

The 'Rose Garden' – Church Street Whittlesey.



Church Street Whittlesey '1920s'



In 2009, chairman of Whittlesey StreetPride – Roy Gerstner was asked by concerned residents about the 'grotty and fly-tipped' corner of Church Street and the A605.

It had been an eyesore for some time.

Researching into its ownership, proved that it belonged to 'Rose Homes' (local builders) who had bought and developed 'Poles Court'.

It was previously in the ownership of local vet (and character) Mr. Samuel (Sam) Poles, it was 'his' front garden.

Roy Gerstner met with the MD of Rose Homes October 2009 to ask for permission to 'Tidy-up and make good the Grot Corner.

Mr. Gregory was very accommodating in what we wished to do and offered to rebuild the 'Dwarf Wall' when we had completed the tidy up.

On the 31st October 2009, Mr. Laurence Seaton with his 'antique rotavator' and a small team began clearing up the corner.



It may not look very big, but we took out 4 trailers of brick, boulder, tree roots and other rubbish. It took most of the day.



In the meantime, Roy Gerstner, approached Whittlesey Town Council members and asked whether they would 'personally' donate 'a Rose' for the new garden.

(There was no intention to link with Rose Homes) – most of the Councillors were generous in their donating a Rose Tree.

So 'we' started with around 15 different 'Rose Tree's each allocated to their sponsor.



(l-r Peter Davies, Rob Kent, Connie Gerstner, Margaret & David Palmer and then Cllr Steve Garrett, picture taken by Roy Gerstner) (2009)

The newly build dwarf wall with new capping stones were installed and donated by Rose Homes



From then on the Garden was a wonderful success, with all manner of donations of plants, trees and shrubs.

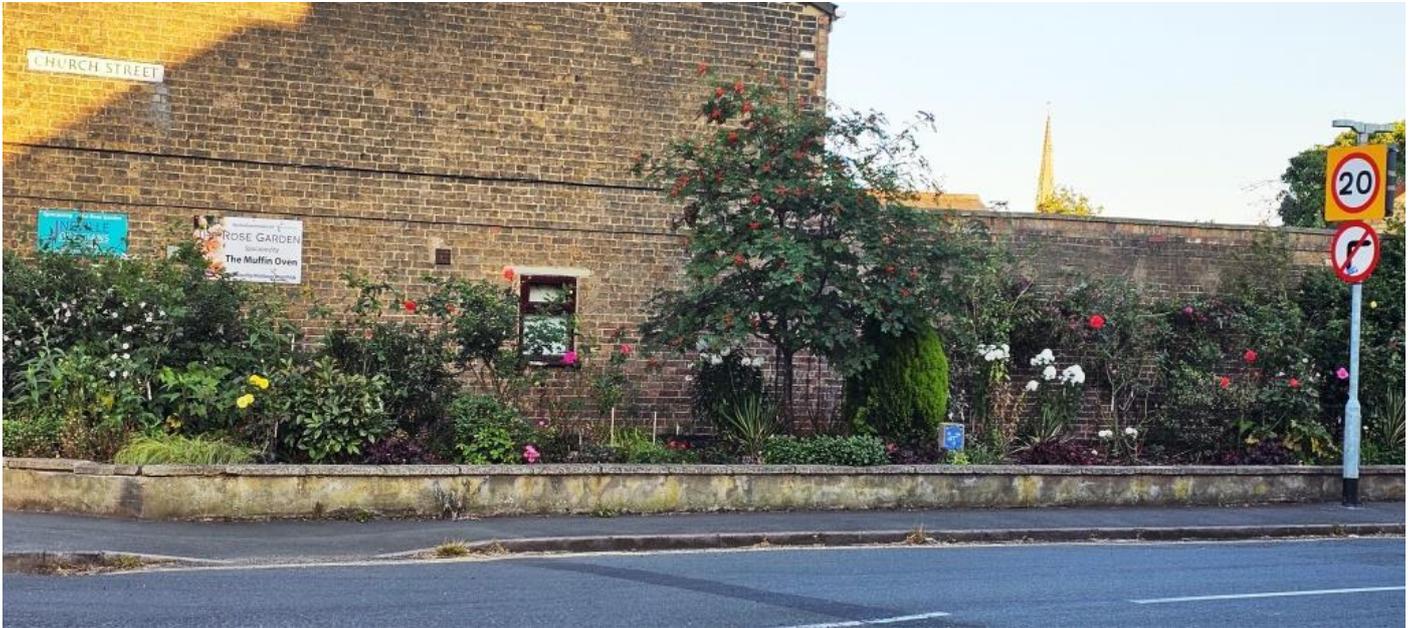
We have to give credit to Mr Adam McIntosh @ The Muffin Oven Whittlesey, who has very generously sponsored this site for some 15 years.



Some damage happens regularly with HGV's having a 'tight turn

Fast forward to 2025, we now have a very active sub-group of StreetPride of local residents who very regularly tend and maintain the Garden.

It was becoming very cluttered and dense and they have made it much more manageable.



This was the second project undertaken by Whittlesey StreetPride.

Under the chairmanship of Roy Gerstner, 6 Gateway projects were completed as 'A welcome to our town' – Flower Boats, Plough Gardens and raised bedding.

Some 250,000+ daffodil bulbs were planted.

All are still sponsored by 'local businesses' and are fully maintained by a small and dedicated team.

As a footnote :- The garden has changed many times over the pasted hundred years, but you may not know, that at one time there was a wrought iron fence protecting the garden, it was dismantled and taken away for melting use for military usage during the second world war.

If you see the 'Volunteers' working away – just say 'Hello and Thank you.'