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Saintfield Community Youth Club Is About To Go LIVE!

By the time you have read this, our volunteer team will have had their first meeting, discussed our programme for the first term and drank a lot of coffee in preparation for the opening. We are all very excited to bring a youth club to the community centre, the first in a line of developments for the centre in the coming months or years. It is an exciting time to be in Saintfield.

Our programme will be starting with a registration day at the end of August. With a range of activities, it will be a family event - so even if you aren't sure about signing your children up, come on down and see what the centre has to offer.

Once we have registration completed, we will be starting in late August/early September. We will confirm dates in August through our social media channels.

We have a team of 10 adult volunteers along with a few

youth leaders but we can always use more, so if you are interested, please let us know. Given the number of volunteers, we will be offering two sessions - one for P1-P5 children and a later one for P6-Y10 children.



We hope to offer the children an opportunity to socialise, play games both old and new and hopefully gain some new friends in the process. As well as some structured elements to both sessions, our aim is to give young people the opportunity to just meet others in a safe and friendly environment.

To that end, we are hoping to provide them with a variety of equipment for a

range of interests. We have already had some great support from Choice Housing and NMD Council with grant funding but we can always use more.

If you have any good quality used equipment that you

think will be suitable for the youth club - for example, board games, arts and crafts, sports equipment or children's furniture, including bean bags, small tables, and chairs, or even old games

consoles - and would like to donate them, please contact the youth club,

saintfieldyc@gmail.com

and we will be happy to come and pick them up.

We hope that this is the start of something that will benefit the young people of Saintfield and look forward to your support in getting this established.

The Youth Club Team

Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd
Chair of Saintfield
Community
Association

*"About fifty SCA
volunteers contribute
more than 20,000 hours
per year to the
Association's activities"*

Once again I want to commend the members of SCA who put in many, many hours of volunteer time to the Association's projects, all of which have the objective of making Saintfield a better place to live in and visit. About fifty SCA volunteers contribute more than 20,000 hours per year to the Association's activities and I would like to welcome our new volunteers who have joined the Community Garden, the Green Team and the Operations Team who look after the community centre.

The best way the 4,000 people living in Saintfield (and 12,000 people living within four miles of Saintfield) can show their appreciation for this work would be to offer some volunteer time to help. For example, an hour a week with the SCA Greens tidying the streets or planting new floral displays, or a couple of hours a week helping to open or close the community centre. Or half a dozen hours per year to help organise the Christmas Fair - planning for this year's fair is starting now!

We all know that government budgets in Northern Ireland, both local and central, are being steadily cut, meaning that some of the services we used to rely on will not be carried out in the future by Councils and government departments. Communities will have to choose to accept a poorer quality

of local environment or volunteer to do a bit more themselves. We in Saintfield are very fortunate that we have a stalwart group in SCA who do so much, but they will need help to continue to do as much in the future. If you can contribute some of your free time, please contact Emma Duncan via email at saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com

Windmill Park progress

Since the last edition of Saintfield News the final round of consultation for the park has been completed - thank you to all who shared their views and suggestions. The consultant team has taken these on board and is now finalising the design for the layout of paths.

Due to inflation, construction costs have increased by 20-30% since our original estimates two years ago, so we will have to make difficult decisions to ensure that we stay within our budget. We are very grateful that our American benefactor, David Moffett, has again made a very generous donation to the project. He has recently given \$100,000, which is the necessary match funding for the grant we will apply to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for by the end of 2023.

The consultant we appointed to provide the interpretation plan (which Saintfield heritage stories to tell, and

how and where to tell them) has held a workshop with local groups to prioritise which heritage stories are the most interesting and important. The Saintfield area has a particularly rich heritage and not all of this can be included in this project. The interpretation plan should be completed by the end of August.

The next major step of the project is to provide The National Lottery Heritage Fund with a full report on the progress of this Development Phase, which they have grant-aided. If they are satisfied with the results, they will invite us to apply for a Delivery Phase grant, which is likely to be in the order of £750,000. If this application is successful, their grant, plus David Moffett's donation, will provide enough funding for an excellent outdoor shared space for our community for generations to come.



Lookin' Swell Dolly



Since starting in January this year, the Saintfield branch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library has delivered 126 books to children under five years of age in the Saintfield area. We've also grown our numbers to 30 children, which is fantastic!

Dolly Parton has been celebrating their delivery of more than 200 million books to children all over the world so it's excellent for Saintfield to be a small part of this initiative which is so important to our community. We've also received some great feedback from local parents about the scheme.

Michelle says: "We look forward each

month to receiving our book. I say to him, 'Look! Dolly has sent you another book!' It's so exciting opening it and reading it together."

Emma says: "Each book we've received has been so different to the previous one, but they are perfect for his age. We are so pleased to have found out about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Keep up the good work."

The scheme has further funding for another three months of operating at our current size, and a year of books for a child on the scheme costs just £27. If you would like to donate to the Saintfield scheme of DPIL or would like to hold a fundraising event, please email saintfieldimaginationlibrary@gmail.com

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Green-fingered Volunteers Bring Saintfield To Vibrant Life

The SCA Green Committee is a small group of community-minded folk who take immense pride in our village. Currently, we have 32 projects and are planning more to enhance our historic market town.

We'd like to thank the local businesses, schools, churches and residents who have joined us in creating colourful displays, making Saintfield a very pleasant place to live in, work in or commute to.

Each year we enter the Ulster in Bloom competition, capturing a highly commended second place last year. This competition calls for community participation, clean streets and buildings, wonderful floral displays and the UIB posters on display.

This year, we are thrilled with the new floral display on the railings at Park Lane. This is the work of one local resident – we think it is wonderful and are very encouraged by Moira joining in. There is also a lovely display at the car park outside 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Church – many thanks to the parishioners.

Perhaps some of you reading this article might consider joining us in keeping Saintfield beautiful! We'd like to thank those of you who litter-pick in your own areas - this is much appreciated.

We conduct weekly litter-picks, but it's impossible to get round everywhere every time. Again, perhaps you could keep your own patch free of litter, clean and tidy – adopting a spot would make a true

debris and litter - hard work, you'll agree. Saintfield's ornate signpost in The Square is filled with flowers all year round and is one of our most decorative pieces. It is sponsored by Saintfield Nurseries.



Wild flowers make a colourful display in the Memorial Garden in the graveyard of First Saintfield Presbyterian Church

difference. Rather than leaving our area unkempt and dirty as a result of council cleaning cutbacks, we endeavour to keep the Main Street and main routes clean. We sweep the roadsides and footpaths and lift a great deal of street

The Green Committee have excellent relations with Newry Mourne & Down District Council and are very appreciative of their work in Saintfield. The Council's floral displays include the flowerbed at the mini-roundabout at the top of Main Street, the raised bed alongside the mini-roundabout, the wooden planters on Fair Green towards the Health Centre as well as the annual plants in our three large planters opposite The Mill. The Council cuts the grass on Fair Green. The rest is our work.

We are very thankful for the financial support we get from the local businesses and some residents - we couldn't put on the lovely floral displays without this help. Many thanks to the Rowallane Gardens staff who donated the wonderful plants for our new project at

Rowallane Gate and to those 'special residents' who add to Saintfield's beauty.

It's important to mention that we have a small collection box at the Maxol Garage – all donations are gratefully received!

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

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Saintfield in Bloom - SCA's Green Committee making a



MAIN STREET



BALLYGOWAN ROAD JUNCTION



COMMUNITY GARDEN



2nd SAINTFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CROSSGAR ROAD



QUEEN'S PARK



COMBER STREET



THE SQUARE



CROSSGAR ROAD GATE SIGN



CROSSGAR ROAD



LISBURN ROAD



COMBER STREET

a difference around Saintfield - Become a Volunteer!



COMMUNITY GARDEN



SATURDAY MARKET



ROWALLANE GATE



QUEEN'S PARK



SAINTFIELD VILLAGE
SGAR
AD
WAY
GN



PARK LANE



NEW LINE



QUEEN'S PARK



AYC HALL



THE MILL



NEW LINE



CLIFF FACE LISBURN ROAD

Meet Sam Bostock



Sam Bostock was ordained and installed as Minister of First Saintfield Presbyterian Church at the end of June.

He grew up in Suffolk, England and met his wife Emma in London. Emma hails from Bangor. The family lived in East Belfast for the last 10 years during Sam's training for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

In September 2020 he began a PhD in theology at Union Theological College in Belfast and submitted his dissertation at Easter this year. Shortly thereafter he was called by the congregation of First Saintfield Presbyterian Church.

Sam and Emma have three children, Thea (aged eight), Imogen (six) and Eoin (four). The family enjoy country walks with their newly acquired dog Ruby.

The family have been warmly welcomed by the congregation and Sam looks forward to working with them and the other local churches to serve the people of Saintfield.

Blossoming Efforts In The Community Garden

The Community Garden has been having a busy season.

We're delighted that one of our garden volunteers, Dee McGrath, won a Newry Mourne and Down District Council prize for her volunteer work in a green space. We hosted a presentation of the award at the garden. [Photo on right]

In June, we hosted Saintfield Cub Scouts and also undertook some education around biodiversity and bees, before planting out some veggies in the garden. In July, we held an all-garden BBQ to get together and



we enjoyed the fruits of our labour, harvesting potatoes, cauliflower, onions and courgettes. [Photo on left]

We also contributed to Queens University Belfast research on behalf of Nourish NI, looking at food insecurity and the role that community gardens have to play in helping to tackle the issue.

We're thrilled to have welcomed several new members to the garden - if you would like more information or to get in touch, please email saintfieldcommunitygarden@gmail.com



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Community Band Planned For Saintfield



There is a strong flute playing tradition in Ulster's unionist and nationalist communities. In the Saintfield area, the Cahard Flute Band has maintained and developed this tradition, in the Ulster Scots style, since at least 1892.

The Cahard Flute Band is a concert flute band, sometimes called a flute orchestra or a flute choir. This means that different shapes and sizes of flute, from piccolo to huge contra-bass flutes, along with percussion instruments, play the various parts of a musical composition.

Looking to the future, the Cahard Flute Band, with the support of the Saintfield Community Association, is inviting flute and percussion players from all backgrounds to join them to develop a community concert flute band for the Saintfield area.

An information evening will be held in The Studio, Saintfield Community Centre on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm. Initially, the band wishes to recruit people who are able to play in the band, rather than beginners. Experienced musicians who play other instruments and could adapt quickly to flute are also welcome.

People of all ages are welcome and no qualifications are needed, just the ability to play at a reasonable level and a willingness to attend rehearsals and take part in band activities, such as concerts and competitions.

Bands also need non-playing members and volunteers with an interest in areas like administration or fundraising will be very welcome.

The Saintfield Community Association endorses the idea of a community band and Chair Martyn Todd said, 'The Saintfield area has a strong tradition of excellent flute and pipe bands as well as various choirs. Saintfield Community Association welcomes local people making music together in the community centre. SCA members, having met members of Cahard Flute Band, hope that the band's ambitions to be an inclusive community band will be realised in the community centre. Playing music with other people is proven to be good for wellbeing.'

Jordan Barr, Chair of Cahard Flute Band, said, 'Our band has existed for over 130 years and we want to be around for a long time to come. To help do this, we wish to welcome members from all backgrounds and assure new members that they will receive a warm welcome. Our aim is to combine the talents of local flute and percussion players to create a band with high standards that will perform locally and further afield and will be fun to be in.'

Come along to the information evening on 11th September to hear more, including the opportunity to join the band, see what it's like and perform in Saintfield within a few weeks!

For more information email slievecroob2@gmail.com



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The SCA has had a busy few months with the Family Fun Day in the Community Centre for King Charles's coronation in May, the youth club receiving funding and being launched after the summer, a Health and Wellbeing Week planned for September, and plans in hand aimed at the older members of the community in Saintfield. Last but not least, the planning for the Christmas

evening on Friday 1st December is about to begin!

The hard work of our volunteers, old and new, is inspiring and the events staged couldn't be done without them. The SCA Community Team is always keen for folk to get involved with events and activities, so if you'd like to volunteer to do your bit to help, please contact the Team at: saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com

Rising Activity Levels At Saintfield Community Centre



Saintfield Community Association has recently signed a new Facilities Management Agreement (FMA) with NMD council for the next four years.

Usage levels at the community centre continue to rise with significant increases in weekend usage for birthday parties and other social events. The increased usage for the 12 months ending 30th June 2023 over the previous 12 months was over 80%. There is a wide range of activities for all ages on offer, with further details available

on www.saintfieldcommunitycentre.com or on our Facebook page.

The Centre is indebted to Rachel James and her team for their contribution to the development of the facility since early 2022. Unfortunately, Rachel has decided to seek new opportunities so we are currently re-assessing requirements to meet the increasing demands and will be recruiting for a number of part-time paid roles.

If you or someone you know with the necessary skills might be interested in administration, cleaning or caretaking roles, please watch for an announcement or declare an interest by contacting the community centre where your details can be kept on file. During this transition period, Brendan Burns and Emma Duncan will manage the facility.

Final negotiations are underway with NMD District Council on the lease for the expansion of the facility and work continues with architects and professional funders to realise the delivery of the project.



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DTP: Ian Mack **Editor: Linda Stewart**
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Newsletter Distribution: Vivien Lovell

CONTACT: editor.saintfieldnews@gmail.com



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Peter Bowles & Company, Solicitors
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