







HOPPY GARDENING - or gardening isn't always a bed of roses Dear Visitor As you walk through the Rose Garden you might notice that some of the Roses in the Rose garden have vanished, whilst others are a little the worse for wear. This is largely due to a family of rabbits that have taken up residence in the Rose Garden and occasionally invite their friends in for picnics! Rabbits love eating roses but, unfortunately, the roses do not much enjoy the experience and a significant number of those affected have died—these have been removed. We intend to re-plant the damaged beds with new roses during the coming winter provided that the rabbits have been evicted by then. We have tried gentle persuasion by asking the rabbits to leave without fuss—and our resident cat, being a pacifist by nature, has given up the unequal struggle and now just watches them play on the lawn rather than catching them! Wire netting attached to the gates will help to reduce the periodic forays from outside the Rose Garden, whilst those rabbits living inside the garden may yet decide to move to pastures new. If you find the gates closed when you enter the Rose Garden please close them behind you as they may form an important part of our rabbit control. Apart from the effects of rabbit nibbling, the roses will suffer from the dry summer and be more prone to disease attack due to the stress caused by drought, this is a normal part of gardening with roses for us.