



Dear Grave Owner

Hill of Roses

Over the years, the rose beds have provided a beautiful and peaceful setting for the graves they surround. However, as you may have noticed, our roses in some beds on the Hill of Roses have now reached the end of their natural lifespan.

This is due in large part to the unusual extremes of weather we have been increasingly experiencing since the area was first planted 24 years ago. During this period we have broken records for the driest and warmest years, alongside this we have experienced many wetter seasons. It has become apparent some of the older varieties of roses that have been so beautiful in the past are sadly not coping with these extremes and despite our best efforts have become tired and no longer thriving as they once did.

To ensure the long term health and appearance of this area, we are writing to let you know that our plan going forward is to remove and replace the roses in the beds worst affected, starting with all four beds on the larger outer ring. At the beginning of January we will remove all the plants. We will leave the beds clear and rested for approximately 16 months until early spring 2027, during this time we will dig over and feed the beds regularly, enabling the soil to become nourished and allow it to recover and regain healthy fertility.

Once this restorative period is complete we plan to select roses that will be more modern cultivars that should in turn withstand the changing climate for many decades to come. We will of course choose roses that have multiple bloomings and have a wonderful scent.

Our plan is to rejuvenate the second largest ring of beds in autumn 2026, following the same timescale as above. The remaining beds will be improved as required over coming years.

Whilst the area may not be its colourful best while renovation is underway, we believe the end result will be worth it, bringing back the full colour and fragrance in this beautiful part of the garden. During this time, we respectfully request that all planting is only carried out by our gardening team.

We understand that many families value the roses as part of the setting for their loved ones' graves, and we will take great care throughout this process to preserve the dignity and tranquillity of the area.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

Yours sincerely

Julie Mead
Office Manager