



The Malahide Guardian

Newsletter of the Malahide Community Forum

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is on 28 February

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A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

Two words sum up final days of 2010 - Weather and Water

A white Christmas may seem picturesque but the reality can be different, with dangerous pavements, frozen pipes and no water.

So what was the cause of the water shortages? We put several questions to the Water Services Department of Fingal County Council and learned some interesting facts.

All water for Malahide is treated in Leixlip and pumped to a reservoir at Seamount that holds 2,270 cubic metres. We use approximately 5,400 cubic metres of water a day, more than twice the current capacity of the reservoir but it can maintain its supply, as the water being used is replaced just as quickly.

However a burst main can reduce the level of water in the reservoir to a critical level within a matter of hours and there is no alternative but to shut down supply to users until such time as the reservoir recovers.

Over the Christmas period the freezing conditions caused numerous bursts in the Malahide area and water consumption reached record levels. Many of the bursts were repaired quickly but the location of others was difficult to find.

Once the supply of water from the reservoir is turned off, homes and businesses must depend on their storage tanks. These usually hold adequate water for 24 hours normal use and will refill once water supplies are restored. However during the Christmas period in many areas water returned at a pressure that was too low to reach roof tanks; as a result some homes were left without any water whatever.

There were major variations in water supply throughout Malahide; some areas suffered greatly; others seemed to be hardly affected.

The Water Services Department explained that when water supply is turned on at the reservoir consumers in lower areas will feel the results first, whereas consumers in higher areas distant from the reservoir will be the last to have their supply restored. However some houses at higher levels and closer to the reservoir will be less affected than others.

When electricity supply is cut it happens instantaneously and is restored just as quickly. However when water supply is cut the effects can take several hours to be felt and full restoration can take just as long. It can all depend on where you live in relation to the reservoir.

Could it all happen again? Possibly! Some of the network of water mains in Malahide is up to 70 years old and needs replacing; until this happens random bursts in extreme weather are likely to occur.

The reservoir at Seamount was built in 1971 to serve a population perhaps a quarter the size of Malahide today. It is due for a major extension this year which will double capacity and increase pressure. Fingal County Council expects the work to commence next June and complete before the end of the year but adds cautiously, 'subject to the necessary finances being available'.

Meanwhile lessons have been learned. The Council has admitted that its communications were poor but major improvements are planned and most of us in Malahide have learned not to take for granted our permanent supply of water. A lesson that will be repeated when we begin to pay for it within a couple of years time.



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Drop into Terry and the team in **Main Street, Malahide (Ph 845 6490)**, alternatively call into us in Raheny (831 1422) or Swords (813 7177)

Major change to 42 bus route

Dublin Bus is planning a major change to the 42 route that will affect many residents of Malahide.

It is proposed to operate all buses from The Sands Hotel in Portmarnock via The Hill to Malahide and then via Seabury to the city centre.

This means that there will no longer be a 42 bus running along the Coast Road serving Robswall, Biscayne and Seapark, effectively meaning that those living in these areas will have to rely on the 102 to bring them to the village to connect with the 42.

It's also unlikely that a ticket bought for the 102 can be used on the 42 as well.

Clearly this represents a reduction in service and a deadline of 11 February has been set to make observations and objections which can be sent by e-mail to customercomment@dublinbus.ie, telephoned to (01) 8734222, or by letter to Customer Comment Desk, Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1.

The Forum has already submitted its comments.

Hope for the shuttle

Portmarnock now has a shuttle bus serving its railway station. Can Malahide be far behind?

The National Transport Authority (NTA) took over bus licensing from the Department of Transport on 1 December and has issued its new Guidelines.

Malahide Coaches submitted a new application for the shuttle on 20 December.

The NTA indicates a decision time of eight weeks, so we expect news during February. The shuttle website www.malahideshuttle.ie will be kept up to date, so keep an eye on it.

Train times

Still on transport issues, the Forum has been in correspondence with Irish Rail seeking an improvement to the regularity of trains serving Malahide when a new timetable is introduced. There are intervals of more than 50 minutes and less than 5 between trains during the day. We have pointed out that the Howth branch which serves fewer passengers has a far more regular service.

Annual Meeting

The AGM of the Forum will take place on Monday 28th February at 8pm in the Guttenberg Suite at The Grand Hotel, Malahide

If you are a member of one of the following Residents' Associations, you are entitled to attend and vote:

Abbott's Hill, Ard na Mara, Biscayne, Bissett's Strand, Castle Heath, Chalfont, Chamley Park, Church Road, Gaybrook Lawns, Marina Village, Millview, O'Hanlon's Lane, Old Golf Links, Old Street / Railway Ave, Seamount, St Margaret's Road, The Haven, The Moorings, The Rise.

Individual members who paid €5 before 31/12/10 are also entitled to vote but anyone can come along and pay €5 at the door to take part in the discussion and then become a member for 2011.

Agenda for AGM

1. Report of the Committee
2. Adoption of Accounts*
3. Election of Committee for 2011
4. Any other business

**Copies of the accounts for 2010 available from the Hon. Sec. in advance or at the meeting.*

There will be a short presentation by Fingal County Council on the proposals for Malahide Demesne and Castle and also by Malahide Cricket Club on plans to develop its grounds. Photographs on the theme of Bio-diversity in the Malahide area will be on display by Tidy Towns and the Malahide Camera Club.

Request from Gardaí

Malahide Gardaí have asked us once again to emphasise how important it is to report any crime or any suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may be.

Keep the Malahide Garda Station number close to your phone. It is 666 4600.

How to contact Malahide Community Forum

By Post: Hon Sec., Malahide Community Forum, 1A Biscayne, Malahide, Co. Dublin. **Phone** 845 2142

Email: curegmw@indigo.ie

Website: www.muintir.ie/malahide

Committee members: **Chairman:** Hazel Bolton (Castle Terrace)
Hon. Secretary: Margaret Cure (Biscayne)

Nuala Burke (Townyard Lane), David Cashill (Castleheath), Michael Dowling (Chamley Park), Deirdre Doyle (St. Margaret's Rd), Gerry Duggan (Broomfield), Margaret Farrell (Sonesta), Michael Giblin (Old Golf Links), David Greene (The Moorings), Hilary Hughes (Abbott's Hill), Mark Hely Hutchinson (Church Rd), Anthony Lavin (Chalfont), Marna Law (Marina), Maura Loughrey (The Haven), Donal McCarthy (O'Hanlon's Lane), Gaye McDonald (Gaybrook), Helen McGivern (Old St/Railway Ave), Robert McKernan (Ard na Mara), Catherine McMahon (The Rise), Leone Mitchell (Chalfont), Sandra O'Carolan (Seapark), Breda O'Mahony (Bissett's Strand), Desmond O'Neill (Seamount), Toddy Radford (Millview)

Vice-Chairman: Michael Gill (Church Rd)
Hon. Treasurer: Harry O'Neill (Auburn Grove)