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Ulster In Bloom Award For Saintfield



Pictured L-R: Cllr Martin Kearney, President NILGA; Cllr Frances Burton, Vice President NILGA; Dr Michael Wardlow, Translink Chairman; Malcolm Foreman, Saintfield Green Team; Jonathan Ellis, NM&D District Council; Seamus McGrath, Saintfield Green Team; and John Thompson, Translink Safety and Corporate Responsibility Manager

Saintfield was in the prizes yet again at the 2022 Translink 'Ulster in Bloom' awards.

Saintfield came a commendable second in the Large Village category, behind winner Culleybackey and ahead of Stewartstown.

Lorcan Doran, whom we featured in our Spring issue as the winner of the 2021 Young Rural Volunteer award, sponsored by the N.I. Housing Executive, was chosen for the Special Youth Award.

The highly contested competition is sponsored by Translink and coordinated by the N.I. Local Government Association (NILGA).

In an event hosted at Hill of the O'Neill in Dungannon recently, the popular horticultural competition celebrated the fantastic work of green-fingered gardening enthusiasts across the country and officially recognised the most beautiful plant and floral displays in local cities, towns and villages.

Malcolm Foreman and Seamus McGrath accepted the award for Saintfield.

Speaking at the ceremony, Councillor Frances Burton, Vice President of NILGA, said, "The participants and winners from the 2022 Translink 'Ulster in Bloom' campaign have yet again shone a light on the amazing results which can be achieved through commitment, community engagement and hard work. These awards demonstrate the value which the 11 councils and our 'Ulster in Bloom' community groups have given in encouraging us to care for our local spaces, regardless of size or location. Their hard work and the hours spent planning, planting and pruning make a massive positive impact on the wider environment by supporting biodiversity, conservation and sustainability which improves the quality of life for citizens in our cities, towns and villages."

The 'Ulster in Bloom' judging panel comprises professional horticulturists, lecturers, florists, members of Conservation Volunteers and Judges with the N.I. Group of Flower Arranging Societies.

Saintfield is a strong contender each year in the competition, thanks to the tireless efforts of the volunteers in the Green Team of the Saintfield Development Association. Led by Lawrence Murphy, the team can be seen out and about in their hi-vis jackets, planting, pruning, watering and generally keeping our village tidy and presentable.

Credit must also go to our residents and local businesses who support their efforts, both practically and financially. This is the realisation of the SDA ethos:

*"Saintfield People Working
for Saintfield People"*

Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd
Chair of Saintfield
Development
Association

*"Since the last
edition of
Saintfield News
a lot has been
happening"*

Since the last edition of Saintfield News a lot has been happening. The SDA received a grant of £135,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the development phase of the community heritage park in the windmill field, adjoining the community centre.

This grant has allowed us to select and engage consultants (d-on architects) to carry out all the preparatory work for the park, including detailed physical surveys of the scheduled buildings, and to recommend the necessary work needed to make these safe for public access. They will also undertake further surveys on protected species, and submit a design for the park that protects the heritage and ecology of the site, while creating an attractive place for local people and visitors alike.

Their proposed design will be shared with the Saintfield community during 2023 for their information and comment. The consultants will also prepare all the necessary statutory approvals during this time. With this National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, we have also been able to

recruit a Community Engagement and Social Media Officer for the park project. I'm delighted to welcome Emma Duncan to the team. She will be preparing a programme of events to engage local people in the early heritage of Saintfield, so please look out for these.



Emma Duncan
Community Engagement and
Social Media Officer

The Community Garden has been growing in every way over the summer. With help from many new volunteers, Lawrence Murphy's ambition has literally come to fruition. This tranquil space at the back of the community centre, with plenty of vegetables now flourishing, is a great addition to Saintfield's

community facilities and I know there is room there for more volunteers.

The merger between Saintfield Development Association and Saintfield Community Trust is progressing well and all the legal administration for this should be completed during October, thanks to Peter Bowles, who provides his professional services to SDA free of charge. The new entity will be called **Saintfield Community Association** - hopefully this will lessen any confusion in the future, once we become accustomed to the new name.

We will be having a meeting for SDA members in October and a meeting for the wider public in November. And don't forget the Christmas Evening, planned for Friday 2nd December, which will be similar in scale to last year.

Finally, remember that all this activity is being carried out by volunteers - they are always looking for more help. Please see if you can spare a few hours a month to support our efforts to improve our wonderful village of Saintfield. Contact us at info@discoversaintfield.com

The Club At The Hub

After a two-year closure due to the Covid pandemic, the Club at The Hub recently resumed. It is situated in the Rowallane Community Hub, 35 Main Street, Saintfield, behind Peter Bowles Solicitors.

The Club is open every Tuesday from 11 am until 2 pm and offers a wide range of activities. These include board games, crocheting, knitting, needlework, stone painting, sketching, felting and wooden nail art.

Attendees can enjoy a complimentary reflexology hand massage, courtesy of Liz Borne, who is a fully qualified reflexologist.

Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat over a coffee and cake and you can bring along any project you may be working on. There is a nominal cover charge of £3 and the venue is wheelchair friendly.

The Club is hoping to increase their opening times with the help of other volunteers.

For further information contact Liz Borne at info@rowallanehub.co.uk



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Saintfield Men's Hockey Club Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

The Saintfield Men's Hockey Club celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

From its formation 100 years ago, the club has grown both in membership and stature and is now a thriving organisation, both on and off the field.

The club boasts members of all ages, from the youngest, Martin Johnston at 15 years old, to Bertie Hamilton, who is the longest playing member. Former member Billy Shaw competed with the 1956 team and is the oldest surviving player.

Club chairman Andrew Gregg, who has led the club for the past four years, said, "It is an honour and a pleasure to be chairman of the club, especially in our centenary year. From our early days when we could only manage to field one team, we now have three competitive teams."

He added, "The support of all our members makes it an easy task to chair the club and we have recovered well from the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. Both the men's and women's sections are doing very well."

The club is always happy to welcome new members. Coaching takes place on Monday and

Wednesday evenings from 8pm, with junior coaching on Saturday mornings and secondary school coaching on Thursday evenings. Matches are played on Fridays and Saturdays.

If you would like more information regarding the club or are interested in joining, you are welcome to enquire at Saintfield Sports Club.



Hockey Club Chairman Andrew Gregg cuts the cake at the Centenary Gathering



Saintfield Men's Hockey Club Centenary Gathering

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Be Prepared - The Scouts Are About!

The 1st Saintfield Scouts is an all-inclusive group that ranges from Beavers, at five years old, right through to Explorer Scouts in the age group 14.5 to 18 years old.

Currently, along with their badge work, they are working on their '70 THINGS' Challenge in line with commemorating our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They are trying to find 70 different things which would make a difference both to them and the local community of Saintfield.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an especially challenging time for all and the scout group was no exception. However, since then they have reopened and welcomed 50 new members, providing our young people with the 'Skills for Life' and new experiences not normally provided in school or at home.

Their aim is to be integrated within the community, offering a safe environment for our young people to meet and enjoy a range of both indoor and outdoor activities. They want to provide a service to the community, and recently participated in conservation work in Delamont Country Park with the Woodland Trust. They planted trees and laid hedges and have also carried out some conservation work at the Saintfield House Demesne.

The Scouts are working closely with the National Trust at Rowallane House and Gardens and can be seen there regularly. Some fun activities have been developed for the Scout Group and National Trust, including bringing orienteering/map-reading skills up-to-date by using the 'What 3 Words' app on smartphones. They will be providing the National Trust with an alternative garden map and experience using the 'What 3 Words' app. Feedback from members of the public within the gardens has been very positive and it is hoped that this project will become fully available in the near future.

The Scouts meet on Thursday evenings at the Parish Church Hall and would welcome new recruits. The age group meeting times are as follows:

Beavers (6 to 8 years): 18:45 – 19:45

Cubs (8 to 10 years): 18:45 – 19:45

Scouts (10 to 14.5 years): 20:00 – 21:00

Explorer Scouts (14.5 to 18 years): 20:00 – 21:00

The groups need adult helpers, so if you would be willing to get involved or would like more information, please email Saintfield Scouts:

gsl1stsaintfield@countydownscouts.org.uk



Saintfield Scouts at the National Trust's Rowallane Garden



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Christmas Event Confirmed

The events team of the SDA have confirmed that they will again be organising a Christmas Evening this year. The date is Friday 2nd December, so make a note in your diary now.

The event will be held on Main Street and will commence at 7.00 pm.

Most of the favourite children's attractions will be there, including the miniature steam train, the roundabout and hobby horses.

The Star Wars Stormtroopers will be on patrol and will pose for photos with the youngsters.

The Christmas tree will be situated in front of the Orange Hall as usual and Father Christmas will arrive to switch on the lights.

The popular Lisburn Ukulele Band will entertain and Mark Kent will be there with his disco to play Christmas favourites.

The Saintfield Market will be open with a wide selection of stalls to attract the grown-ups, as will the Rowallane Community Hub.

It is anticipated that most traders will remain open for late night shopping, so it will be a good time to browse for those Christmas gifts.



Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6.00pm to 9.00pm on the night to ensure a safe environment for those attending.

Saturday Market A Success Story

The Saintfield Saturday Market has been a local trading success for businessman Gavin Adair. It has become an attraction for both local and visiting shoppers, with the wide range of produce and goods on offer from local businesses.

Situated in the 18th century courtyard of the Tonaghneave Forge at 66-68 Main Street, it is now a regular feature on the Saintfield shopping scene. The market is open on Saturdays from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm.

There is also a Sunday Craft Market on the last Sunday of every month which is open from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. This market provides an ideal opportunity to purchase gifts, see demonstrations of craft works and obtain all your crafting supplies.

Entrance to both markets is free and there are regular demonstrations, tasting sessions and music as added attractions. Keep up to date with what's happening on their Facebook and Instagram pages. Search for *Saintfield Saturday Market*.

Gavin says that the markets are run on a 'not for profit' basis as his contribution to making Saintfield a living village.



Searching For Descendants Of Hugh Rea

Mr. Hugh Rea was Petty Sessions Clerk for Saintfield Magistrates Court for nearly fifty years between the 1880s and 1920s. He was born around 1848 and died in Saintfield in May 1938. His wife's name was Mary or Minnie and they had three daughters and four sons. Des Greer is writing an article on Mr. Rea's career for the next Saintfield Heritage Book to be published early next year and would be very pleased to hear about him from any of his descendants who may still be living in the Saintfield area.

Please contact Des at desgreer51@gmail.com or 028 9751 0176.



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We serve the freshest food at reasonable prices, either sit-in or take-out. Outdoor seating is also available.

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When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the effect on our energy prices and cost of living was severe. However, the impact on the Ukrainian people was catastrophic, with over seven million of the 44 million population fleeing the country with a further eight million people being displaced.

One such family was Yevhen (John), Marii & their six-year-old son David. Before the war the family lived in Odessa in South East Ukraine. Odessa, as the main Ukrainian port on the Black Sea, came under heavy Russian bombardment in the first phase of the invasion, resulting in the family being evacuated. With the aid of the local Pastor, they were prioritised to be transported out of Ukraine for health reasons. The UK branch of International Aid were contacted and in conjunction with Starfish Northern Ireland the family were assisted by the Homes for Ukrainians initiative.

Meanwhile, the First Presbyterian Church in Saintfield had offered to accommodate a Ukrainian refugee family in a Church property and so the link was made to bring John and his family to Saintfield. The process was slow and cumbersome but with persistence all the necessary documentation was put in place. During this period a willing band of volunteers from the Church and the wider Saintfield community set about refurbishing the property and furnishing it with donated furniture as well as renewing the carpets and painting the house. This was all made possible through the generosity of the Saintfield community, who gave both practical and financial support.

On 5th June the family finally arrived in Saintfield, having flown from Prague in the Czech Republic to Dublin, then by car with volunteers from the church.

Since then, the family have been supported by the wider community with transport to and from immigration meetings, medical / dental appointments and English classes. Saintfield Health Centre has also been very supportive.

John and Marii have in return been helping with small support tasks around the church and Marii can often be seen helping in the Mission Shop on Main Street.

Marii gave birth to a second son, Daniel, on 31st August, and David commenced his education at The Academy Primary School.

Since this article was written, we understand that another Ukrainian family has been settled in Saintfield, hosted by the Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church.



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