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Saintfield News

ISSUE 31

CHRISTMAS 2024

Saintfield Christmas Fair

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The popular Saintfield Christmas Fair will be held on Main Street from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday 6th December.

Main Street will be closed to traffic from 6pm to 9pm to provide a safe environment for those attending.

An Irish dancer and a piper will accompany Santa Claus and his elf helper as they switch on the Christmas lights on the tree outside the Orange Hall to signal the start of the festive season.

It is hoped that many of the shops will remain open for late night shopping and The Saintfield Market will be open, offering a wide range of goods.

There will be attractions for the youngsters and lots of music up and down the street, including the Cahard Flute Band, a ukelele band and a violin ensemble, among others. Mark Kent and his Sound System will provide incidental music and announcements.

The Star Wars Storm Troopers and the Ghostbusters will be patrolling and will be a great photo opportunity for the youngsters.

The volunteers of the Saintfield Community Association put much time and effort into planning and staging the fair, which is made possible through the generous financial support of Saintfield's traders and businesses.

Bring all the family along to enjoy some early Christmas shopping and soak up the festive atmosphere at Saintfield's largest community event.



Have Fun Over Christmas - And Stay Safe!



The Police Service of Northern Ireland has issued some much-needed advice to help people stay safe over the Christmas period.

Police have urged people to make sure their homes are safe - most burglaries are opportunistic, and there are simple precautions you can take to protect your home and belongings.

To deter thieves, here are some tips on how to protect your home this Christmas:

- Always ensure your windows and doors are locked
- Keep gifts and expensive items out of view
- Mark valuable items in your home with your postcode and house number
- Don't keep large amounts of cash in your home
- Leave a front room or bedroom light on if it will be dark before you get home
- Consider installing a home security system
- Consider security lights. To a burglar a dark house is an empty house
- Lock garages and sheds
- Give your property an occupied look by using timer switches for lights when your home is empty
- Always check who is at the door. Not sure? Don't open the door
- Always keep sheds and outbuilding locked and secure ladders
- If you notice suspicious activity or vehicles in your local area, make a note of relevant information – including vehicle registrations – and contact police straight away on 101 or 999 in an emergency



It's also important to think about safety before you head out socialising this Christmas. Police work with the local hospitality sector, patrolling nightlife areas to create safe social spaces for everyone during the festive season.

You can help to keep safe by:

- Planning your day or night out, including how to get home
- Staying with your friend group and arranging a meeting place for the end of the night if you become separated
- Drinking responsibly and knowing your limits
- Being respectful of others
- Telling your friends or family what your plans are and updating them if your plans change
- Making sure you have enough money to pay for your journey home
- Taking only the personal items you need out with you
- Keeping valuables out of sight
- If you feel very drunk or unwell after just a small amount of alcohol, then ask a trusted friend or a member of staff/security for help and contact police immediately

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

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Time To Get Busy!



If you're looking for inspiration for what to do in your spare time, Saintfield Community Centre has the answer, offering a packed calendar of classes and meetings over the coming months.

For contact details for each class, visit our live calendar at <https://www.saintfieldcommunitycentre.co.uk/>

Alternatively please feel free to contact the centre who will provide the details of each instructor to enable you to contact them directly.

Also the 3G Pitch is booked daily by local sports clubs and groups, and some time slots are still available. Log onto the website to see availability and submit an enquiry form if you want to book a slot.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6.30am - 7.30am Spin	5.00pm - 6.30pm Ju-Jitsu	6.30am - 7.00am Spin	9.15am - 10.15am Barre Class	10.30am - 11.30am Yoga	8.00am - 9.00am Power and Sculpt	9.30am - 12.30pm Babyballers
10.30am - 11.30am Senior Fitness Class	6.30pm - 8.00pm Yoga	9.30am - 10.15am Pump	11.00am - 12.00pm Yoga	12.30pm - 1.15pm Pound and Power	10.00am - 12.00pm Ju-jitsu	10.45am - 1.00pm Ju-jitsu
6.30pm-7.30pm Pilates	6.00pm - 8.00pm Spin	3.00pm - 8.00pm Gymnastics & Trampoline	2.30pm - 5.30pm Ballet	6.30pm - 7.30pm Spin		2.00pm - 5.00pm Viking Re-enactment
7.30pm-8.30pm Zumba	8.00pm - 9.00pm Strength Class	5.30pm - 6.30pm Irish Dancing	5.45pm - 6.30pm Spin			6.15pm - 8.15pm Inspire Dance Class
7.00pm - 8.00pm Pump		6.30pm - 9.00pm Yoga	6.00pm - 9.00pm Taekwondo			
			6.30pm - 7.30pm Pump			

Spin With Lynne!

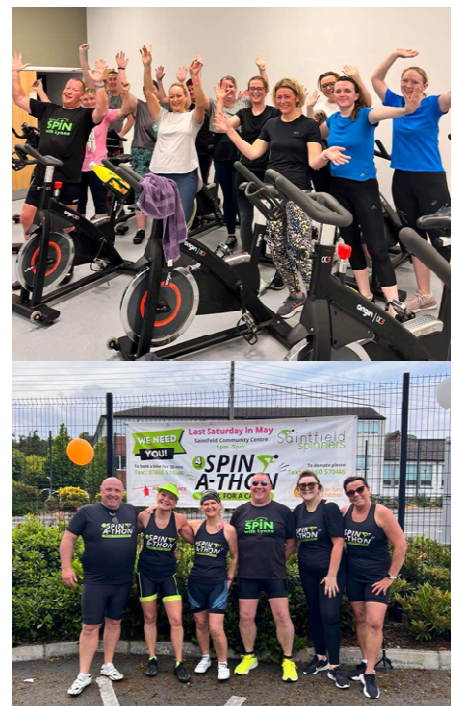
Lynne Crosby has been the main Saintfield Spin Instructor and Manager on behalf of the Community Centre since day one. She is also a Personal Trainer, Group Fitness Instructor and the first Menopause Champion Approved Fitness Instructor and nutritionist in Northern Ireland.

Apart from Spin, Lynne also holds CoreWork, Power & Sculpt and Strength classes in the Centre. In addition, she has started the first Menopause Meet Ups for our local ladies, held on the first Monday in every month at 7:30pm. For more information please contact Lynne via text or WhatsApp 07860 570446.

Saintfield Spinners began in August 2022 at the Saintfield Community

Centre and it has gone from strength to strength. It is great to have such fun, friendly, motivational morning and evening classes on our door step. Each session has a different theme - SPINdurance, SPINsational, Western SPIN, 80's SPIN, Rock SPIN etc. - the music alone is enough to keep your legs moving. There are so many benefits:

- Effective way of losing weight
- Better fitness
- Improved cardiac & pulmonary pulmonary function
- No problems with the weather
- Lower stress levels & better immune system
- Strong/sculpted legs (bulky is a myth)
- It's a progressive workout
- No impact on the joints
- Improved muscle strength



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

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Beautiful Sites Developed By The SCA Greens Team

The Greens initiated, liaised and toiled in partnership with the Housing Executive to enhance two sites in the village.

The first is a welcoming sitting area with plants for butterflies and bees at Queen's Park. From the Crossgar Road end you enter a winding path,

through a pergola with climbers, to a three-tier flowerbed. This delightful area is surrounded by grass and trees. The second area is the shrub bed at the junction of New Line and Downpatrick Street.

The Greens are currently busy with the winter planting around the village

and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support us and would in turn encourage everyone to support our local businesses.

Let's keep Saintfield prosperous – a thriving and beautiful place to be!

By **Vivien Lovell**



The Queen's Park flowerbeds, seating area and pergola

The transformation of the shrub bed at the junction of New Line / Downpatrick Street



The SCA Greens Team Win Not One, But Two Awards!

Saintfield Community Association is celebrating after its Environmental Greens Team took 1st Place in the Northern Ireland Amenity Council's 2024 Best Kept Awards for the 'Best Kept Medium Housing Area'.

The Greens Team was nominated for the award by the Housing Executive in recognition of its outstanding work carried out by volunteers on Executive property at Queen's Park and the New Line / Downpatrick Street junction in the village. The Greens Team worked seamlessly with the Housing Executive's Grounds Maintenance Team. [See feature on opposite page.]

The *Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful* patron, Joe Mahon, said it was wonderful to see so many people coming together to serve their communities, giving up their time so freely to make cities, towns, villages and housing areas greener and cleaner.

The prize-giving event took place on Wednesday 16th October in the Guildhall, Londonderry, with Lawrence Murphy and Vivien Lovell representing SCA's Greens Team.

And on 23rd October, at an event hosted in the Old Market House, Bangor, the SCA Greens Team heard that they had come third in the Large Village category of the **Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition!**

Both of these competition wins are official recognition of the amazing work done by the volunteers in SCA's Green Team.

By **Vivien Lovell**



'Best Kept Medium Housing Area' Award Presentation:

Doreen Muskett (Chair of the Northern Ireland Amenities Council), Lawrence Murphy (Chair of Saintfield Community Association's Green Team), David Lindsay (NIHE Grounds Maintenance Manager), Vivien Lovell (Secretary of Saintfield Community Association's Green Team), Joe Mahon (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Patron) and Gareth Morgan (NIHE Contract & Performance Officer (Grounds Maintenance)).



'Translink Ulster In Bloom' Presentation:

Janet Browne (SCA Greens Team), John Thompson (Head of Safety and Corporate Responsibility, Translink), Frances Burton (Councillor representing the Northern Ireland Local Government Association) and Santha McGrath (SCA Greens Team).

Community Gardeners Reap Rewards And Plant For Next Year

Following a successful growing season, the community garden has seen lots of lovely produce over the autumn.

While the gardeners have been busy cleaning and clearing the beds, they have also sown onion sets and garlic for autumn planting.

The team are also experimenting with planting potatoes now in hopes of a very early crop.

Meanwhile, plans for crop rotation have been drawn up for the next three years, and our fabulous compost maker has been busy getting a new compost bin ready for next year.

By **Jackie Morgan**



All Systems Go For Windmill Park Plans

It's now official - Saintfield's new community park will be known as **Windmill Park** following a hugely successful consultation process. The team received more than 500 responses, with a clear majority for the name Windmill Park.

Full planning approval for the latest amendment to the design has been granted, and the first stage of the tendering process is now underway. Suitable consultants are being asked to demonstrate their relevant experience and qualifications for the project. The team hope to find four or five suitable contractors, who

will be invited to submit full tenders.

A tree surgeon has been contracted to make safe all the trees around the perimeter of the park along Windmill Road and the railway track bed, with the work due to be completed by December 2024.

The interpretation consultants have nearly completed their final draft of the stories to be told in Windmill Park and how they will be told. Four panels will be reproduced in a life size mock-up and displayed in the community centre for a week,

with local people invited to come and see them and comment on them.

So much fascinating information has been unearthed that some of the background stories will probably be added as QR codes.

The new community engagement person for the project - replacing Emma Duncan - is Tanya O'Neill, who carried out the consultation for the new park name. She has already made good contacts with the local schools, all of whom are keen to get involved in the park at a later stage.

By **Martyn Todd**

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Happy Christmas and a
safe and healthy New Year!
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the past year and we look forward
to your custom in 2025.**

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One Year In For Saintfield Youth Club - And Our Busiest Term Yet

Our first half term was the busiest term yet! We now have 220 registrations over the two sessions with fully booked evenings every Saturday. Our app Spond has worked really well, in terms of booking and communicating with the club - although we need to switch off notifications on a Tuesday!

Our club now has a fully functioning tuck shop that is being capably run by Matt, and the Snack Shack has proved a roaring success. Our aim is to start offering free fruit along with our sweet provision so if anyone knows anyone that can help us with discounted food that we can give to the kids, we would be most appreciative.

One of the main aims of the youth club is to provide a safe environment for all young people in the wider Saintfield area. To that end, we

always wanted to offer a service for the young teenagers older than Y10. This is where our young leader program comes in. Last year we had three young leaders and it was great to see two of them returning to volunteer their services this year but the most pleasing aspect of the program is that we have now gained another seven young leaders. This is something that the club is extremely proud of, with these young people providing positive role models for the young members, having fun and participating in the activities in one or both of the sessions and most importantly, getting a couple of free slices of pizza.

Many of our volunteers are logging their hours and using them for their Duke of Edinburgh service hours. We have all noticed how these young people are growing in confidence and how well the members are responding

to their presence. We are all very proud of them.

We are now getting into the long nights and we are now asking for more adult volunteers. We have a dedicated team who work so hard but we hope to spread the load a little more. If you are interested in offering one or two Saturdays a month, we would be massively grateful if you can contact us on saintfieldyc@gmail.com.

In terms of this term, we are hoping to offer a Christmas party at the start of December to celebrate the end of term so please keep an eye on social media.

Thank you all for your support and we look forward to many successful terms for the SCA's Community Youth Club.

By **Brendan Burns**



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You may have spotted these beautiful wreaths on display in the Community Centre - and it turns out they're the result of an art project with a difference.

Saintfield Community Association was approached by Down Community Arts in September and asked to host a fully funded community art project based in Saintfield that explores the relationships between people, their communities and creativity.

The project, facilitated by artist Donna Bates Creates, has been running since mid-October with 10 wonderful participants, and has an environmental art focus which also links in with the Windmill Park project.

The group created beautiful



Down Community Arts project wreath makers Rachel Blair, Anna Leslie, Kim McCreery and Rhoma Buchanan

autumnal wreaths using natural materials as well as exploring art journaling along with Donna.

With a focus on shared creativity, the participants collected rosehips, haws, reeds, sycamore, dock, ivy, willow and broom from Windmill Park and created the wreaths that now hang in the Community Centre and will return to the field at the end of the project to adorn the old windmill.

We are excited to see how the creativity will unfold in the next few weeks and have observed the great connections and friendships that are being made among all the women who are taking part in the People, Place Possession project.

By **Tanya Kirk O'Neill**,
**Community Engagement
& Social Media Officer**

SAINTFIELD HERITAGE SOCIETY talks take place in the Studio of Saintfield Community Centre at 8.00 pm

Thursday 9th January

NORTHERN IRELAND'S SIX PRIME MINISTERS - CLIVE SCOLAR - well known local historian

Thursday 13th February

STORIES FROM THE HUTS - BALLYKINLAR CAMP 1900 - 1966 - MIKE KING - former manager of Down County Museum

Thursday 13th March

WALKING THE SHORES OF BELFAST LOUGH - JANET WILSON - environmental educator

Thursday 10th April

FRANCIS HUTCHESON AND THE EVOLUTION OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY - MARTYN TODD - local FH enthusiast



Saintfield Community Association

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