

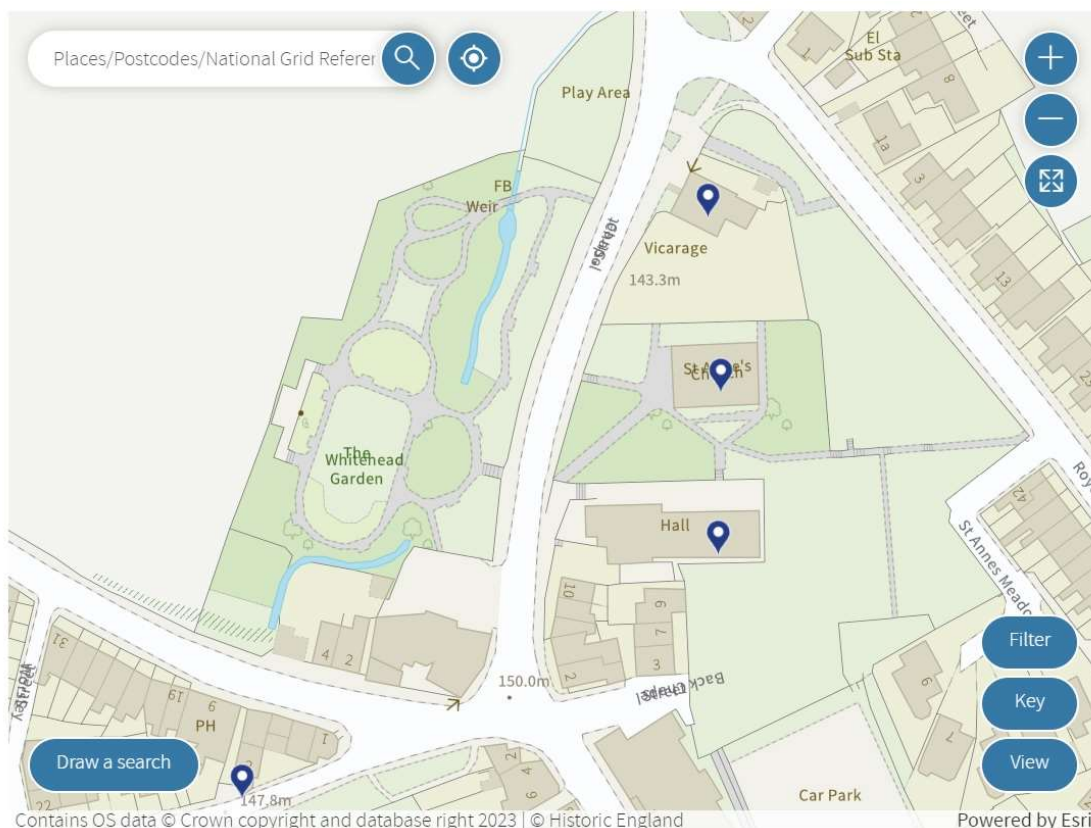
Summary

Whitehead Gardens in Tottington is situated at the heart of the village on Church Street, providing an open green space for the community.

The Gardens aren't large, but they have an interesting history and contain memorials for 9 people, including those killed during WWI and memorials to those who served the community locally.

Heritage in Tottington

The map below (taken from Historic England website) shows the locations of the listed buildings in the vicinity of the Gardens. More details of each of the buildings is detailed below, with the listing information taken directly from source at Historic England:



Church of St Anne

Grade II

List Entry 1163098

Listed on 4th October 1972

"II 1799. Rectangular and plain. Classical. Stone, with quoins and square wooden bellcote on west gable front, which has two arched windows with jambs, imposts and keystones above two arched doorways (with plain fanlights) framed by Tuscan pilasters supporting elementary cornice-pediments. Clock face in head of gable. Two tiers of four arched windows along sides similar to those of front. Later reticulated five-light Gothic east window. Interior has gallery on three sides, with Greek detail, on wooden piers. Wooden ceiling."

St Anne's Vicarage

Grade II

List Entry 1309322

Listed on 4th October 1972

"Early C19. On high bank, at right-angles to road, facing church. Stone. Two storeys. Three sash windows. Central round-arched doorway with traceried fanlight and open pediment above. Gable end to road has large buttress, quoins, cellar at ground level and small attic. Rear to Royds Street is of 3 storeys with old cellar window with thick glazing bars and round-arched star window with interlaced glazing bars."

National School

Grade II

List Entry 1067292

Listed on 4th October 1972

"Dated 1835 on tablet. Simple single-storey stone building. Four round-arched windows and two round-arched doorways, (one has been partially blocked to form a window), all with plain architraves."

Lock-Up Abutting Number 2 Old Dungeon Inn

Grade II

List Entry 1356820

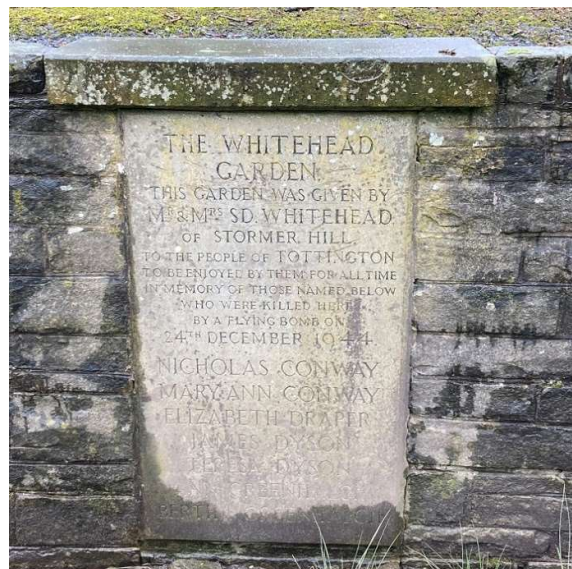
Listed on 29th January 1985

"Dated *1835' in bold relief numerals extending over whole door lintel. Constructed in angle between rear wing and rear of inn. Crudely rusticated store, with dressed coping. Single storey. Iron bolted door of 6 panels (with large mortice lock and lion head above stone knocker) is set in bevelled corner. A primitive human face is carved on stonework on right side of door and key on left side. Roof of large slabs of stone with central vent. Originally managed by publican, then by village constable."

Whitehead Gardens History

The Gardens were created in 1950 as a memorial to seven people who lost their lives in Christmas Eve 1944 in an enemy air raid. There is a large stone tablet inset into the wall of the 'stage' area which reads as below: The 'doodlebug rocket' landed on Chapel Street destroying several homes, killing 7 people and injuring 14 others.

Numbers 21 and 23 Chapel Street were destroyed, and 2 other properties and shop were severely damaged. In total 27 houses were affected and 8 of those had to be demolished. St Anne's Church opposite had nearly all the windows blown out.



THE WHITEHEAD GARDEN
THIS GARDEN WAS GIVEN BY
MR & MRS SD. WHITEHEAD
OF STORMER HILL
TO THE PEOPLE OF TOTTINGTON
TO BE ENJOYED BY THEM FOR ALL TIME
IN MEMORY OF THOSE NAMED BELOW
WHO WERE KILLED HERE BY A FLYING BOMB ON
24TH DECEMBER 1944.
NICHOLAS CONWAY
MARY ANN CONWAY
ELIZABETH DRAPER
JAMES DYSON
TERESA DYSON
ANN GREENHALGH
BERTHA GREENHALGH

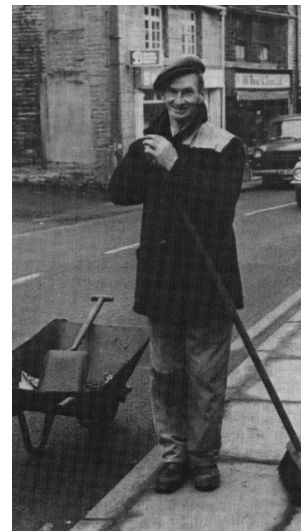
The following information is taken from the Wikipedia page:

“During the Second World War, Tottington was hit at 5:50 am on the morning of Christmas Eve 1944 by one of 45 V-1 flying bombs, launched from adapted Heinkel He 111 bombers flying over the North Sea. The 'Doodlebug' landed on a row of cottages in Chapel Street, killing two men and four women and injuring 14 others, one of whom died later.^[22] Numbers 21 and 23 Chapel Street were destroyed, while two neighbouring properties and a shop were severely damaged. The impact left a crater 30 ft deep, a total of 27 houses suffered serious structural damage, eight of which had to be demolished. St Anne's Church nearby had all its windows blown out, save for one behind the altar.^[23] The Whitehead family of nearby Stormer Hill Hall raised funds to have the area turned into a memorial garden, which was dedicated in 1950. The original brass plaque was stolen in 1975 and the gardens now feature a memorial stone dedicated to those lost.”

Alan Barton Memorial Garden

The area to the north of Whitehead Gardens is known locally as the Alan Barton Memorial Garden, in memory of local man Alan Barton who was employed by the then Tottington UDC. According to a quote from Lancashire Life in 1980, he was known as the “happiest and best known man in town”. He was a road sweeper for a significant period of time and was known by and to everyone in the village. He was also a member of Tottington’s Brass Band.

The photo to the left is taken from Lancashire Life from 1980 and is of Alan Barton, going about his daily work.





The image above left shows the memorial plaque set into the wall (hidden behind the flowers). Image from Google Maps

Councillor Johnson Memorial

William (Bill) Johnson was known as 'Mr Tottington' and served as Ward Councillor for 44 years, as Mayor twice and also served two terms as chairman for the former Tottington Urban District Council. He was awarded an MBE. He stepped down in May 2004.

Mr Johnson died on 6th July 2012 age 89 after a long illness. The plaque and a tree were planted in the Alan Barton Memorial Garden in to commemorate his long service in 1989 after 30 years' service.

The photographs below show the memorial plaque and tree – the tree has sadly died in recent years.



Proposals

The proposals have been worked up in partnership with Mike Bent from Bury Parks Department, the Rotary Club of Tottington and Bury West and Tottington and District Horticultural Society and have been put to public consultation over several years as the project developed.

The project aims:

1. To extend and make safe the existing 'stage' area. This area is raised from the ground without good access or barriers for safety though it has hosted events and activities up until the Covid Pandemic. By improving access to this area and altering the layout slightly to ensure level ground, the hope is that this area will once again be used by the local community for events and activities such as brass bands etc. More details are given in the separate document 'Events in Whitehead Gardens'. This work will involve the relocation of the stone tablet memorial to the front and centre of the altered 'stage' area. It will be surrounded by ornamental planting (as is currently intended though the beds are not maintained). The Whitehead Family have been contacted and a representative responded to say:
"Dear Chris, many thanks for this. We are delighted that the gardens are being cared for. The proposed improvements sound excellent and I know that my grandparents would be pleased that their gift, a memorial to the villagers who died in the WW2 bombing, is appreciated. All the best".
2. To upgrade all paths and install more seats, litter bins and signage, working alongside the Parks Department to agree the specification and locations of these.
3. Tree works – after discussing the proposed works with both Mike Bent and Les Beardwood at Bury Council's Parks Department, it has been agreed that these works should not be carried out in the short term. The arboricultural survey has highlighted some trees of concern, but these will be picked up by the Council's own Tree Team as required during the appropriate seasons over the coming years; only as required for safety. There are some trees causing concern in the area of the Gardens known as 'Alan Barton Memorial' which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (reference TPO number 22, G1, including Sycamore, Horse Chestnut and Elm, confirmed on 26.03.1981). An application for consent for works to these trees will be submitted nearer the time as and when funding is secured for the project and works are likely to take place.
4. Planting the proposed planting scheme for the Garden has been checked, tweaked and approved by the Horticultural Society. The aim is to introduce more year round colour, interest and diversity to the gardens which in turn will benefit a wider range of fauna.
5. Memorial Tree for Cllr Johnson – we have had support from Mrs Johnson to state she would be happy for the memorial to be relocated to a new location where it will get more light. She has offered to provide a new cherry blossom tree to replace the current one which has failed in support of these alterations.
6. Alan Barton Memorial Garden – the works proposed in this northern section of the garden include cleaning the stone plaque, tree works to remove and crown lift those which are failing, and which were highlighted in the arboricultural survey as requiring works. It is also proposed to install a new seat and ideally a small timber sculpture (part of a series around the entire garden area), giving people a space to sit and reflect.