenging start up months and Covid period.

Simon will look after the day-to-day maintenance and caretaking of the facility, while Rachel will manage the administrative duties, including bookings, public relations and the promotion of the various amenities available at the complex.

These include hiring of:

- the Sports Hall
- Studio
- Meeting Room
- 3G Football Pitch
- Outdoor Space (Under the Canopy)

The Centre still has bookable space available for morning, afternoon and evening activities and welcomes new groups/organisations to the facility.



**The new Community Centre Management Team,
Simon and Rachel James.**

Classes can be staged at the centre for exercises, craft groups, children's activities etc.

The indoor 3G pitch can be hired by the hour and is ideal for sports groups seeking to avoid inclement weather, birthday parties and a variety of other activities suited to a large, grassed indoor space.

Rooms can be set up with tables and chairs as required, and with full access to our kitchen facilities this saves you the hassle of having people round to your home!

Highly competitive pricing makes the centre an affordable option.

Email: booking.saintfieldcc@gmail.com

Phone: 07568 268986.



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