

# Ballynure Village

## Co Antrim

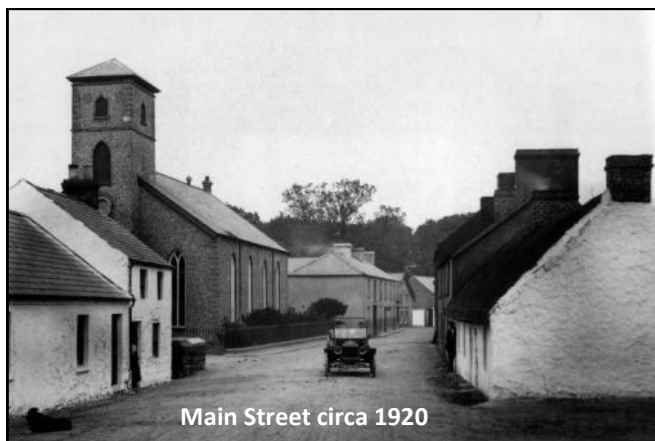
### 2015





## The Village

Ballynure is a pretty little village on the road to Larne and Carrickfergus. Over the past century, there have been a number of substantial changes to the road structure in the area, the most recent of these being the A8 bypass. The original A8 wound its way through the village and then, in the 1950s, the 'new' A8 simply cut the village in two. The new bypass, due for completion within the next six months, affords both an opportunity and a challenge to the Community Association and the residents to reunite the village.



## Population

While the Ballynure Ward contains an estimate for 2013 of 3175 people, it is difficult to ascertain the exact size of the village as defined by those who live within the 30mph speed limits where there are certainly less than 400 houses.

## Community Groups

There are two active Community Groups within the village:

1. **Ballynure and District Community Association** which incorporates the Ballynure Historical Society.  
Chairperson: Dr Kay Clarke, [ballynure@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ballynure@hotmail.co.uk)
2. **Ballynure and District Friendship Club**

Chairperson: Richard Wallace, [richardtwallace@gmail.com](mailto:richardtwallace@gmail.com)

Each of these groups works with the Council to improve the facilities in the village. Extremely good relationships existed with Newtownabbey Borough Council and it is our hope that this will continue with the new council.

## Churches

There are three main protestant churches within the village boundary:

Christ Church (Church of Ireland),

The Methodist Church and

The Presbyterian Church.

In addition there is Ballygowan R C Church in the parish of Raloo, some 5 miles from the village of Ballynure.



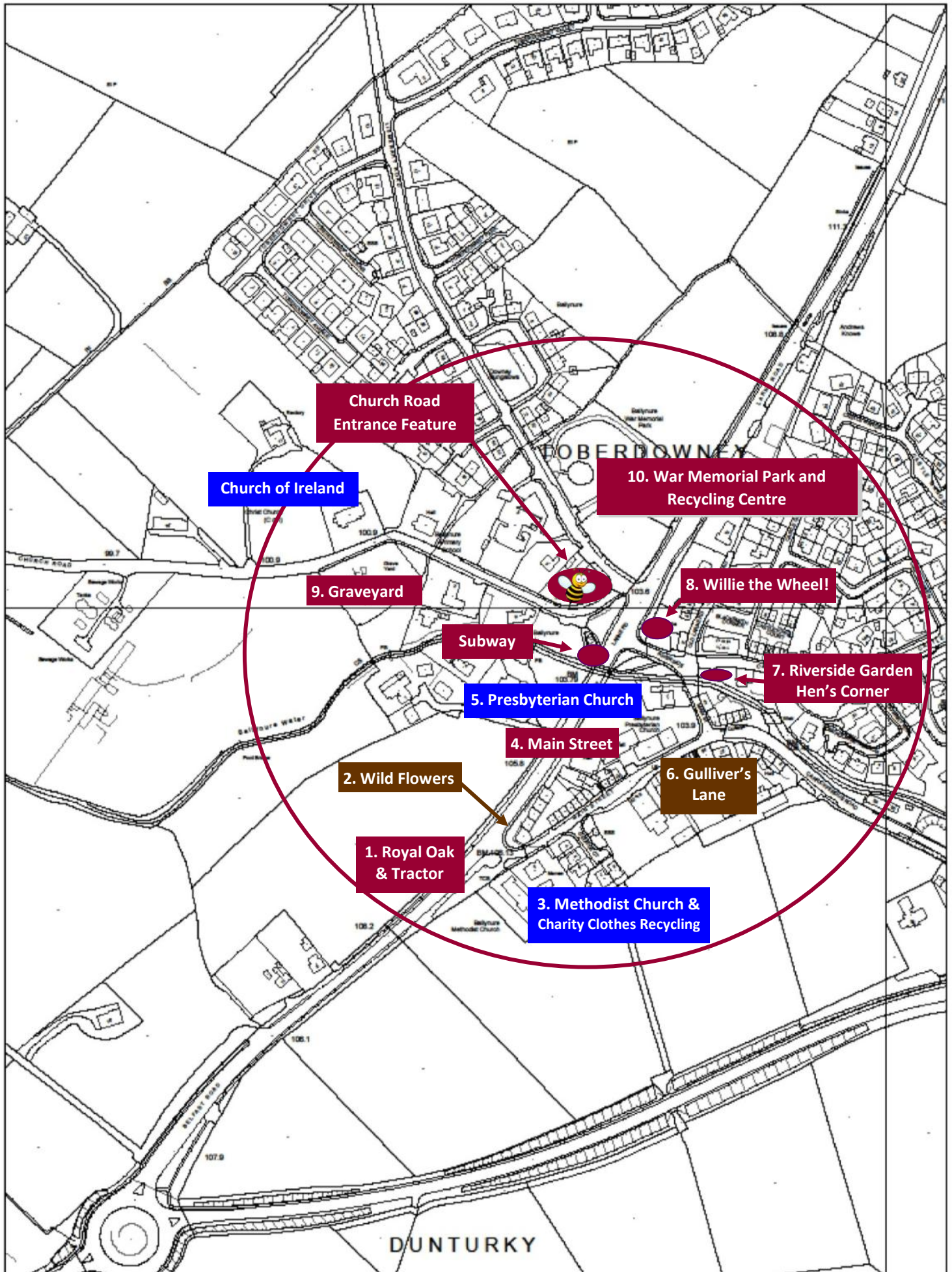


Around the village ...

**B** is for Ballynure!



# Ballynure Village Map



## 1. The Royal Oak and Ferguson Tractor ... 'Wee Fergie'

The Royal Oak, a sapling from one of the Queen's Estates was planted on Saturday 24th November 2012, by Dr Peter Watson, the outgoing chairman of the Community Association to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Unfortunately the tree suffered a shock and was replaced last year by Newtownabbey Borough Council from the same source.

'Wee Fergie' was a gift to the community some 15 years ago and has recently been restored by an enthusiast who was sponsored by Jacksons the Butchers. A member of the Friendship Club looks after the plants at the tractor and tree while the hedge around the area is tended by Jacksons the Butchers.



## 2. Wildflowers

The recently restored wild flower area at the back of Jackson Court has been a partnership between the Council workmen who cleared the site and two of the residents adjacent to the area. A third resident in that area helps the others tend the banks and provide a show of baskets and containers.



## 3. Ballynure Methodist Church

Linda Dodds, a member of both the Community Association and The Friendship Club, coordinates the team that ensures that the Methodist Church grounds are kept neat and tidy.

This is one of the many areas covered by 'The Adopt a Spot' initiative. Linda is pictured below with her 'uniform' and litter picker, which were supplied for the occasion. There is a clothes charity recycling bin for East Belfast Mission projects within the church grounds.



## 4. Main Street

The three main shops and the two village hairdressers play their part in sponsoring the village clean-up and other improvements in the area. Jacksons' the Butchers maintains the tubs around its shop. The Greengrocer has its own hanging baskets. The Council supplies flowers for the other tubs and maintains a number of beds and flower containers.

## 5. Presbyterian Church

A member of the Friendship Club along with other interested church members planted and now maintain the bed immediately in front of the Presbyterian Church. This area was highly commended in last year's judging.

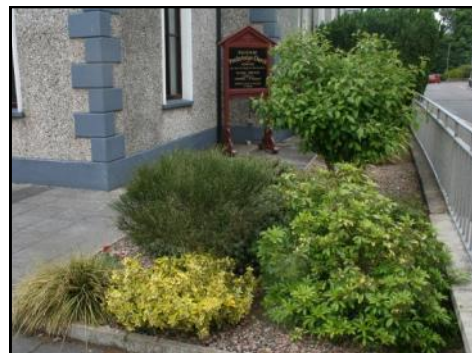
The main Presbyterian Church Car Park, which is used regularly by workers, commuters and shoppers is maintained by the members of the church, both young and old, using, again, the 'Adopt a Spot' materials. Three other members of the church have 'adopted' a number of roads around the village and keep them litter free on a periodic basis.

### Village Tidy Up and The Spark Initiative

The Community Association organises a Village Clean up and Easter Egg Hunt each year. Members are proactive in planting tubs, clearing areas and generally keeping the place tidy on a regular basis. Young people from the district join the Presbyterian Church's SPARK Initiative each summer to offer help to the local community in all sorts of ways. They can be seen here painting the bridge.

## 6. The Ballad Inn and Gulliver's Lane

The Ballad Inn, for a long time highlighted by the Ulster in Bloom judges to be in need of tidying up, has gone to be replaced by the beautifully landscaped Gulliver's Lane.



The derelict property on Castle Road has been tidied up and work at the Old Dispensary has just started within the last month.



## 7. The Riverside Garden

The plot of land which originally housed McKinstry's shop belongs to three different landowners. With their permission, the Community Association secured a grant in 2014 of over £12,000 from the NGO Challenge Fund (Plastic Bag money) to create a Riverside Garden. It is hoped to secure more funding to tidy up the area leading to the subway on the opposite side of the road where the infestation of Japanese Knotweed has been successfully controlled. Maurice Elliott made and donated the sign.



'Hen's Corner' in memory of Helen (Hen) Hanley, a very active member of the Community Association who died in September after a short illness.





## 8. 'Willie the Wheel' and the Highway to Health Walk

Grants from Carnhill in 2013 and 2014 helped us erect a sculpture 'Willie the Wheel', which was made by our local blacksmith, Maurice Elliott, on another portion of reclaimed land which had been purchased by the then Newtownabbey Council. This sculpture is close to the original 'Blacksmith's Corner'. The grant also covered a [Highway to Health Walk](#), created in conjunction with the Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation.



Blacksmith's Corner ... before



... and after. Maurice (2nd right) is pictured here with Lindsay Houston, Eoin Sawyers (MGS Landscaping) and Kay Clarke



Richard Wallace at one of the Highway to Health Walk Maps. On the right is the environmentally friendly village Christmas Tree supplied and planted by NBC to eliminate the need for one to be erected each year.



Repainting the subway as part of the Village Plan... sponsored by Dulux

## 9. The Graveyard

In October 2014, the Village was awarded a **Green Flag** for the work that has been done in conjunction with Newtownabbey Borough Council on the old graveyard in Church Road. The land immediately outside the graveyard (see bottom left) was given to NBC by the owner, a member of the Friendship Club. Working with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers), numerous small teams of locals built stone walls, created steps and cleared overgrown areas. In February of this year we planted snowdrops and bluebells and, with NBC's help, have sown poppy seeds at the gravestones commemorating those soldiers who lost their lives almost 100 years ago at the battle of the Somme. Sponsorship has already been obtained to plant bulbs in the autumn.



Volunteers creating paths and steps



Local school children planting bulbs

## 10. The War Memorial Playpark and Recycling Centre

The children's play-park was extensively refurbished in 2012 as part of the GROW village regeneration scheme. New notice boards have been erected in three areas of the village, again provided for by the grant from Carn Hill Community Benefit Fund. In many ways the creation of the play park, first investigated by a small group in 1995, was the beginning of the work of the Community Association. This work has continued for the past 20 years and was reinvigorated by the GROW Village Plan initiative.



The residents of the village of Ballynure are looking forward to an improved score in this year's competition. This has been a real community effort on a whole year round basis. Apart from those specifically mentioned in this booklet, many others have played their part in the show of flowers and tubs in their private gardens .

*Kay Clarke*

*Richard Wallace*

*June 2015*

