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On the left is the road to Orlagh and just beyond it the village of Firhouse, formerly consisting of a long row of cottages which have been replaced recently by fine new houses built on an adjoining site. A narrow lane leads down past the new houses to the City Weir on the Dodder where a considerable body of water is diverted into the old City Watercourse. This weir was built in 1244 in order to ensure a constant suppy of water to the city and continued to serve this purpose down to 1775. Prior to 1846 there was a shallow ford below the weir and this was then the direct route to Tallaght and Greenhills but the force of the water subsequently cut out a deep channel at this point undermining the toeing of the weir and making the river impassable to vehicular traffic. For many years pedestrians continued to cross by wading along the top of the weir, a dangerous practice when the river is in spate as a false step could result in a fatal accident. A wooden footbridge was later put up by subscription

The City Weir.

Firhouse footbridge.

below the weir but was soon washed away in a flood. This was replaced about 1860 by an iron lattice-work footbridge which was raised about twenty feet above the bed of the river. This footbridge was replaced by the current bridge which was officially opened in 1995.

Sally Park.

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Behind a high wall on the left of the road is Sallypark, the home of William Domville Handcock, the learned author of *The History and Antiquities of Tallaght*. The house at one time belonged to the Earl of Clanwilliam and was purchased in 1796 by Handcock's grandfather, who in 1801 was praised by the Royal Dublin Society for having planted 7,000 trees of various kinds on his lands. William Domville Handcock was born in 1830 and was educated at Nutgrove School, Rathfarnham and at Trinity College. He took a keen interest in local history and collected a great store of local information from inquiries among the old inhabitants, from notes left by his grandfather and from recollections of his father, together with extracts from annals, newspapers and unpublished sources. His book *The History and Antiquities of Tallaght* preserves much valuable information concerning old houses, mills, roads and local characters.

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