



# The Malahide Guardian

Newsletter of the Malahide Community Forum

October 2011 / Issue 33

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Casino saved?*

*New website*

*Castle improvements*

*Allotments*

*Reservoir delayed*

*Tidy Towns*

*Shuttle stalled*

### Has Casino been saved?

In last May's issue of the *Malahide Guardian* we wondered if there was any future for Casino. Numerous suggestions were made to us for uses to which the building could be put. However, we learned of one particular initiative which, if successful, would not only save the building but provide an outstanding feature for Malahide.

A local resident was prepared to make an anonymous donation sufficient not only to purchase Casino but to build an appropriate extension that could house the Fry Model Railway. The project was to be managed by a board widely representative of local community interests. A price was agreed for the purchase of the house and the balance of the donation of €1.5m was to be used for the conservation of the house and building of an extension.

*The model railway, which is owned by Dublin Tourism had been dismantled and put in storage to allow development works at Malahide Castle. It was understood that Dublin Bus was in the process of acquiring the collection from Dublin Tourism with a view to putting it on display somewhere in Dublin other than Malahide.*

It was a condition of the donation that the model railway be located at Casino so Dublin Bus was approached suggesting a partnership with the Malahide board. It seemed to be an obvious solution with benefits to all the parties concerned, especially the owners of the model railway, Fingal County Council who are anxious to see Casino preserved and above all to the community of Malahide which would see two of its treasures housed together, each one enhancing the other.

*At the time of writing, negotiations appear to have stalled. So the future of Casino still remains in the balance - or rather in the hands of officials at Dublin Bus.*

Can it be possible that despite such a generous donation from a local resident and with so clear a benefit to the community, Casino may not be saved for Malahide?

### New Website!

We've given our website a revamp and a more modern look that we think you'll like. The first page you'll see on the site shares the most recent news and community information that has come our way. So if you're curious about an issue in Malahide or you'd like to find out about the latest activity in which we're involved, just check out the site.

*All the useful information that was available on the previous site, is still there. You'll find the notes of the committee's monthly meetings as well as copies of this newsletter - so if you ever miss a printed issue, you'll always be able to find a copy online.*

There's also lots of information on local amenities and issues related to planning, transport (including rail and bus timetables), refuse, roads and parking. There are also links to many other organisations both in Malahide and elsewhere.

Our warmest thanks to Cian Farrell for the photographs of Malahide that are used.

So for a one-stop-shop on all the latest information you may need about living in Malahide visit

[www.malahideforum.ie](http://www.malahideforum.ie)

## LA SIRENA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

THE GREEN MALAHIDE // OCTOBER EARLY BIRD: ALL NIGHT MON - THU // LUNCH SAT & SUN FROM 1PM  
CALL 845 66 67 FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS BOOKING // [WWW.LASIRENA.IE](http://WWW.LASIRENA.IE) // FACEBOOK: LA SIRENA MALAHIDE

## Improvements to the Castle

A total of €10.5 million is being invested by Fingal County Council and Fáilte Ireland on improvements to Malahide Castle and gardens.

Work began in April with the refurbishment of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Steward's House close to the courtyard. This house had been vacant for some time and was in need of major internal refurbishment. It will provide a new home for the Park Rangers who operate within the grounds of the Demesne.

*The next stage of work, which is currently nearing completion, involves the supply of services, including gas and water. As part of these works the unsightly overhead electricity cables within the Demesne are to be relocated underground.*

**The main contract, which involves the redevelopment of the courtyard area, will begin this month. The courtyard buildings will house a new Visitor Hub which will incorporate an interpretive and educational centre that will lead to the Talbot Botanic Gardens beyond the courtyard. In addition, greatly enhanced restaurant and retail services will be available within the courtyard area.**

*The final phase of development will see restoration and enhancement of the Castle itself and the Walled Gardens.*

It is expected that 100 jobs will be sustained during the construction phase of the project and that another 100 jobs will be provided when the new facilities open to the public in June 2012. The progress of the project may be followed online at

**[www.facebook.com/MalahideCastleAndGardens](http://www.facebook.com/MalahideCastleAndGardens)**

## Allotments for Malahide

**Planning permission is now being sought for Malahide's first allotments. They are to be situated on an eight acre site at Mountgorry, north of the Swords road.**

There will be 300 allotments in all, some of 100m<sup>2</sup> and others of 50m<sup>2</sup>. The annual fee will be approximately €300 for the larger plots and €200 for the smaller. Immediately planning permission is granted work will commence on building a car park, toilets and preparing the ground. It is hoped that planting can begin next February.

*The allotments are a joint venture of the Epilepsy Foundation of Ireland, GIY (Grow it Yourself) and The Green Village. Twenty five of the allotments are being reserved for the Epilepsy Foundation.*

**Further information can be found at  
[www.thegreenvillage.ie](http://www.thegreenvillage.ie)**

## Reservoir Work delayed

The planned upgrade of the Malahide reservoir at Seamount has been delayed by as much as a year. There have been problems with the acquisition of wayleaves for new water mains and land transfer for the reservoir site. Pre-qualification of tenders has been completed but the actual tender process cannot commence until land acquisition and wayleaves are obtained. It is hoped that both of these will be completed within the next two months, allowing the project to begin in the first quarter of 2012. The work is expected to take seven months, so realistically it will be Autumn 2012 before the extension of the reservoir is completed.

Meanwhile the laying of water mains along the Swords road is nearing completion. The resultant damage to the surface of the road will be repaired within some months once the foundations have settled.

## Tidy Towns Gold

**Malahide won a Gold Medal in this year's national Tidy Towns competition. It was a deserved reward for the huge effort put in by the Tidy Towns committee and their helpers.**

Although increasing its score by two points, it is noteworthy that only Skerries finished ahead of Malahide in the whole of the Dublin region. (Results can be found at [www.tidytowns.ie/results](http://www.tidytowns.ie/results))

**As it enters the third year of its five-year plan, the Tidy Towns committee will be meeting at regular intervals during the winter to plan for the 2012 competition. New volunteers will be very welcome.**

## Shuttle stalled

Although our licence application was refused by the National Transport Authority (NTA) we have remained in discussion with them. Their refusal was based on a computer modelling exercise which showed that the Shuttle would win very few new travellers to public transport, since most of its passengers would be transfers from the Dublin Bus 102 service.

***This conclusion is totally at variance with our perceptions of the likely market for the Malahide Shuttle, so we have since been involved in an exchange of views about the way their computer model assessed our case. We will try to persuade them to look at Malahide Shuttle in a different way.***

It is encouraging that the NTA is willing to remain in discussion with us, but it is too early to say how far we will get.

## 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](mailto:curegmw@indigo.ie) **Website:** [www.malahideforum.ie](http://www.malahideforum.ie)

**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. Margarets Rd), Gerry Duggan (Broomfield), Margaret Farrell (Sonesta), Michael Giblin (Old Golf Links), Michael Gill (Church Rd), Mark Hely Hutchinson (Church Rd), Susan Kelly (Abbott's Hill), Marna Law (Marina), Donal McCarthy (O'Hanlon's Lane), Gaye McDonald (Gaybrook), Helen McGivern (Old St/Railway Ave), Robert McKernan (Ard na Mara), Leone Mitchell (Chalfont), Sandra O'Carolan (Seapark), Breda O'Mahony (Bissett's Strand), Desmond O'Neill (Seamount), Harry O'Neill (Auburn Grove), Toddy Radford (Millview)

**Vice-Chairman:** David Greene (The Moorings)  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Irene Dehaene (The Haven)