

HISTORY OF HERITAGE ROSES IN THE BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK

Rodney Read

I have not been able to find any record over the period from 1840 to 1980 of roses growing in the Bolton Street Cemetery.

After talking to many older people who remember walking in the Cemetery, and from other former staff, I can list the following "memorial roses" to be found in the park

Rosa Banksiae lutea
Rosa Banksiae alba plena
Indica major
Felicite et perpetue
Cecil Brunner
Souvenir de la Malmaison

I suspect that over the years many people visiting graves planted roses, or broke off cuttings from existing plants nearby and placed them on their family graves.

From 1982 all roses bought by Council for the Cemetery, as well as donations of plants from the public, Wellington Heritage Rose Society members, and seed exchange varieties from Europe, were all recorded, planted and given an accession number and a label.

There are 210 heritage roses in the Memorial Park. Varieties include

Archiduke Joseph
Mutabilis
Kazanlik
Old Blush China
Viridiflora
La France
Honorine de Brabant
Ispahan
Roseraie de l'Hay
Alberic Barbier
R. Eglanteria
Tuscany
Souvenir de Mme Le'onie Viennot
Cornelia
R. Moyessii
Blushing Lucy
Mme Plantier
R. Laevigata
Altaica
R. Bracteata
Joseph Cartier.