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Saintfield News

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SCA Volunteers Win Live Here Love Here Champions Award

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE

Chair's Viewpoint	2
Chit Your Potatoes!	2
Moment Of Truth Looming	3
Success For Cahard Flute Band	3
Trampoline Competitors Excel	4
Crowds Thronged To Saintfield Fair	5
Successful First Year For SCA	6
Hard-Working Greens	6
New u3a For Saintfield	7
Windmill Fabrics Present Cheque	7
Saintfield Heritage Society	8
Your Village Needs YOU!	8

At this year's **Live Here Love Here** awards ceremony, hosted by Belfast Harbour Commissioners in their grand Barnett Room, the SCA Environment Team won the **Champions Award** in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

The award was presented by the Deputy Chair of NMDDC, Councillor Gareth Sharvin, and accepted by Lawrence Murphy on behalf of the SCA Environment Team.

The Compere for the event was Joe Mahon, who praised the SCA Environment Team for their many volunteer hours, all year round, to lift litter, leaves and weeds from the streets of Saintfield and plant, water and maintain floral displays, wildflower areas and pollinators.

He told the audience, comprising more than 20 community groups from across NI, that the SCA Greens had won numerous Ulster in Bloom awards for their efforts over more than ten years.

Live Here Love Here is a campaign to engage local people in keeping their environment clean, tidy and looking attractive. The campaign has been running for 10 years and has been very successful in making Northern Ireland a more beautiful place to live in and visit.

The SCA Greens and Community Garden welcome new volunteers to share the load of making Saintfield a better place for our children to enjoy growing up in.



2024 CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Live Here Love Here Champions Award

WINNER
Saintfield Community Association
Environment Team

Lawrence Murphy
Dr Ian Humphreys Chief Executive, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Logos: 10 Years Live Here Love Here, Housing Executive, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Belfast Harbour, an Mór, Mhúrn agus an Duinn Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL



From left: Ian Mack, SCA Honorary Secretary, Martyn Todd, SCA Chair, Joe Mahon, Live Here Love Here Awards Ceremony Comper, Lawrence Murphy, SCA Environment Team Chair and Councillor Gareth Sharvin, Deputy Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

BELOW The grand Barnett Room in the Belfast Harbour Commissioners building.



Chair's Viewpoint



Martyn Todd
Chair of Saintfield
Community
Association

*"New volunteers are
always welcome"*

The Christmas Fair was another very successful event, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers led by the Saintfield Community Association **Community Team**, chaired by Emma Duncan. The Fair's aim is that children and young people have a special evening of fun in a safe way, to celebrate the start of the Christmas season. They will not be aware of the huge amount of work that such events take these days, not only on the evening itself, but also in the months of preparation. Each year more regulations are added by statutory bodies that need to be complied with to ensure that the event can run smoothly and safely.

This growing burden means more people are needed to share the load, both for the Fair and similar community events, to keep them on the calendar in the future. I appeal to parents and

grandparents of the children who look forward to the Fair to volunteer some of their time to help at this year's Fair. Just giving an hour to marshal on the evening, or a few hours a month between September and December to help plan and

Community Champions Award, which they ended up winning. The SCA Environment Team are all volunteers and look after the **Community Garden** behind the Community Centre. They help to keep Saintfield litter free and looking well for the prestigious 'Ulster in Bloom' competition. New volunteers are always welcome to both these teams. If you can contribute an hour a month or an hour a week to assist with improving the



Lawrence Murphy, Chair of SCA Environment Team, holding the Champions Award certificate, with Deputy Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Councillor Gareth Sharvin and Lynda Surgenor, Live Here Love Here Manager.

organise the various attractions, would make all the difference. Please contribute to Saintfield's great community if you possibly can and contact Emma Duncan at saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com Congratulations to another group of volunteers, the SCA **Environment Team**. The NI environment charity, Live Here Love Here, invited them to their annual community awards ceremony as finalists in the

floral displays or growing organic vegetables, contact Emma Duncan at saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com She will pass on your name to the relevant team. Saintfield is a great place to live, partly because of the amazing contribution from our volunteers. If you possibly can, please give some of your time to making a difference to our village.



Chit Your Potatoes And Give Them An Early Start!

The folk at **Saintfield Community Garden** are giving their seed potatoes a head start by chitting them. "What's that?" you ask. Seed potatoes can be brought on early by initially keeping them indoors in potato trays, or even egg boxes, with their "eyes" uppermost. Kept in a warm light place short green shoots, or "chits", appear on the potatoes. After 4 - 6 weeks, when the chits are 5 - 10 mm (¼ - ½ in) in length, the potatoes are ready to be planted out!

This year the Community Garden will be sowing Duke of York potatoes (a First Early variety), and Maincrop varieties Rooster, King Edward, Arran Victory and Golden Wonder.

If you have never grown your own potatoes before why not give it a try this year? You can grow them on your patio in a big tub or a bucket with drainage holes. So get chitting and grow your own!



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Moment Of Truth Looming For Saintfield Community Heritage Park

Following the successful completion of the development phase of the park project, The National Lottery Heritage Fund has given their approval for SCA to apply for a delivery phase grant.

This application, which required many hours of volunteer time to pull together over thirty documents, was submitted by the November deadline.

The documents included comprehensive drawings of the final design, an interpretation plan of which heritage stories will be told in the park, together with details of the

construction work needed to make the windmill buildings safe to enter. As part of the assessment of the SCA application, senior officials from The National Lottery



Heritage Fund paid a site visit on 27th February. They will announce their decision at the end of March. If the application is successful, their

grant (plus David Moffett's second generous donation), will provide nearly £1m to create an excellent community park for both current and future generations of people living in and around Saintfield.

The planned date for the completion of the work is November 2025. If you have experience of looking after a green space, the project team for the park would be very grateful if you would share your expertise. If you have something to

share, please contact Emma Duncan by email at saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com

Success For Cahard Flute Band



Jordan Barr, Chair of Cahard Flute Band, is presented with the "Own Choice" trophy by professional flautist Liz Childs

Cahard Flute Band gained second spot in their section of the annual Flute Band Association's 'Own Choice' Contest.

This high level competition took place at Lisburn's Island Arts Centre on Saturday 24th February 2024, where the Cahard Concert Band choose to play the march 'Arromanches' and the overture to the opera 'Poet and Peasant', by Franz von Suppé, for their 15-minute programme.

As well as taking the runner-up spot in a very challenging Grade 2 section, band member Josh Barr was awarded

the prize for best individual piccolo player, rounding off a very successful day.

Earlier this year, the Cahard Concert Band held open rehearsal nights in Saintfield Community Centre to invite new members to join their community band, and the band continues to welcome new members from all backgrounds.

The Band wishes to thank Saintfield Community Association for their support and guidance at that time and intend to organise more open rehearsal nights in Saintfield Community Centre.

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Trampoline Competitors Excel In Northern Ireland Qualifier

Fantastic results for The Gymnastics and Trampoline Network CIC in this year's first Northern Ireland Trampoline Championships Qualifier in Ards Leisure Centre on Sunday 3rd March.

Out of the 28 competitors from the club who entered, 11 qualified for the Northern Ireland Championships. On the day 11 competitors also took medals home with them. **Evie Allen** took gold in the Dis Tra Nov Cat 1 9-14 girls. **Joshua Brymer** took gold in the



**Oscar Hall
(Gold)**

the process of leasing from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The plan is to fit out a portion of the building with a permanent Trampoline, Tumbling and Double Mini Tramp facility alongside a part time Gymnastics facility. The facility will incorporate Olympic quality Trampolines with a permanent foam filled pit.

If successful in obtaining grant funding, this would be the only club in Northern Ireland to have this configuration and make it a leading



**Erin Croskery (Gold) &
Anna Maguire (Bronze)**

The club trains in Saintfield, Lisburn, Carryduff and Downpatrick. Of the 11 medalists, 7 train in Saintfield Community Centre, a fantastic facility for the local community. The club trains there for two days, for a total of 8 hours of trampoline a week. It also has 5 hours of Gymnastics and one and a half hours of Tumbling. Gymnastics starts from age 4 and Trampoline from age 6.

The Club is hoping to move into part of the third building at the site which Saintfield Community Association is in



**Farrah Magill (Silver) &
Roan Fisher (Bronze)**

Dis Tra Nov Cat 1 9-14 boys.

Farah Magill Tra Club 3 9-10 girls silver and in the same category **Roan Fisher** took bronze.

Tyler McKendry Tra Reg 1 13-17 boys silver. **Ethan Craigan** Tra Reg 2 11-12 boys silver. **Daniel Allen** Tra Reg 2 13-14 boys silver. **Erin Croskery** Tra Reg 2 15+ girls gold and **Anna Maguire** bronze in the same category. **Chloe Patterson** Tra Reg 4 17+ girls gold. **Oscar Hall** Tra FIG (the highest category of the day) 17+ boys gold.



**Ethan Craigan
(Silver)**

attraction for other clubs to train in. The Gymnastics facility will enable the introduction of pre-schools Gymnastics, adding to the current school age Gymnastics classes. Also planned are an increase in Tumbling Classes and the introduction of Double Mini Trampoline, adult classes and Free G (a form of Parkour).

If you are interested in any of the above activities you can contact the club on 07968702535 or thetrampolinenetwork@gmail.com.

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Crowds Thronged Saintfield For A Vibrant Christmas Fair

Festive crowds gathered in Saintfield on Friday 1st December for the village's annual Christmas Fair, including the switch-on of the lights by Santa.

Among the characters mingling with the villagers were Stormtroopers from the 501 Causeway Garrison and a team of Ghostbusters, while children enjoyed the games provided by Saintfield Youth Club, the roundabouts and the spin bikes.

Music was provided by Cahard Flute Band, Lisburn Ukes, Gilbert Armour's street organ, young violinists, and The Big Kahuna rock band. Performers also included

dancers from the Owens Academy of Irish Dance.

Shoppers thronged the Twilight Market and visited the shops and cafes that were open late for the Fair.

A young piper, drummer and Scottish dancer from Saintfield High School led Santa to the Christmas tree for the big switch-on, and the petting donkey and reindeer added to the festive atmosphere.

The PSNI brought their gaming van and the NI Fire Service was in attendance with a fire engine.

Saintfield Community Association

thanks all those who funded this year's Fair, including Choice Housing, traders and other donors in Saintfield, as well as a grant from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

It also thanks the many members and helpers who put in hundreds of volunteer hours to organise the event, the Saintfield Striders who helped on the night and the team who erected and decorated the Christmas tree on Main Street.

Most importantly the SCA thanks all the local people of all ages who came out on a very chilly evening to support the event.



TOP ROW - Fair organisers Jen Edwards Smith and Emma Duncan; Crowds on Main Street; Musicians from Saintfield High School
MIDDLE ROW - Charity spin cycle fundraisers; Santa's reindeer; Dancers from the Owens Academy of Irish Dance
BOTTOM ROW - Ghostbusters brought festive spirit; Erecting the Christmas Tree on Main Street; The Lisburn Ukes

Saintfield Community Association Celebrates a Successful First Year

Saintfield Community Association has held its first AGM and Volunteer Recognition evening since it was formed by the merger of Saintfield Development Association and the Saintfield Community Trust.

The event was held at the Sports Club and was very well attended, with food and fun provided by Robin Martin from Saints Cafe who not only put on a wonderful buffet but was the compere for the Volunteer Recognition Event.

Elections were held with the support of Geoffrey Perrin from the Saintfield Heritage Society, with Martyn Todd elected Chair of the Saintfield Community Association and Graham Erskine elected vice chair.

The volunteers who do so much for the community were also awarded certificates as part of the special event.

A small army of volunteers give their time to deliver the newsletter, help with the Christmas Fair, provide their expertise to project teams, keep Saintfield Community

Centre open and, as part of the Green Team, keep the town looking colourful and bright.

The Green Team was also recognised for coming third in **Ulster In Bloom** despite the Main Street being a building site at the time due to cable laying.

Muriel Massey, a long-standing member of the Green Team, was presented with a bouquet of flowers upon her retirement from the Team.

The first year of the new Saintfield Community Association has been hugely successful with major progress made on the development of the forthcoming Windmill Park, rising numbers making use of Saintfield Community Centre and the launch of a new cross-community youth club that attracted huge numbers.

The year culminated in the ever-popular Christmas Fair on 1st December.

To keep abreast of the latest news from Saintfield Community Association, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/discoversaintfield.



Lawrence Murphy presents flowers to retiring Green Team member Muriel Massey

Hard-Working Greens Work Tirelessly To Keep Saintfield Beautiful

The Saintfield Community Association Greens Team continue their hard work in all weathers, from weekly litter picking and the clearing of general road debris to forward planning for next year's Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

To give you an insight into the amount of clean-up work the Greens do, the 2023 tally taken to the dump was:

**100 large bags of street dirt,
40 large bags of litter,
5 half-tonne bags of waste material, and
a full trailer load of fly-tipped materials.**

This huge year-round effort is undertaken by seven diligent community-spirited members of the Greens.

**Let's all help by doing a little,
as it will mean a lot!**



New u3a For Saintfield

A successful Launch Meeting of a u3a group for the Saintfield area was held in October 2023.

By belonging to u3a not only will you have the chance to share learning experiences in a wide range of topics and activities, but you will also make new friends and have some fun.

We are a self-help organisation with groups which are led by members for members. You just need to be retired or semi-retired to join a u3a.

Since the Launch Meeting progress has been made in getting this new Charity ready to welcome members.

Alas getting registered as a Charity in Northern Ireland and getting a bank

account set up is taking much longer than expected. It is likely to take until the end of the summer or early

autumn for the process to be completed and only then can the u3a start up in Saintfield.

However, this delay provides the opportunity to request your help.

Some more volunteers are needed to get this u3a Group going. If you could help in any way or if you have basic computer skills, your help would be appreciated.

Please contact Mavis Turner, Trust Volunteer for Northern Ireland, on 07759275967 or by email mavissloss@hotmail.com.

For more information about u3a visit our websites www.u3ani.info or www.u3a.org.uk.



u3a members enjoy sharing their interest in photography

Green Team Presented With £400 Following Charity Fundraiser

Windmill Fabrics has presented SCA's Greens Team with a cheque for £400 after holding a charity fundraiser shortly before Christmas. The Charity Craft Exhibition was held at Windmill Fabrics'

premises in Windmill Industrial Estate on the weekend of 25th and 26th November and half of the proceeds were donated to the Greens Team. Members of the Greens Team were invited to Windmill Fabrics for a cup of tea and a sit down on 28th February and were astonished to be presented with £400 - as well as enjoying a wonderful afternoon's crack.



Seamus McGrath (SCA), Joy Barlow (Windmill Fabrics), Vivien Lovell (SCA), Claire Morrow (Windmill Fabrics) and Denis Conn (SCA)





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11th April in the Studio of Saintfield Community Centre at 8.00 p.m.

STEEL CHEST, NAIL IN THE BOOT AND THE BARKING DOG – Bronagh McAtasney of Northern Ireland Screen will show this important documentary telling the story of Belfast's Harland and Wolff shipyard. The unusual title is derived from the nicknames of the many Billy's and Sammy's who worked there. (This, the final talk of the 2023/24 season, will be preceded by a brief AGM.)

"Saintfield Heritage Book Eleven" was launched last year in Saintfield Community Centre with a live video link to David Moffett in the USA who wrote the Foreword to the book. David has contributed considerable funds to SCA to enable the development of Windmill Field as a Community Park. Book Eleven is available in Hazels and Jacksons, or by post by emailing info@discoversaintfield.com.

Your Village Needs YOU!

The Saintfield Community Association is a team of volunteers who give their time and expertise to make our village a better place to live for both themselves and others.

You may be aware of some of their more obvious endeavours, which include the planting and care of flowers and shrubs around the town, litter picking, the Christmas Fair, the management and daily running of Saintfield Community Centre, the SCA website, this newsletter, and the community garden.

This is the face of SCA with which most residents are familiar.

However, there is much more happening behind the scenes to ensure that these and other endeavours are funded, comply with statutory regulations and are undertaken

safely by a competent team of volunteers. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the wide range of tasks the Association undertakes on a continuous basis throughout the year.

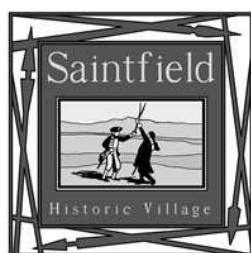
WE NEED YOU!



Would you consider joining our team? You do not need to commit more time than you can spare and you will achieve much satisfaction contributing to the betterment of Saintfield. You will make a lot of new friends as well! You don't need any special skills, just a willingness to get involved, and as much or as little time as you can spare.

Winston Churchill once said – "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give".

If you would like to become a volunteer, or donate towards the work of the SCA, please contact Emma Duncan at saintfieldcommunity@gmail.com



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