



St John's Cemetery Margate
1856 – 2006
150th Anniversary
Commemoration



Foreword by the Town Mayor of Margate

Margate Cemetery opened in 1856 and since then has become the final resting place of local people. As such, it is also a place to reflect upon those who have helped make our town what it is today, those who have fallen in the service of their country or simply those of local or national interest. The town's history is recalled in those few dates and poignant lines etched into the memorial stones over the graves, lines which time and the weather are relentlessly eroding from sight. On this 150th anniversary of the cemetery it seems appropriate for us to look back to those whose lives and deaths reflect the changing times from 1856 until now. The Friends of Margate Cemetery are the inspiration and driving force behind this publication. It is due to their efforts that the 35 acres which now comprise the cemetery, has now become an acceptable resting place where you can now enjoy this brief glimpse of the past. Please dip into this booklet and hopefully come to the cemetery to see these graves and many others. Finally, for those whose interest is whetted, please come and join us in helping to preserve the site for the benefit of the next generation.



Thanks are extended to the following whose contributions made this publication possible: Thanet District Council, The Charter Trustees, Margate Historical Society and The Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust.

Produced by The Friends of Margate Cemetery ©2006

Introduction

150 years have passed since the opening of the cemetery, during which period of time there has naturally been an increasing number of burials resulting in the expansion of the site to its present 35 acres. The Victorians who founded the cemetery did so in the belief that they were providing a site of dignity and one worthy to receive the last remains of those who lived in the town. An insight into this pride is evident from the following extract from the 'The Visitors Guide to the Isle of Thanet 1857'

NEW CEMETERY

A portion of this new Burial Place was duly consecrated by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 1st of November, 1856. It contains an area of ten acres, and is about a quarter of an hour's walk from the Parish Church of St John's. Two neat but unadorned Chapels, the one for the Established Church of England, and the other appropriated for Dissenters, form a pleasing variety to the general appearance of the place. It also contains a lich-house, and a Resident Lodge for the superintendent of the grounds. The whole is surrounded by a substantial brick wall, and will well repay the visitor for the little time occupied in his walk to and from the same; while the contemplative mind can with melancholy pleasure survey the receptacle of the departed.

The situation is most delightful, and its easy access is often taken advantage of by the visitors and inhabitants to survey its quiet, beautiful, and tastefully laid-out grounds, the meandering designs of which are due to the taste of Mr Cormac of Vicarage Place, Margate. The general architect was Mr Birch, and the erection of the various buildings were by Mr G Hadlow of Margate. The resident lodge keeper is Mr Stroud, and the Burial Board has for its clerk Mr J Poussett. Every department is kept in the greatest order, and the trees and shrubs are profusely dispersed. We can assure the visitor he will be well repaid by an inspection.

The Burial Ground is open to the public between the hours of ten and four from Michelmas-Day to Lady-day, and from ten till eight from Lady-day to Michelmas-day, except on Sundays, when it is open from one till six o'clock.

First Burial

The first twenty burials are shown on the copy of the record page below. The first burial took place on the 1st of November 1856 and was for a Harriet Ross (note the old method of writing an 's' which makes it appear as an 'f') who was 47 years old and a patient who died at the Sea Bathing Hospital. Under remarks it states that she was late of Mary-le-bonne. A slightly different spelling to what we are used to but it is fascinating that she was likely to have been subject to Tuberculosis or similar to have been sent from London to Margate to recover at the Margate Sea Bathing Hospital. Later in this booklet you will find details of a Dr William Knight Treves F.R.C.S. who was an expert in this disease and moved from London to Margate to enable him to work more closely with those infected. The first burial page also includes another Sea Bathing patient and more interesting in some respects, a number of those who died are listed as coming from the Thanet Union (workhouse), Perry's establishment or Weekley's establishment. These are all poor houses where those who had no other means ended their remaining years. The Thanet Union building survived for many years at the top of Minster village visible from the Canterbury Road and a dour looking building it was. Several of those buried are listed as paupers and show what hard times it was for those who could not support themselves. There was no pension or support from the government; Jane Kentish who was buried on the 19th of November was listed as a washerwoman despite her advanced age of 82!

REGISTER OF BURIALS in the Parish Church of St. Andrew the Apostle within 1856. Established under the Statute (entitled the Burial Act, 18 & 19 Vict. c. 114.)											
No.	Name of the Deceased	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Burial	Time of Day	Day of Week	No. of Burials	Remarks	By what Authority	By whom
1	Harriet Ross	Female	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
2	Harriet Ross	Female	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
3	Mary Knight	Female	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
4	Charles Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
5	Elizabeth Knight	Female	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
6	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
7	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
8	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
9	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
10	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
11	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
12	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
13	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
14	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
15	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
16	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
17	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
18	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
19	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			
20	John Knight	Male	47	Sea Bathing Hospital	St. Andrew's Church	11.00 AM	Monday	1			

The graves you will see are only a few of the many laid to rest in Margate Cemetery. They have been selected to give an insight into the town that Margate was when the Cemetery was first opened. The first burial sheet shown indicates how the town was already important for those suffering from the pollution and poor living conditions particularly of London. The peninsula location of Thanet in general but Margate especially, lent itself to a place for recuperation of both the wealthy and the poorer classes. The graves of several men associated with the medical profession have been chosen. They reflect the beneficial climate that made the town famous, but also selected were businessmen either involved in the support of the local health services or who were attracted to the area no doubt for its value as a healthy resort. These included people from the arts and show that the images of the town from the end of the last century, with its seaside amusements and day trips, are unfair. The town was seen as a very respectable area for many years and the number of wealthy individuals, together with an increasing number of visitors, was a major factor in the growing prosperity of the town and its environs, contributing greatly to the local economy. Some graves are of local people involved in fascinating national or world events, others were sadly killed in the conflicts of the twentieth century.

The Friends of Margate Cemetery hope that you enjoy your walk around the Cemetery and also enjoy the peace and quiet that exists within the site.

Please note that the tour will require you to walk on the grass around graves and off paths. The ground may be uneven and care should be taken and sensible walking shoes are advised.

Entering the Cemetery from the main entrance (the car entrance with the vehicle barrier) proceed up the main drive towards the Chapels. At about half way look to your right for the imposing Mercer Grave shown right.



Grave No.1 - The Mercer Grave 1819-1870

This imposing grave on the main roadway to the chapels from the Manston Road is for Captain Francis John Mercer, Master Mariner and his family. He was born on the 20th of May 1819, son of Samuel Mercer (The Younger), a member of this prosperous family of timber merchants and builders who also owned much property in the town. It might have been thought that the young Francis would have entered the family business but that was not for him and he became apprenticed to the sea. By 1841 he was part owner of the brigantine 'Harrington', the year in which his first child, Emma, was born, possibly at sea as her birth was registered in New Zealand on the 29th July. Francis John Mercer had married Arabella Newlove in 1840, she being the eldest daughter of James Newlove, owner of Margate's Shell Grotto. They had six children in total, the second youngest, Caroline (later Caroline Drewe-Mercer who died in 1922 and is also buried in the cemetery tomb) being registered as having been born 'At sea, off Cape Town' in 1851, so it would appear that Arabella often travelled the world with her husband. Francis gained his master's ticket in 1849.

Of course the 19th century was a very good era in which to be involved with deep sea shipping; fortunes were made. By the mid 1850's when still a relatively young man, Captain Mercer had left the sea and begun a business career ashore, investing his money in a shipping agency, in which he was an equal partner. Trading as Falconer & Mercer, the firm had London offices at 123, Leadenhall Street, where for several years they had been loading brokers for clipper ships operating between the Thames and Table Bay, South Africa. In 1853, the Union Line of steamships was formed, having previously operated as the Union Collier Company. In 1856 the Union Line's office was at Oriental Place, Canute Road, Southampton. Thomas Hill was appointed as Agent and most interestingly, George Yeates Mercer, brother of Francis, named as Secretary. By 1858 Falconer & Mercer had been appointed London Agents for the Union Line, which had inaugurated its first South Africa mail run with the steamship 'DANE', which arrived at Cape Town on the 29th October, 1857, after a 44 day voyage.

By 1872 William Falconer had left the business which then traded as F.J.Mercer and moved its office in that year just a short distance to No 11 Leadenhall Street. In that same year George Yeates Mercer was Southampton Manager of the Union Line and it is obvious that close business ties between the two companies were maintained. In fact, in 1877, Francis Mercer's office was taken over by the Union Line when it moved its administration to London. The main

competition of the Union Line on the South Africa run was the Castle Line, the companies merging in 1900 to become the Union-Castle line.

Retiring around 1878, the Mercers took up residence at Elmhurst, Bedonwell, Erith, Kent where Francis died on the 4th January 1889, his body being transported back to his old home for interment. Inscribed under his name on the obelisk is this fitting requiem for a sailor :- "Through storm and tempest passed, a haven found at last". Arabella outlived Francis, passing away on the 6th October 1893. She too lies at rest in the Margate tomb and under her name is inscribed :- "At rest, life's troubles o'er, we trust in God and weep no more".

From an article by Mick Twyman researched by John Acheson, Alf Beeching and Alan Ricketts

From the Mercer Grave continue up the main drive to the Chapels and turn left and take the left hand fork in the path. Continue along the path as it changes from tarmac to grass. About halfway down this path as it heads back to the main entrance, look to your left for a plot next to the path with a low metal rail around it and with some larger Celtic cross gravestones behind it – one being quite large and impressive. Immediately behind these is the grave of Thomas Selby Egan.

Grave No.2 - Thomas Selby Egan – Cambridge University Boat race Coxswain

This grave is not one linked to any of the notable local figures, the number of whom increased as the local town grew, but rather to a successful sportsman who felt that he would see out his retirement on the coast in the sea air of Margate.

The inscription on the base of the cross on this grave states that Thomas Selby Egan was born on Christmas Day 1814 and died on 11 May 1893. Below this it states that he was the Cambridge University Boat Race Coxswain for the years 1836, 1839 and 1840 and also that he was an Umpire at the Henley Regatta for 12 years. Local researchers have found that the first university boat race took place in 1829 and was won by Oxford but the next race did not take place until 1836 when the boats competed over a course between Westminster and Putney Bridges. This was won by Cambridge, so Mr Egan was the first coxswain to secure victory for Cambridge. Further research has found that he was the son of John Egan and had been born in London. He was admitted to Caius College Cambridge University on the 29 June 1833 and matriculated at Michelmast the same year. He was made a Bachelor of Arts in 1838 and a master of Arts in 1842. He was also incorporated at Oxford in June 1852 and was involved in



training their boat race crew who very fortuitously managed to win the event that year. He was known as 'The Aquatic Coach' during his University days and his services were much in demand by both Cambridge and Oxford crews. Following the success of Oxford in 1852, Egan is recorded as having been elected President of the Cambridge University Boat Club in 1853-54, training their crew for the Boat Race in 1853 and again in 1858. However, he surpassed himself in 1856 when he somehow managed to suppress any partisan instincts which he may have harboured by training both crews! Besides his boat race expertise it is evident from research that he was fluent in German and Spanish, translating books. He was so well regarded that the Cambridge crews presented a lifeboat to the RNLI in his honour. The 'TOM EGAN', a 32 foot self righter, had been put on station at Tranmore, Southern Ireland in 1865. Serving at that station until 1880 she launched on service 11 times and was instrumental in saving 65 lives. By 1891 Mr Egan appears on the local census residing at the lodging house of Harriette M Powel, a widow, at 42, Marine Terrace, Margate where he was listed as single and a lodger.

For the next grave retrace your steps on the grass path towards the chapel. Look for the Hatfeild Grave – a cross on a four step pedestal base with railings and kerbstone (recently refurbished) and passing to the left of it to a gravestone lying on the ground. This is the Gravestone of Sir William Quiller Orchardson.

Grave No.3 - The Orchardson Grave

Sir William Quiller Orchardson 1832-1910

William Orchardson was born 1832 in Edinburgh. His father was Scottish but his mother Austrian and this is the origin of 'Quiller' in his name. He entered the Trustees Academy in Edinburgh in 1845, a famous arts institute for the art world. He was noted immediately for his natural talent and had a sketch exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in 1848. However he seems to have either had insufficient drive or been easily diverted as many studies by him remained unfinished.

He moved to London in 1862 until 1865, sharing his accommodation with John Pettie, Tom Graham and C. E. Johnston at 37 Fitzroy Square. He had a skill in painting interpreting some of the foremost literary work of famous writers such as Shakespeare. His output was prolific and his standards became well respected by the art world. In 1880 he produced perhaps his best known work, the atmospheric 'Napoleon on board the *Bellerophon*' (see below). This is owned by the Tate Gallery but is currently on show at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich.

In 1873 he married Ellen Moxon and the couple had four sons and two daughters. But the local link came when the family moved to Westgate-on-sea to their second home at Ivyside. There he built a studio and produced some of his greatest works. He had always been a keen sportsman and built a tennis court at Westgate. In 1907 he was knighted for his contribution to art. He passed away on 13th April 1910 but had expressed a wish to be buried in Thanet where he had spent so many happy years. Prominent members of the art establishment attended the funeral. Strange that he received so little recognition, when he was a resident in Thanet longer than Turner!



From the Orchardson Grave return to the front of the Hatfeild Grave and look to the graves to the right fronting the path. This is the grave of Major Mervyn Cobb and to the rear are a series of graves relating to the Cobb family.

The Cobb Family

Major F Mervyn Cobb was a member of a prominent local family who were involved directly in the growth of Margate. Major Cobb was a member of the 6th Thanet Home Guard who joined the territorials in 1938 and a photograph in the Isle of Thanet Gazette shows him as the second in command, Winston Churchill was the Honorary Colonel. However this grave is only one of the family who had so much influence and contributed so much to the development of Margate as a successful resort.



The Cobb's dynasty as some refer to them, started with Francis Cobb (1726-1802), a man who had good business sense and knew how to create wealth. He became known as King Cobb in recognition of his influence over the commercial, civic and philanthropic affairs of Margate. His son had been sent to Noordwyck in Holland to gain a wide commercial education and this was combined

with a period in the counting houses of Amsterdam. The Cobb business was based on three main elements, Brewing (from 1761), Shipping (from 1770) and Banking (from 1785). Francis Cobb established the brewery at a small site on Trinity Hill in 1761. Napoleon's dominance of Europe ensured a tremendous build up of military forces along the south coast from 1793 until 1815; these forces were held in readiness to repel an invasion, providing customers for the local Cobb ales. Francis Cobb the first died in 1802 but his son and grandson continued to expand his brewery and a larger impressive building was commissioned and opened in 1808. This lasted until the 1970's when it was finally demolished. By 1819 Cobb's had 49 retail outlets and Cobb's owned freeholds or their then equivalent on 43 of them. By the 1830's the barrels sold amounted to 8,600-9,800, small in comparison to the large metropolitan brewery giants emerging by then such as Whitbread's but large for a country brewer and this is easily verified by the fact that Cobb's had twice the output of the average brewery in the Canterbury district by 1822. Although Francis William entered into partnership with William and Henry Chippendale



(Coopers) of London in 1842 the growth of the London and Burton Breweries continued to expand into the country areas. By 1947 the brewery became a limited company and finally in 1968 Francis David Cobb, great, great, great, great, grandson of Francis Cobb the first, sold the brewery and the 40 public houses to Whitbread's for £320,000. The brewery itself was demolished in 1971.

However the Cobb Empire had expanded from the early foundations laid down by Francis Cobb the first. He had

been able to enter the shipping business because he had the ability to organise the essential range of services supplying anchors and cables, provisions, the salvage of wrecks, or assistance to those in distress. The brewery business provided him the capital and the successful and large business base that gave ship owners who were a long distance away a feeling of security. He had also become the deputy to the Mayor of Dover in 1769 (the Cinque Port that Margate was connected to, as a limb, until incorporation in 1857). This increased his respectability and influence and being involved with the Cinque Port organisations gave him jurisdiction over shipping matters. He also became involved in the payment of debts by passing ships, recovering the amounts from the owners with an added 5% commission. In this he was aided by the profits being realised by his brewery business and it was this financial work that led to his development of a banking interest for the family. There was also at this time a large trade with the north east of England in coal. It is this trade that presumably is alleged by some locals to be a key factor in the distinctive smell that develops in the Margate harbour area in the summer on odd occasions. The shipping trade lasted well until the development of steam ships that could travel further and faster. The Cobb's also lost the salvage and anchor supply when Trinity House was set up nationally.



Bank note photo courtesy of Spink Auction House, London

The banking business was a key part in the development of Margate. The bank when established by Mr Cobb helped finance the construction of the Pier. Francis Cobb the first had again manoeuvred himself into a position of importance as the Commissioner of the Land Tax and he had shrewdly sent his son to learn about the Dutch banking business. As a small independent bank the Cobb's issued their own bank notes and the rising importance of this business mirrored the growing importance of the bank as Margate grew as a tourist destination. The bank continued to prosper but as a provincial bank it eventually had to give way to the growing size and power of the London financial banks and in 1891 it was incorporated into Lloyds.

From the Cobb family now turn your attention back to the Hatfeild Grave itself.


Grave No.5 - The Grave of Charles Taddy Hatfeild

The Hatfeild Memorial

For almost two hundred years the Hatfeild family has played an important part in the life and development of Margate. Born in 1796, Charles Taddy Hatfeild owned land stretching from Hartsdown and Westbrook through to Tivoli and included most of Marine Terrace. The Hatfeild family jealously guarded their 500-600 acres estate and in 1846, when the South-Eastern Railway wanted to build Margate's first railway line and station on the



seafront, a difference of opinion on the price of the land led to the High Court settling for far less than the land was really worth, the new railway proving to be influential in the development of the town. Opened in 1829, the Tivoli



Gardens was, at one time, a pleasure garden providing entertainment for local residents and visitors. In 1865, now owned by Charles Taddy Hatfeild, he considered it to have become a 'resort of low company'. By 1870 the gardens were in a state of decay. The last function held within the gardens was a three-day costume fete in 1898. By 1914 the whole site had deteriorated and by August 1924 the old Margate Borough Council purchased the Hartsdown Estate including Tivoli.

Charles Taddy Hatfeild died in 1874, aged 78, and his son, Capt. C.T. Hatfeild retired from the army to live at Hartsdown where he took over the family estate. In 1885 he married Maud Harriet Sinclair Back, eldest daughter of the Rev. S. Back of Warwickshire. She bore him four sons and three daughters and proved to be a woman of extraordinary energies. The following year Capt. C.T. Hatfeild purchased Salmestone Grange from the Church Commissioners and in the ensuing years completed much and completed a programme of restoration work. It was later donated by their son, Major Herbert Sinclair Hatfeild, to the monks of St Augustine's Abbey at Ramsgate. The Hatfeild family were important landowners and benefactors to the town. In 1894 All Saints Church was built on land donated by them and land behind 'The Dog and Duck' public house was later transferred for the expansion of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital. Captain C.T. Hatfeild gave generously of his time as Justice of the Peace and Magistrate.

After the death of her husband in 1910 at the age of 73 Mrs Maud Hatfeild continued her charitable works. Such was the Hatfeild's social standing that, in 1915, Bonar Law, later to be Prime Minister, rented Hartsdown House from Mrs Maud Hatfeild for a two month holiday. Among his guests that summer were Lloyd-George, Winston Churchill and Lord Birkenhead. Tragically, Mrs Hatfeild's eldest son, Captain Charles Eric Hatfeild, was killed in action, in France, on 21st September 1918, aged 31. He was posthumously awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. Her grandson, David Maltby, was much later to die for his country in the 2nd World War whilst flying with 617 Squadron the Dambusters.

In 1919 Mrs Hatfeild was already a town councillor and J.P. By 1926 she had become the first lady Mayor of Margate and was associated with almost 20 public, social and benevolent works. It was not surprising that she offered Captain Eric Hatfeild's batman his post-war job of chauffeur in her first car - one of very few in Margate at that time. In 1922 the council purchased several acres of land from the family to build Tivoli Park Avenue, joining Westbrook

to Salmestone and Margate. In 1928 Margate council purchased and developed the Hartsdown Estate into 'Hartsdown Public and Pleasure Grounds' and later bought a further 90 acres with plans for a school and a golf course. That school is now 'Hartsdown College of Technology'. Mrs Maud Hatfeild died in 1931 and was buried here in the family grave at Margate.

In 1927, Captain Aubrey Cecil Hatfeild, the third son of Captain and Mrs. C.T. Hatfeild, married Yvonne Sydney Neame of Faversham. They moved to Hengrove, 'a small manor' which was at one time owned by the monks of St. Augustine, The Crown, Sir Henry Hawley, and the Boys family. Captain Aubrey Hatfeild invested much time and energy in his public and benevolent activities. He worked hard to help fund the old Cottage Hospital, and when the new hospital was built in St. Peter's Road, (1930) a ward was named after him. (Hatfeild Road in Westbrook was already named after the family). A county magistrate for 33 years, he was awarded the M.B.E. in 1962. A well respected Thanet dairy and arable farmer, he not only incorporated the once famous Hengrove Golf Course into the production of food for the war effort, but also commanded a Home Guard Battery and was in charge of artillery guns enplaced at The Fort, Margate. He died in 1971, aged 80 years, leaving a widow and three daughters.

Turning back towards the Chapel take a few steps to your left as you step onto the tarmac path for the grave of Dr David Price.



Grave No 6 - Dr David Price – physician to J M W Turner R.A.

David Price came to Margate for his health in 1826, having visited Ramsgate the year before. His grave is useful as it connects us to the famous artist J M W Turner whose work is causing much interest in the town of Margate currently.

Dr Price constructed a new home, Hoopers Hill House, beside the remains of the large mill which was destroyed that year except for its base. The house was on Northumberland Road, now renamed Northdown Road. Here over many years, in his consulting room, Mrs Booth and Turner (the artist) would have consulted the doctor as to their health needs. They also attended social gatherings at the house. The house, sadly, was damaged by enemy bombing in the 2nd World War and eventually demolished by the then Margate Council in 1962 after compulsory purchase. At the time of the compulsory purchase Margate Council also took over Gloucester Lodge, opposite Hoopers Hill House, which Dr Price used for his anatomical dissections and research.

The information about the house is quite detailed. It was believed to have been built by a French or Dutch builder as it had unusual inward opening windows. The exterior with pointed gables looked rather austere, but the interior was a gem of Georgian proportions. On entering the wide tessellated hall, the panelled dining room was to the left and to the right a cloakroom which was used formerly as Dr Price's consulting rooms with skeleton cupboard complete with skeleton! There was evidently some of the miller's cottage left that had been incorporated, as this original entrance provided the entrance for patients to the consulting rooms. In the main hallway a wide elegant curving staircase rose to the first floor leading to the morning room, a library and a large bow-windowed drawing room overlooking the garden. On this floor there was also a study, bedroom and bathroom and the same on the second floor, with servants' bedrooms at the top of the house. The usual domestic rooms were at the back leading to the servants' sitting room. The garden was dominated by the base of Hoopers Mill. This was a massive octagonal brick base 50 feet high and 200 feet across which remained after the top blew off in a storm in 1800. A roof had been added and it was used to store surplus furniture, bric a brac and family papers. Nothing was thrown away. Sadly the mill suffered a direct hit by enemy action. The house itself was the scene of many parties for local people, a report in the Kentish Gazette dated '26th February 1846, Dr and Mrs Price gave a most delightful entertainment in their house to a large and elegant assemblage of friends. The party broke up at about 4am.'

Dr Price seems to have been highly regarded by the medical profession and to have become virtually the first citizen of Margate by the 1850's. So some lustre was cast on the Booth's by his close connections with them, first evidenced by John Booth's will of 1832. It continued to the ends of their lives. Not the smallest token of it was the fact that Daniel John Pound joined David Simpson Price (the son of Dr David Price) as a student in Leipzig in the 1840's.

The faith that Turner had in the father is attested by the large bills which he incurred in consulting him. How much he did so between 1833 and 1847 was not stated in the litigation over Turner's will, as presumably any bills incurred before 1850 had been paid. On his way to Margate in 1847, Turner was "seized with and fell down in a fit" at Rochester and agreed to spend some time at Margate to be treated by Dr Price.

In August 1850 he had a severe attack of cholera at Deal. This seems bad luck as the great epidemic which began officially on 22nd September 1848 had then ceased and the last local outbreak was on 29th December 1849. On 15th November that year the offertory accounts at Deal record a "General Thanksgiving for the cessation of the Cholera."

How far Dr Price was interested in art is uncertain. His house, as one might expect, was adorned with works of art, including prints by Turner and of Turner. A daughter, as one might also expect, was an amateur artist. But they are distinguished from most of the other figures surrounding Turner in his last days by apparently never having any original works by him. Did that signify a lack of interest in them or a greater scrupulousness?

From the Dr Price grave, head back across the front of the chapels and take the left fork of the two paths before you. A few metres on (yards to those who are laid to rest in the site - how time changes things) look to your left as you approach a path to the left. The grave of the Poupard family is located just beside a conifer tree.

Grave No7 - Aubrey Poupard

This grave is particularly poignant and shows that even in times of war the humanity of mankind can set an example that gives hope to us that even in the darkest of times we can sometimes receive help from the most unexpected places.

During air operations over Holland on 12/13 June 1941 Aubrey had to turn back with engine failure and had to ditch into the North Sea. The crew launched their dinghy awaiting rescue. Time passed but in the heavy seas the raft capsized, but the crew managed to haul themselves onto their upturned dinghy after a long struggle. The struggle and the cold were taking their toll on the crew and things were looking bad for the men. At 7am however a German Heinkel He111 flew over them and seeing their dilemma flew towards the English coast and located a RAF Air Sea Rescue launch. After conveying the details of the story via radio he flew with the launch back to Aubrey and his crew and tipped his wing, indicating to the launch the position of the men who may have otherwise remained unseen in the heavy swell. The crew may have been concerned about the German plane as it circled initially as to whether they were 'done for'.



Sadly Aubrey did not survive the war as he was shot down and killed in action on a raid to a chemical factory. His plane crashed near Oldebroek in Holland and he and his crew are buried locally in the general cemetery. He remains one of the many young men who so sadly were to die so young in the defence of their country, but the strange rescue as a direct result of the German pilot remains an act of true humanity in such inhuman times.

From the Poupard Grave carry on along the original path heading towards the Great War Memorial in the distance but take the right hand fork by a grave at the junction of Percy and Maud Venner. Continue ahead to the imposing Surf Boat Memorial already visible as you turned.

Grave No.8 - Perhaps one of most notable memorials in the Cemetery is The Margate Surfboat Memorial.



The memorial commemorates the nine men who lost their lives on the night of December 2nd, 1897. The memorial of Carrara marble has recently been listed as Grade II by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport along with the bronze memorial statue on the seafront at Margate.

The volunteer surfboat was launched to help the sailing vessel 'Persian Empire' that was in distress in a violent storm off the Margate coast. The surfboat named

'Friend to all Nations' capsized off the Nayland rock and 9 of the 13 crew were drowned. These included

Charles Edward Troughton aged 40 – a Margate Ambulance Corps member and chief cashier at Lloyds Bank

Henry Brockman aged 50

John Dyke aged 41

George Ladd aged 38
Edward Robert Crunden aged 31
Robert F Cook aged 24
*William Philpott Cook aged 54
William Robert Gill aged 35
*William Philpott Cook junior Aged 28
(*sad to note that the tragedy took both father and son)

The survivors were

John James Gilbert who died in 1931
Joseph William Epps died 1931
Robert E William Ladd died 1951
John Brockman died in 1958

The cemetery surfboat memorial was sculpted by J.Whitehead & Son of Westminster and was unveiled in April 1900

The statue on the seafront of a mariner looking out to sea by the Nayland Rock was unveiled by Mrs J.T.Friend of Northdown, wife of the High Sheriff of Kent on the 4th October 1899. The cost was £354. 3s 3d. The bronze sculpture was cast by Messrs Elkington & Co of London.

Picture of the Surf Boat taken when it had been retrieved from the sea.

Look to the right of the Surf Boat Memorial for the grave of John Richard Rolfe.



Grave No.9 - John Richard Rolfe.

This is the grave of a local man who is now recorded nationally in the Police Roll of Honour as he lost his life during police service when he perished at a fire on the premises of George Mence Smith, Market Square, Margate, on January 23rd 1905. The shop owners paid for the memorial in recognition of



his bravery. The fire started at 1.20am on the morning of Monday the 23rd of January 1905. The shop contained quantities of paraffin, turpentine, methylated spirits, linseed oil, matches and candles. Mr Richard Haddon, 51 year old manager, lived on the premises with his wife Mary Ann, 48, his 16 year old daughter Dorothy, son Harry Bayley and servant Alice Steadman, aged 19. Hearing cries for help Constables Lepper, Creed and Rolfe rushed

from the nearby Police Station. They saw Mr Haddon wearing his nightclothes standing in the doorway of number 17; number 18 was burning fiercely. Once Mr Haddon had summoned help he darted back through the flames to rescue his wife and family, closely followed by Constable Rolfe. Mr Haddon, finding escape through the shop impossible, got his wife and daughter to the middle landing of number 18 where they would be able to drop from a passage window, about 14 feet, onto the lower roof of number 17. Mr Haddon went first, followed by his wife. While he was attempting to break his wife's fall his daughter jumped and landed on top of them, breaking his arm, and three of his wife's ribs with Dorothy suffering serious head injuries. Meanwhile, Constables Creed and Lepper, with help from Mr George Miles of the Crown Hotel, Mr T Stroud of the Wellington Hotel and Mr. J Crowther a fruiterer of 7b Market Place who obtained a ladder and raised it against the side of the wall, found Mr Haddon with his wife and daughter on the roof; the rescue party then helped them to the ground. Harry, the son, managed to escape through the front entrance of number 17 and the servant Alice made her escape via the rear entrance. Mr and Miss Haddon were taken to the Crown Hotel, Mrs Haddon was taken to the premises of Mr Crowther; they all received medical attention. But Mr Haddon re-entered the building and was

followed by P.C. Rolfe. Once inside P.C. Rolfe asked Mr Haddon if he had a light, as the smoke was so thick, Mr Haddon turned up the gas light, but it would not burn, so that indicated that there was very little oxygen in the building. Mr Haddon heard P.C. Rolfe stumble, he warned him to be careful and that was the last he heard of him. It seems that when Mr Haddon turned off the stairs onto the middle landing, P.C. Rolfe made his way to the top floor to see if anyone was there and was almost immediately overcome, as the heat and fumes were trapped at the top of the stairwell, with no outlet. The Fire Brigade received the call at 1.22am and were on the scene at 1.30am; Mr Haddon had managed to vacate the building and reported to them that there was no one left on the premises, mistakenly believing that P.C. Rolfe had made his way out. The fire was under control remarkably quickly, but in the confusion it was not until well after 2am that P.C. Rolfe was missed. Two firemen entered the building and found him lying on his back on the top of the landing, grasping the banister, calling for help. They took P.C. Rolfe out to Newbys Place and tried artificial resuscitation. The Police Surgeon arrived and had him taken to the Police Station where he carried out a full examination and pronounced him dead at 3.15am, asphyxiation being the cause. The poor man had been due to marry in three months time.



This is a postcard issued for P.C. Rolfe's death and was typical of the period for such sad circumstances.

Turn around from Richard Rolfe's Grave and opposite the Surf Boat Memorial you will see the Grave of George Baker. George Baker is the first grave you visit in this section who died as a result of a tragic accident.

George William Baker 1888-1921

Opposite the surf boat memorial is the Baker family plot. On the headstone you will see the name of Engineer Lieutenant George William Baker RN of H.M. Submarine K5. He was 33 years old at the time of his death but sadly his body does not lie in this grave. The circumstances leading to his death date to



the 20 January 1921 when HM Submarine K5 sailed from Torbay as part of the fleet bound for Spain, which included the cruiser H.M.S. INCONSTANT and submarines K8, K9, K15 and K22. It was decided to conduct a mock battle in the Bay of Biscay and the vessels split up to take their positions. A signal was received from K5 that she was diving but she failed to reappear at the end of the exercise. An hour before dusk a battery cover from a 'K Class' boat was recovered and the next

morning a sailor's ditty box was found – the last trace of K5.

K5 was one of the notorious K Class steam submarines. She was launched on the 16th December 1916 and completed in 1917 at Portsmouth Dockyard. She carried a crew of 57 (6 officers and 51 ratings). The K Class had a very unfortunate record in service, with many of the boats being lost to accidents. Their two oil-fired boilers required not only funnels but air intakes. In the words of a contemporary submariner they had, "too many damned holes" and it took nothing much in the way of debris to foul the watertight covers as they closed over these as the boat dived, letting in the ocean – a fatal flaw in submarine design for which scores of submariners paid with their lives. The boats were large at 2,650 tons and 338 feet long and extremely unwieldy and had it not been for the stubbornness of their champion Admiral Fisher would have been withdrawn and scrapped.

(from an article by Chris Sandwell, with additional research by John T Williams and Mick Twyman)

A little walk is now required. Retrace your route back to the Chapels. After passing the Poupard Grave and the next four grave stones, but just before the 2 large Pine trees turn right into the plots and head straight for about 16 paces to find the Jarman Grave.



Grave No.11 - William Jarman

The growing town of Margate at the turn of the 20th Century was offering those with good business sense a chance to make a reasonable living. The grave of William Jarman is of one such man. Typical of the period you will see that he contributed into the local community.

William Jarman was a local business man who founded the Fernlea Dairy in St Peters Road Margate in 1884. His two sons worked with him in the business and when he retired his youngest son, Edward Matthew took over the business. The dairy continued but had to close in 1940 when the evacuation for the war removed many customers which meant the business could not continue. The other son, William Thomas had however set up another dairy in Ethelbert Road and took over the remaining customers. Their father could be said to be a man of some note. He was a devout methodist and served as secretary of the Hawley Square Methodist Church for 40 years and at the time of his death was a trustee of the Margate Methodist Circuit. As a young man he had founded the Buckingham Road Mission Silver Band. His religious connections had no doubt brought him to the attention of the Burial Board for Margate Cemetery as he served on this before it was taken over by the local council. But like so many of




that generation he also served in other local capacities. He joined the Margate Special Constabulary in 1914 and rose to the rank of commander which he held until his death. He was awarded both the Public and Jubilee Medals. A special gold medal was also struck for him by the 'Ancient Order of Foresters', in recognition of his service.

From the Jarman Grave proceed along to the back of the Chapel used by the Friends of Margate Cemetery (left hand one as you walked up the drive at the start of the walk). At the rear of the chapel do not take a path but find the large pine tree just to the rear left of the Chapel and walk onto the grave area to the left of the tree and two graves back you will find the Tennyson Graves.

Grave No.12 - The Tennyson Graves

The following is an article by Mick Twyman regarding this grave and illustrates not only the respectability of the town but also the teamwork that has been required by local historians and the 'Friends of Margate Cemetery', over many years, needed to produce this publication.





“There have been cryptic references for years (although sadly not detailed ones) that sisters of Alfred Lord Tennyson lie buried at our cemetery, but the passing of time has eroded not only the memory but also the stone and despite intensive research (not to mention crawling about in blackthorn thicket of the old part of the cemetery by our resolute and very determined ‘Legs’ Beeching) it was beginning to look as if the location of those graves had been lost forever. I am now happy to tell you that is no longer the case. The graves are found and despite the inscription being almost totally weathered away on one, we know just who it is that lies at rest beneath them. Our man ‘Legs’ had found them years ago while carrying out research and his memory told him that there were two graves side by side which were, he thought, positioned alongside the wall between the old part of the cemetery and the Crematorium, but his memory was only part correct, as his fruitless searching in the blackthorn convinced him! However he had managed to find a death notice in Keble’s Gazette after much effort (where would we without him?) which told of the passing of one Mrs Emily Jesse, on January the 24th 1887, at her home in Sweyn Road. The clue to her maiden name and relationship to Alfred Lord Tennyson was the recording of the fact that she was the second daughter of the late Reverend George Clayton Tennyson, LL.D., Rector of Somersby, County of Lincoln, he being Alfred’s father. She was 74 years old when she died. Further searching by our man in the Keble’s Gazette revealed an article on her life, which had been in ‘The Athenaeum’ magazine of the 29th January. It told how she had been Emily Tennyson and that she had been intending to marry Arthur Hallam, but some years after his untimely death she had married Lieutenant Jesse, Royal Navy, a man who had been on the Polar expedition of Sir John Ross and who was described as a brave man who had also distinguished himself by saving life on the sea. After living in various places on the Continent, he was seconded to the Coastguard at Tenby, where he became Captain then Commander Jesse. The couple afterwards lived at Hampstead, Carshalton and Margate.

We were very fortunate that our good friends and Society members Vera Jenkins and Reg Currie, who are also stalwart volunteers of the Cemetery Trust, took a keen interest in the search for the graves and it was Vera who told me that of Emily Jesse was located – not where Alf Beeching had thought it was, but adjacent to the Chapel headquarters of the volunteers! So we were halfway there and if Alf was right in his recollection, the grave of the other sister should be close to hand. With consummate dedication to the task in hand Vera lay flat on her back in the mud for me (what a pest I am!) and

peered under a stone which was leaning forward at an acute angle in order to try and read the inscription. First results seemed promising as she thought the stone bore the word Jesse and with the help of Reg and another volunteer, Tom Watson, the stone was laboriously uprighted. Sadly, it turned out that the 'Jesse' was really 'Jesus' once it was in a readable position, so it was back to the drawing board and the scanning of other adjacent graves. Then a stroke of luck occurred! 'Legs' had told me that he remembered from twenty years ago that the married name of the other sister was Ker and there was a stone nearby to the Jesse grave which although badly weathered and almost now devoid of script, still bore that name! Thanks to Alf and his researches we are now able to recover what that inscription once stated :- 'In Loving memory of Mary Ker who died at Margate on April 4th 1884 aged 73 years. Wife of the Honourable Justice Alan Ker, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Jamaica and eldest sister of the Poet Laureate'. So there we have it, just a few yards from the chapel base of the volunteers who work so hard to keep the Cemetery accessible lie buried two sisters of Tennyson!

The word 'Puisne' comes from the French and means chief or all-powerful, which means that Mary Tennyson had married the top Judge of Jamaica. At the time of her death she resided in Dalby Road, not far from her sister's house. Alfred Lord Tennyson was created Poet Laureate in 1850 and remained as such until his death in 1892. Had it not been for the teamwork displayed by all concerned this information would not have been recovered, but now visitors can be shown the exact spots where the Tennyson girls lie and another little piece of history is recorded for posterity."

Retrace your steps back to the chapel and facing it turn right and take the first path to your right (alternatively find your way to the right from in front of the Tennyson Graves). Amongst a dozen graves under the canopies of the trees on the left hand side is one grave set back on the second row with a small cross on the top and four columns supporting the columns of the main memorial. This is the grave of George Yeates Hunter.

Grave No.13 - The grave of George Yeates Hunter

This is the grave of the first Mayor of Margate. Born in Margate on 31st January 1795 son of Dr Robert Hunter. George was a visiting Surgeon to the Sea Bathing Infirmary and at the time of his death was a consulting surgeon

therein. He was a highly thought of physician and a Fellow of the Royal college of Surgeons. In addition, he was a Justice of the Peace for both Margate and the Cinque Ports. He took over his father's medical practice in 1815. He was Liberal in his politics and took an interest in the reform agitation of 1832. He laid the first stone in the "Royal Crescent" and was actively involved in the construction of the Seaman's Observatory and the erection of Trinity Church (1829) and schools.



Hunter was keen to have the local Jarvis landing stage replaced by a more substantial structure and worked to create this and drove the first pile of the landing pier on 3rd May 1853. He held a connection with the 'Pier and Harbour Company' and on the 23rd November 1836 he became a 'proprietor'. In April 1837 he was elected as Chairman until he resigned in 1860. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the Water Works Company and laid the foundation stone of the high level reservoir.

He served as an old Commissioner under the Local Government Act and a prominent member of the Local Board from its formation in 1851. A parish doctor and was much favoured by the poor he visited. In 1849 the firm of Hunter and Thornton was established. In his youth he had been a keen botanist and had a great knowledge of natural history. Trustee of Alexandra Philanthropic Home and the Philanthropic Society. Married the daughter of W M Cobb Esq.



In 1857 he was elected as Chief Magistrate (Mayor) until 1859. He was re-elected in 1865 and died 'in office', after a severe illness.

Mayoral picture of George Yeates Hunter (courtesy of Margate Charter Trustees)

Turn around from George Yeates Hunter and you will see a family plot area with low railing around it. These are the family graves of the Friend family including Major J H Friend.

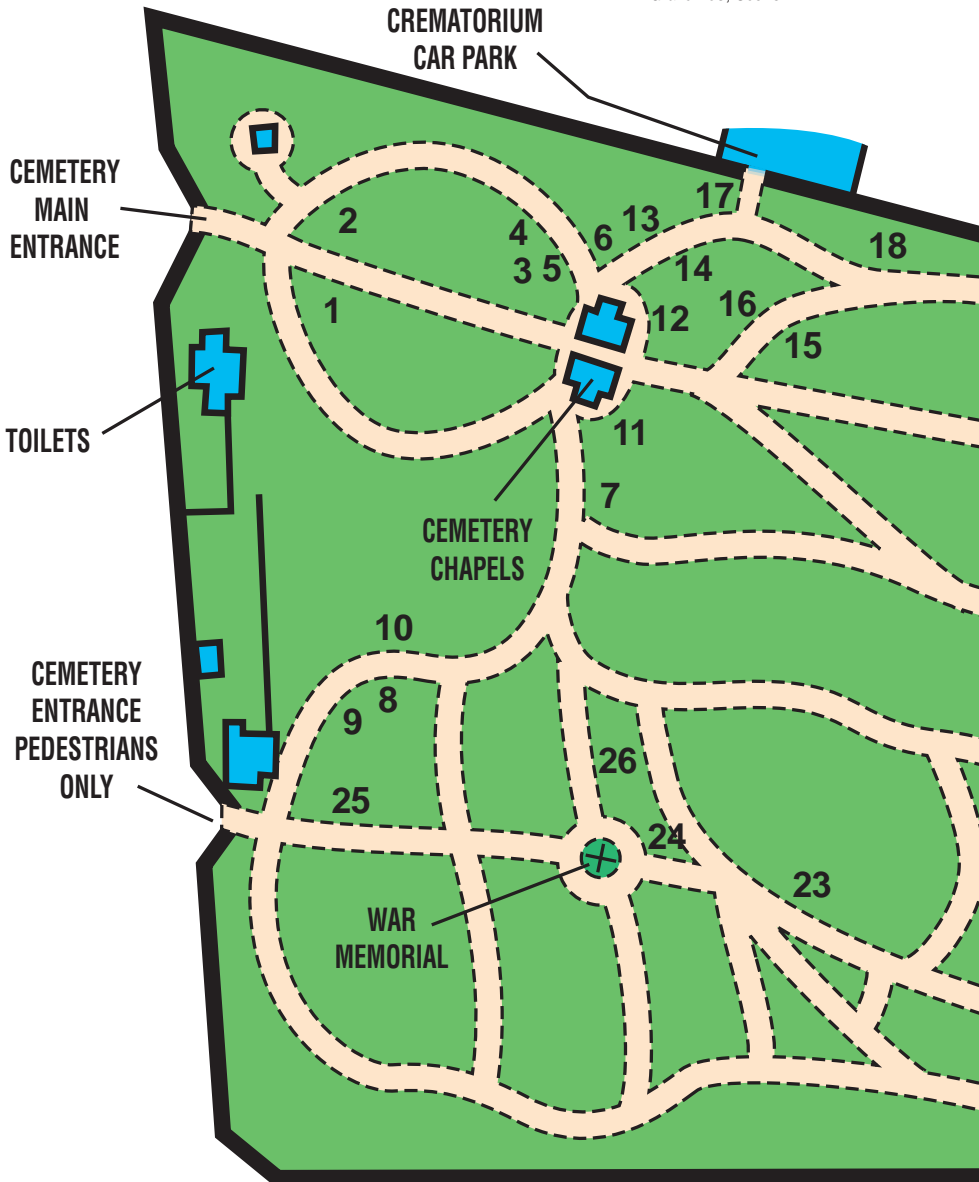
Grave no 14 - Major J I H Friend

Born in 1885 James Irvine Hatfeild Friend was one of a long line of Friends who had owned the Northdown Estate for over 500 years. He was born in Northdown House currently owned by Thanet District Council. He started farming in 1903 and was the first Kent man to gain the world championship with a sample of grain of barley grown at Northdown in 1929.

He was a member or often Chair of many local groups such as Chairman of the Thanet branch of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men. He worked in and for the local community and was a Ramsgate County Magistrate. His membership of committees has been calculated at 32 for Thanet!

He was a member of the East Kent Yeomanry, saw active military service in France and Gallipoli and was awarded the Military Cross. He served in the Buffs from 1939 to 1942 and was on guard duty at Manston during the Battle of Britain. In the event of an invasion he had been selected to lead the local resistance groups in the area.

1. The Mercer Grave
Graves Nos. 214, 215, 194,
195, 198, 199, Section D
2. Thomas Selby Egan
Grave 444, Section C
3. The Orchardson Grave
Grave 185, Section E
4. The Cobb Family
Grave 163, Section E



5. Charles Taddy Hatfield
Graves Nos. 171, 176, 177,
Section F
6. Dr. David Price
Graves Nos. 738, 739, 742,
743, 744, 754, Sections F & G
7. Aubrey Poupard
Grave 849, Section H
8. The Surf Memorial
Graves Nos. 13031, 13030,
13029, 13028, 13027, 13026,
12970, 12971
9. John Richard Rolfe
Grave 13025, Section XXXVIII
10. George William Baker
Grave 13095, Section XXXVIII
11. William Jarman
Grave 1227, Section H
12. The Tennyson Graves
Graves Nos. 1217 & 830,
Section H
13. George Yeates Hunter
Grave 786, Section G
14. Major J.I.H. Friend
Grave 866, Section G
15. The Sanger Plot
Graves Nos. 879, 878, 877,
876, 875, 874, 872, 871, 813,
866, Section I
16. Courtauld Family
Graves Nos. 1017, 1035, 1002,
1015, Section I
17. Thomas Dalby Reeve
Graves Nos. 106, 117, 118,
129, 130, Section J
18. Thomas "Toby" Phillpott
Grave 315, Section K
19. Dr. William Knight Treves
Graves 2390, Section P
20. Stanley Charles Logan
Grave 21203, Section LVII
21. Flight Officer P.E. Barton
Grave 16246, Section L
22. Alfred Reitzig
Grave 15031, Section L
23. Leslie Fuller
Grave 7943, Section XXII
24. Needle Monument
25. George Augustus Cleveland
Grave 12643, Section XXXIX
26. Edmund-Leonard George Betts
Grave 10305, Section XXXV



It was during his lifetime that the Friend family surrendered ownership of much of their land on which the Palm Bay estate has since been built. The main house passed to the Council and much of the grounds now remain open as Northdown Park for general public enjoyment. Major Friend was given an OBE in 1935 and died in 1955.

Northdown House



Proceed along the path and you approach a tarmac section. If you look to your right you will see the John Sanger's tomb just back on the path coming to meet yours.

Grave No.15 - The Grave of 'Lord' John Sanger

With an increasing number of residents and many of considerable means the opportunities were now rising for the entertainment business that would prove to be a continuing force in the local economy. The graves of the Sanger family are well known to many Cemetery visitors. The fine horse in memory of John Sanger (1815-1889) is an incredibly imposing memorial as well as demonstrating the wealth that could be made from entertainment.

Another memorial is to 'Lord' George Sanger (1827-1911), former owner and developer of the 'Hall-by-the-Sea' and the 'Palace Theatre', Ramsgate (opened 1883). George Sanger's daughter Harriett married Arthur Reeve (son of Dalby Reeve, Margate) on 21st December 1873. George Sanger and Dalby Reeve



jointly developed the Hall-by-the-Sea; Sanger took the site over in February 1874, with a grand opening on 27th June of that year. Thomas Dalby Reeve died in April 1875 and Sanger purchased the freehold. The Hall-by-the-Sea became Dreamland after being purchased by John Henry Iles in 1919 for £40,000 from the daughter and son-in-law of the first owner, Thomas Reeve.

The title Lord Sanger is said to derive from a court battle between George Sanger and Colonel William Frederick Cody, known as 'Buffalo Bill'. The following is an extract from *Buffalo Bill's British Wild West* by Alan Gallop (Sutton publishing). "In the wake of the Wild West's London success, a small-time British touring circus owner called George Sanger had put together an entertainment called 'Scenes from Buffalo Bill's Wild West' using one or two real buffalo, two or three unreal Indians, some mules and a rickety stagecoach.

While imitation might be a form of flattery, the partners were worried that Sanger's use of the phrase 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West' in publicity material made his show appear suspiciously like their own. They were concerned that an inferior entertainment was being passed off 'in such a manner as to induce public belief that the representation was that of the plaintiff'.

Legal advice was sought and the partners (Buffalo Bill and Nate Salisbury) were forced to take out an injunction to stop Sanger using the phrase. He agreed – then continued using the phrase hoping that no one outside of London would notice. But they did.

The case of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Company versus Sanger came before Mr Justice Kekewich on 30th August, 1887, when the circus owner told the court he had pasted notices over his posters stating that his Wild West show had no connection with the London version. He claimed that he did not intend to mislead the public.

The Judge ruled that while Cody and Salisbury were entitled to exclusive use of the words 'Buffalo Bill', they had no claim over the words 'Wild West'. Sanger was permitted to continue using the phrase, provided he continued pasting notices over his posters denying connection with the real Wild West show. Sanger was given a week to alter his advance publicity material. If he failed to make the alterations, he would be held in contempt and brought back to court. Bill and Salisbury picked up the court costs, but kept close watch on Sanger's publicity campaign. A week later, the 'unscrupulous' circus owner was still trying to pass his show off as the genuine article and was hauled back before the court and fined £100. This time Sanger paid the court costs. The case brought him a certain notoriety which he later capitalised on, changing his name to 'Lord' George Sanger and creating a large circus empire which toured successfully for many years."

From research notes of John T. Williams.



Opposite the Sanger Grave you will find the Courtauld family graves.

'Lord' George Sanger complete with top-hat the typical showman of the time.

Grave No.16 - The Courtauld Grave

During the research for this publication it has been surprising the links that have come to light with those interred with the famous. The following article by Alf Beeching is a good example.

'Elizabeth and Samuel Courtauld' - Whilst browsing through the archive of the Isle of Thanet Gazette recently, being engaged in research for the magazine*, my eye was caught by a small paragraph in the news columns for January 1932. The article recorded a private funeral which had a short while previously taken place at Margate Cemetery, but it was the name of the lady who had been interred which caught my eye – Elizabeth Courtauld. Now, the Courtauld family has a very special place in the industrial history of this country and an equally illustrious one in the world of culture, being great patrons of the worlds of art and music. The Courtauld family were descended from Huguenots who arrived in this country towards the end of the 17th century. Originally to be found making their living as silversmiths in London, one member of the family, Samuel, set-up a silk manufacturing business around 1816. The business prospered, making a huge amount of money out of the funeral business by servicing the demand for the black silk and silk crepe so beloved by the Victorians, who turned mourning into its own art form. But times changed and early in the 20th century the company diversified to become pioneers in the manufacture of the new artificial textile, Rayon. This astute move saw the company soar to new heights, as did the family fortune.

Samuel Courtauld was born in 1874 and after education at Rugby, was sent abroad to study the production of textiles. On the 20th June, 1901, he married Elizabeth Theresa Frances Kelsey, born 1875, only daughter of Edward Lewis Kelsey, of Regent Street, London. Elizabeth was well known in music circles and had been a generous benefactress to several orchestras and the couple's honeymoon in Florence awakened in Samuel a deep interest in art. Together, the couple immersed themselves in enriching the cultural assets of this country. Totally impressed by a viewing of the Hugh Lane collection at the Tate Gallery in 1917 and riveted by the works of Impressionist artists such as Manet, Gauguin, Renoir, Cezanne, Degas etc., his collection grew with his wealth and he also bestowed a gift of £50,000 to the Tate in 1923, a huge sum of money then, to buy similar works of art for the nation. Throughout the 1920's the couple amassed a vast collection, but in 1929 whilst on holiday in Canada, Elizabeth was taken very ill. Diagnosis proved that she was suffering from the early stages of cancer. This was a very difficult period for business



too, with the Wall Street Crash and American legislation altering the face of international trade.

Elizabeth's illness steadily worsened and she passed away on Christmas Day, 1931, at their London home, 20, Portman Square. Elizabeth had expressed a wish to be buried at Margate Cemetery, where there were family connections and at her funeral on the 29th December, there were only a handful of mourners, with Samuel being joined by a few family members and friends, including the Courtauld's son-in-law R. A. Butler, destined to rise to high political office in this country. His wife's death had a huge impact on Samuel, who established the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. As well as giving the institute the lease on his Portman Square House (built by Robert Adam 1774) which he and Elizabeth had bought in 1926, he also gifted them money and a large proportion of his own art collection. The Portman Square house had been the residence of the Dowager Countess of Home and to mark the memory of Elizabeth, Samuel, who had always supported young, contemporary artists, set it up as an international centre known as the Home House Society, its function being the participation by artists, art historians, critics etc., in order to further the cause of art by their involvement. This came to be known eventually as the Samuel Courtauld Trust, which inherited most of the remainder of Samuel's collection at his death.

Samuel was a passionate devotee of the principle of the civilising influence of art and expended a lot of energy in making it accessible to the public. As such, he was a Trustee of the Tate Gallery between 1927 and 1937, and also Trustee of the National Gallery between 1931 and 1947. He had to battle not only business competitors in the mid-1930's but also his own board, whom he accused of being complacent and failing to meet the demands imposed upon the company by a changing world and in 1938 things came to a head when he confronted them. But war intervened and it was not until after the hostilities that he got his way.

In 1946 Samuel became very ill and in October he was forced to resign from the Chairman's seat of the board, although he remained a member. His decline in health was steady and on December the 1st, 1947, he passed away. He was quietly brought to Margate and laid to rest near his wife in the Kelsey family plot, where are also the graves and memorials to her parents, Elizabeth and Edward and her brothers, Arthur, Pryce and Edward along with other relatives. The locating of the Courtaulds here, both buried quietly without fuss, was totally unexpected. How pleasing it has been to be able to put them



and their graves, now cleared of vegetation, back onto the map.'

*Margate Historical Society

Photo of the Courtauld headstone – the family members Elizabeth and Samuel are recorded on the gravestone to the right at the rear of the grave.

Retrace your steps to the grass path you had just left and you will see the gravestones of the Reeve family just to the right and close to the path that leads to the Crematorium.

Grave No.17 - The grave of Thomas Dalby Reeve

This is one of a rather stark series of gravestones for the Reeve family. Thomas Dalby Reeve was a past Mayor of Margate and owner of the Reeve Mineral Water Factory. He also developed much of what is now Cliftonville



and his name is used in one particular site – Dalby Square. He was associated with 'Lord' George Sanger from 1873 when his son Arthur married Sanger's daughter. Thomas Dalby Reeve also achieved political office and is pictured over page when he was Mayor of Margate from 1873-75. There is also a large oil painting of him also on display in the Margate Mayors parlour.

Photo of Thomas Dalby Reeve when Mayor of Margate (courtesy of Margate Charter Trustees)

Turn right from the Reeve graves and head towards the paved path to the Crematorium car park but turn right before going through the gate and follow the graves against the wall and perimeter bushes. After a few metres you come to the grave of Thomas Philpott (about the 4th grave along).



Grave No.18 - The Margate Bellringers Grave - Thomas 'Toby' Phillpott



In the second year of the cemetery it saw the burial of Toby Phillpott the Margate Town Crier. His grave, situated close to the wall of the Crematorium gardens has a rhyme now almost illegible but which once read:

*My Bell I sound to please the Belles
Who visit Margate Town
Which far excels all other bells
For metal and renown*

On the top of the headstone there is also a Latin inscription which translates as 'The Bell is silent'. Thomas 'Toby' Phillpott, known as the Margate 'Bellman' was appointed in 1814, the year before the battle of Waterloo. He resided at Lombard Street within the old Town area of Margate. His duties were to convey all the important news to the townsfolk. It seems a complete world away from the immediacy of e-mails and news flashes that can inform us of things that are happening on the other side of the world within seconds! Toby insisted on giving his announcements his own personal touch by making them in rhyme and he published several editions of his own compositions under the title 'The Margate Bellman'. Writing of his visit to Margate when he had seen Toby, Charles Knight described the resplendent figure of 'Toby' in his blue coat, gilded buttons, red collar, gold lace and gold laced hat. Toby died on the 15th April 1857 aged 83. He carried out the duties of 'Bellman' for a period of 43 years. He was succeeded by John Richards who held the post for 13 years, dying in 1871. The last bellman of Margate was Dick Tappenden who died in 1898 and is also buried within this cemetery.



It is now a little walk to the next grave. Continue along the wall in the same direction as before and past a narrowing of the brambles and bushes. (These areas and the growth along the wall are being deliberately kept to provide refuges for the birds and other wildlife that make the Cemetery their home. They are now monitored by the Friends so that they do not overtake the older graves and on occasions these areas are cleared and others established to provide a number of useful nesting and habitat sites).

As the area opens up and you emerge into a grove of young trees turn to the right and get onto a grass pathway, turning left. The path closes up by a little group of graves and these are for the Treves family. The Grave of William Knight Treves is the larger cross on the three step pedestal.

Grave No.19 - The Grave of Dr. William Knight Treves F.R.C.S.

This is another grave indicating the importance of the medical profession in the local area. There are several plots here for the Treves and family members. William Knight Treves was an eminent surgeon, the older brother of Sir Frederick Treves, medical investigator and later mentor to Joseph Merrick (The Elephant Man) and pioneer of abdominal surgery, performing a successful appendectomy, on King Edward VII in 1902, a year after he had been knighted by him. He was appointed Surgeon in Ordinary to the Duke of York in 1897 and to Queen Victoria in 1900. In 1901 he was appointed Sergeant Surgeon to King Edward VII in 1901. A man of great achievement, Sir Frederick Treves owed much to his older brother William for his inspiration.

The family came from Dorchester, where William Knight Treves was born on the 2nd of August, 1843. He studied medicine at St Thomas's Hospital and went on to become a general practitioner, but his interest in the treatment of Scrofula (Tuberculosis) led him to move to Margate, where he became the

Resident Surgeon at the Sea Bathing Infirmary, which was the national hospital for the treatment of Scrofula and also entered into private practice with William Hunter and William Thornton. In August, 1876 Frederick Treves arrived to start a five month stay at the Sea Bathing to study Scrofula and became an expert on the subject. For William Treves the life here was good, with plenty of wealthy patients to provide a high income and it was the treatment of the disease which would win him acclaim. He perfected a technique to mitigate the awful disfiguring scarring which inevitably accompanied the disease which, although seldom fatal in its external abscess form, was unpleasant in that scarring led to recovered patients being ostracised by society. In 1901, William was appointed to the post of Consultant Surgeon to the Hospital.

William was a very busy and well respected man in Margate. On the establishment of the Cottage Hospital in Victoria Road in 1876, he was appointed its first Medical Superintendent, having a ward in the extension of 1897 named in his honour. Twelve patients were treated in the first year, with only one dying. Having given up his private practice to devote his time to researching Scrofula, he nonetheless maintained his interest at the hospitals and



became District Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health. He remained in Margate for the rest of his life, his son, Frederick Boileau Treves, being a Margate Doctor also. William Knight Treves passed away on the 14th October 1908, his funeral service being attended by many medical men and dignitaries.

From an article by Mick Twyman

Follow the grass path around and you turn a bend to face the roadway coming up from between the Chapels. Take the left hand turn (just before the water tank). After a few metres take the next left and proceed straight on. You should now be heading further into the cemetery and coming into the more open and newer areas. At the crossroads by the Garden of Rest turn right and find the first grave on the left on this roadway/path. The grave you are looking for is the third one in.

Grave No.20 - The Grave of Stanley Charles Logan

This man was most famous for his being awarded the Albert Medal. A local newspaper report at the time reported ' Margate man killed in liner explosion – Only four days before Mr Stanley Logan was due to arrive home on leave at 42 Kent Road, Margate after 6 weeks at sea, his wife was told on Monday that her husband was among five seamen killed by an explosion in the engine room of the 27,000 ton liner Capetown Castle anchored off Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. He was the chief engineer.

None of the 285 passengers making the trip to Southampton from Durban in the luxury liner was hurt in the explosion which occurred a few minutes before 4am. Within a few minutes of a radio announcement of the explosion the Windsor Castle, sister ship to the Capetown Castle, was on her way to give aid. Among the engineers on board the Windsor Castle was Mr Logan's brother.

Mr Logan who was 52 years old joined the Merchant Navy after leaving school and served at sea throughout the last war. Freemason of a London Lodge, he was not a member of any local society or organisation because he was at sea for such long spells.

Apart from his widow, Mr Logan also leaves a 15 year old daughter Patricia, who is a pupil at Dane Court Technical School, Broadstairs. Only two years ago the family moved to their present Margate home from a house in Waverley Road, Westbrook.'

The date of his death was October 17th 1960

The Capetown Castle also became famous in 1965 when twenty gold ingots worth £100,000 were stolen from a temporary strong room in the ship. It was not until she arrived in Durban on her next voyage that police, who had flown out from England to meet her, found the bullion cemented into the bottoms of sand lockers on the decks and in a gap between two cargo holds. The ship also had a final note of interest when being prepared for the breakers a discovery



was made in the first class cabin on the underside of a drawer. It read "1941. Summer world cruise at the Government's expense. Wishing all who sail in Capetown Castle all that we have had ourselves. God speed. Bon voyage." It was signed by five British army NCO's who had shared the cabin.

The Albert Medal awarded to Mr Stanley Logan

Continue along the roadway/path until you reach the War Graves set against the end wall and hedge. The Grave of Flight Officer Barton is on the front row 6th grave in from the road.

Grave No21 - Flight Officer P E Barton 1917-1943

Not all war graves are the result of enemy action. This grave is most notable because the Flight Officer was an internationally renowned golfer and her death was a result of a flying accident.

This is a marker for Flight Officer Pamela Espeat Barton. Born in 1917 Pamela joined the WAAF as a wireless operator in 1941 and was commissioned after 7 months service. Prior to joining up she had been an ambulance driver in the worst phases of the London Blitz. On the 13th November 1943 Pamela was at RAF Station Detling and about to take flight in



a De Havilland Tiger Moth (DH82) MKII, piloted by a Flight Commander of No 184 (Fighter) Squadron, which was stationed there at that time. The Tiger Moth hit a 250 gallon petrol bowser in a hangar and she was killed, although the pilot may have survived. Her fame was as a golfer, being the only woman to win the British (1936 and 1939) and American Open titles twice and was undisputed world champion in her day. She was mentioned in the 'RAF Manston History' under the 1942 chapter -'The 3rd March saw the first arrivals of the new WAAF section, accommodated in the Ursuline Convent at Westgate. The Officer in charge was Pam Barton, the famous golfer. Wing Commander Gleave was glad to see them, he felt they brought a "much needed sense of normality" to the station'.

Potential picture from Gillette's sporting heroes for their centenary year

(from an article by Chris Sandwell, with additional research by John T Williams)



Go the rear of the War Graves by the hedge and turning to your left you will see to the right of the main War Memorial a group of graves that is the German War Grave section. Alfred Reitzig is the first grave on the right hand side.

Grave No22 - The Second World War arrives at Margate



The main war graves area at Margate Cemetery contains a memorial stone dedicated to Alfred Reitzig. He had been a gunner on a Heinkel He1111H on 19th of June 1940 flown by Lt H J Bachus. The plane was shot down by Flying Officer G E Ball of 10 Squadron and crashed at Sacketts Gap at 2.15am. George Eric Ball was born in Tankerton, Whitstable and lived for some time in Broadstairs. He attended Chatham House School, Ramsgate from 1931 to 1934. He survived the war but was killed in a flying accident on 1st of February 1946.

Sadly, Alfred Reitzig had his parachute snag his own tail plane whilst opening as he left the crippled aircraft and he plunged to his death on the beach.

The picture right is of local people who gathered around the plane the following day.



The pilot Lt Bachaus and the rest of the crew landed safely and surrendered to the local Home Guard who had been notified. They escorted them along with a crowd of local residents keen to see the enemy so close to hand and knowing that the British Air Force had 'downed one' – this was just before the Battle of Britain and then something of a rarity. The daily air battles that were to be seen over the south coast were still to come! The Home Guard took him to the Margate Police Station, then at The Market Place, where he was confined in one of the police cells awaiting collection by the army. Lt Bachaus saw out the rest of the war in a prison camp but returned to Margate in recent years and met one of the youth contingent of the Home Guard who had escorted him to the police cells. He recalled that when he was left locked up he suddenly realised that he had not had his service pistol removed as it should have been. Taking the pistol out of its holster he knocked on the cell door. When the flap was opened by an officer to see what this prisoner was wanting Lt Bachaus said a look of shock spread over the man's face when he showed him the gun and he recalls saying something along the lines of 'I think you need this'. A moment worthy of a Dad's Army sketch.

There are several German War Graves at the Cemetery. You will realise when looking on site that they are to one side and to the back. This is often



the case where the enemy is accorded a consecrated burial but in a less prominent place. The emotions of war dictate often that we forget that each soldier, sailor or airman are often young men, 'old men cause wars young men die in them'.

German War Graves Section in Margate Cemetery

Go back to the path/roadway close to the locked and blocked gate and look for a small path by the water tank. Take this path and follow it. You emerge onto the main access tarmac roadway. Keep heading straight on taking the tarmac path and ignore a pathway offered to the right a short distance afterwards. Go over the crossroads on the pathway and just before the next pathway crossing and as you see the Great War Memorial on a roundabout in the roadway look to your right for the grave of Leslie Fuller who is by the path.

Grave No.23 - Leslie Fuller

Entertainment continued to be a thriving business although seasonal in its nature as Margate became a popular holiday destination.



Leslie Fuller is recalled by those of more mature years as a 1930's film star. He established the 'Ped'lers' and played the Clifton Baths, Margate (now referred to as the Lido). He had Betty Fields (sister of Gracie Fields) as a member of his Margate troupe. He had been born in Hackney and started his long career as a schoolboy 'Minstrel', later playing with a troupe of buskers on Brighton beach. In 1945 he was elected a councillor for the Cliftonville ward and lived at Devonshire Gardens, Cliftonville.

The picture right is Leslie Fuller (standing on the chair) playing a book maker and was taken just before the Second World War.



No.24 - Needle Monument

Head towards the Great War Memorial but at the fork to the right you will see a needle monument with the name Painton on the base.

The monument commemorates the Burial Board and was originally situated on the central circle on a raised mound. This mound is now no longer evident but the postcards of the Surf Boat memorial do sometimes show it. It was a very fashionable feature in Victorian times, a much grander version is still very evident as you pass Canterbury's Dane John Gardens. The Margate Burial Board's meeting of September 17th 1892 decided to allow a mound of 12 feet in height with sidewalks around the top. The following meeting received a plan from Mr John Duckett who offered to provide at his own expense a Portland Stone monument pedestal surmounted by an obelisk to be placed on top of the mound, the pedestal to carry on its four faces the following inscriptions:-

1. To commemorate the long and valuable service rendered to the Margate Burial Board by Samuel J. Pointon, J.P., who has been Chairman for 23 years. (note that on site the

actual inscription reads 'was Chairman for 25 years', perhaps indicating that the obelisk was not installed for at least two years after being agreed and that Mr Pointon was now no longer Chairman.)

2. The first portion of the Cemetery containing eight acres with 8,500 grave spaces was opened in 1856.
3. This Cemetery was enlarged by an addition of ten acres with 11,500 grave spaces in 1892.
4. This monument was presented to the Burial Board by John Duckett in 1892.

It is suspected that the mound was made from chalk left surplus from grave digging. (The removal of laid down material such as chalk creates a regular surplus of material which is not needed when graves are filled and is now removed once or twice a year. Many old churchyards or cemeteries did not do this and the material is often accumulated in corners or against walls and is the reason why levels sometimes seem to be very different from outside to inside some sites.)

No mention of the mound seems to be found until 1902 when 'John Pharos' in his column in the Gazette criticises the Corporation for letting the Cemetery go wild due to them not employing enough gardeners and he specifically mentions the mound being taken over by weeds. It is next mentioned in December 1908, when the Burial Board advertise in the Gazette for tenders to remove it. Tenders received in the January resulted in a Mr Todd being offered the work for the sum of £9, very reasonable for moving what is calculated at around 45 cubic yards of spoil! The site then became vacant and a logical place for the Great War Cross that stands there today.

Continue towards the War Memorial and then over in the direction of the main gates to the Cemetery from Manston Road but this entrance being beside the Cemetery Lodge (This is a Private dwelling now and not used for the Cemetery staff.) Just before the gates, as you approach the paths coming from right and left, turn to your right and look for a grave next to the path with the name SAUER in capitals on a kerbstone. Once you have found this look three graves behind it and you will see the Grave of George Augustus Cleveland.

Grave No.25 - The grave of George Augustus Cleveland

This stone marks the grave of George Augustus Cleveland, the founder of the St Georges Hotel. In its day this was one of the most prestigious hotels on the Cliftonville seafront. It was last in use by the Butlins holiday group who owned two other large hotels nearby. These have been recently demolished to make way for modern assisted retirement apartments. The future of the St Georges hotel is uncertain but it looks unlikely to ever return as a hotel.



The local press reported on the death of Mr G A Cleveland on 26th September 1909 as follows: 'We regret to announce the death of Mr George Cleveland, which occurred on June 16th, 1909, at Cliftonville. Mr Cleveland, who was born in March 1857, belonged to an old Margate family. He commenced business in Hawley Street in 1878 as a poulterer, and at the time of his death was proprietor of the St George's Private Hotel, Lewis Avenue. He served in the Cinque Port Artillery Volunteers, and took part in the plays of the Old Margate Dramatic Club in the 1870's. He was a good shot with a sporting gun, and won many prizes at trap shooting. Mr Cleveland was also a successful bee keeper, and made considerable profit from his hobby. Although not a fast swimmer, he saved the life of a boatman named Gurton, with whom he and some friends were out sailing when the boat capsized, and kept him afloat till picked up by the ketch "Mayflower". Mr Cleveland married in 1879, Emily third daughter of the late Mr E D Harlow, of Belle Vue Farm, The Dane, who survives him.'

St. George's Hotel

The view is from a postcard produced by Lewis Squire Fine Art dealer in Northdown Road and was typical of the cards sent to friends from those taking a holiday in the town. This card was sent to a Miss Poole in Streatham Hill London on 9 August 1927 by a gentleman named Gerald. He was evidently not having the best of holidays as he wrote "Dear Miss Poole, I hope you are enjoying yourself. I am not because I am in bed ill, which is not very nice on anybody's holiday is it. I hope Mr Poole is all right and I hope he is enjoying himself. Love from Gerald" and it is signed with 3 kisses.



Retrace your steps for the final time to the War Memorial and turn left. The Chapel is in the distance and as you proceed down the path you will see this distinctive grave on your right.

Grave No.26 – Edmund-Leonard George Betts

The local population after the first world war were enjoying a series of opportunities that came with the new technology of planes, cars and liners. However these came with risks that caused the death of some residents.

Edmund-Leonard George Betts ('Elgy') 1919-1938.

This is a particularly eye-catching grave with a model of an aircraft perched on top of the grave stone. It has the initial appearance of a fighter plane at



first glance but is more mundane and relates to the sad story of the death of Edmund Betts killed whilst flying a Miles Whitney Straight G-AFEU of the Thanet Aero Club when it crashed into the sea off Cliftonville. It had taken off from the Ramsgate Airport on 17 July 1938 with both Edmund and a local 16 year old girl, Marjorie Walk, whose body was eventually recovered off Deal. Marjorie's grave is elsewhere in the cemetery with her parents. The airport at Ramsgate is now occupied by the Pysons Road Industrial Estate.

Heading back to the Chapels now you may care to see if any of the Friends are around on the site. If so you may be lucky enough to see the interior of the chapel where you will find the wall paintings.

The Chapel Paintings

The chapel paintings are the result of quick intervention by the Friends of Margate Cemetery. They were given use of the left hand chapel in the Margate Cemetery as the services for burials now take place in the right hand chapel. Having obtained a lease on the building, the 'Friends' commenced an internal redecoration only to realise that beneath the plain surface was a fairly ornate picture of angels to either side of the altar. Careful work then continued and the salvageable parts now remain for visitors



to see. Research by Mr Alf Beeching has indicated that the local press reported in 1901 that both chapels were being renovated by a Mr Gordon Hill. Mr Hill had a painting, decorating and signwriting business at 27a Hawley Square, Margate while he lived himself at Albert Terrace. It is believed that his son Edwin took over the business and operated as a signwriter at 1 Neptune Square. However, no record has currently been found to show why the angels were seen as appropriate or where the inspiration came from for the layout.

The Cemetery Grounds

The ongoing maintenance of the Cemetery is a careful balancing act and one that will never satisfy all. The Friends of Margate Cemetery and Thanet District Council are keen to preserve the longer grass and brambles in some of the areas that are home to so many plants and insects which in turn brings in the birds and animals that people enjoy seeing. Below are some of the plants, birds and insects that you may see on your visit to the site.

Butterflies

There are several species of butterflies which live and are dependent on the natural vegetation in the cemetery.

Brown Butterflies:

Hedge Brown. This is a light fawn-brown with dark brown edges to the wings and "eye-spots" near the wing-tips. Seen from July onwards.

Meadow Brown. This is larger with much less lighter brown on the upper sides of the wings. Seen from July onwards.

Speckled Wood. Found mainly in the wooded areas although will wander to the open parts. Dark brown with pale yellow-cream spots. Seen from April to June and then again in August and September.

Blue Butterflies: these are best distinguished by the colour and patterns of the undersides of the wings, seen when they settle.

Holly Blue. The undersides are a pale silvery blue with a few very small black specks. Seen from early spring to late summer. They prefer to fly up over the trees and bushes.

Common Blue. The males are blue, the females mostly dark brown. The undersides are light brown with lots of white-edged black spots. They mostly fly close to the ground on the open and grassy areas.

Purple Hairstreak. Smallish, very dark brown with shiny purple patches, the undersides are silvery grey with a thin blackish wiggly line across (the "hairstreak"). Seen in July and August. They usually stay in the tops of the trees, especially the oaks and holm oaks, on which they lay their eggs. Occasionally it is possible to catch a close up look if one comes down to visit flowers or lay eggs on low branches, but the normal view is just of small dark butterflies high up among the treetops.

Skipper Butterflies. Small, very fast-flying, light brown, the most common of which is the **Essex Skipper** (actually common all over the south-east of

England). Seen from July onwards in the grassy areas. They can be mistaken for **day-flying moths**, of which a number of species can also be seen in the cemetery. The familiar brightly coloured garden butterflies of the **Tortoiseshell** and **White** families are often seen as they meander across the site, settling on any suitable flowers.

Wild Plants in their Habitats

1. **Gravestones.** **Mosses** and **lichens** are a notable feature, although not as abundant as usual in a cemetery because of Thanet's dry climate. There is a



good range of the commoner species to be found, especially in the more sheltered and wooded places. It is worth taking a close look at the textures, shades of green and shapes of the tiny shoots of the mosses. The lichens found are mostly the sort which form intricate flat crusts, variously shaped in shades of grey, bluish green and even orange.

2. **Lawns** (short mown grass). These are the more formal areas and the surrounds of graves. Flowers here will be **common daisy**, **buttercups**,

plantains, clovers and **medicks**, which are like very small clovers with yellow flowers. One locally scarce plant lives on this habitat: the small orchid, **Autumn Lady's-tresses**. This has a single, 20cm tall stem of spirally arranged white flowers with the leaves in a flattened bunch at ground level. These leaves look very like daisy and plantain leaves on the lawn and need close mowing to compete for light. The best place to find this small orchid is on the lawns between the yew bushes lining the main driveway. The flower shoots can be seen in late August if they manage to come up between mowings!



3. **Meadows** (grass mown 2 or 3 times a year). These areas give a chance for larger plants to display their flowers, set seed and provide food for the animals: the **squirrels, rabbits, birds, butterflies,** and the many other **insects** which live

in the cemetery. These are some of the more noticeable flowers: **Oxeye Daisy**: tall and large, abundant in the early summer. **Bird's-foot-trefoils**: like large clovers with yellow flowers. **Bedstraws**: spreading plants with fine white or yellow flowers. **Yarrow**: leaves like feathers and level masses of small white flowers. **Thistles**: purplish flowers, different species have variations in the size and shape of the leaves and prickles. **Bristly Oxtongue**: like a softish thistle with flowers which look like dandelions. **Beaked Hawk's-beard**: flowers like small dandelions on branched, leafy stems.



4. **Long Grass**. There is less variety of colourful flowers but these areas are home to **mice, shrews, grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars** and many more **invertebrates**. In the early stages after grass is allowed to grow without mowing, the **False Oat-grass** becomes predominant. As time passes other species of grasses move in.



5. **Brambles, Bushes and Hedges.** These cannot be walked through, and can be unpopular, but some are allowed to grow in the cemetery as a valuable source of flowers, berries and nesting sites.

6. **Trees and Woods.** The wooded effect is a great feature of the

older part of the cemetery, giving sanctuary to **squirrels, woodpeckers** and a host of other **birds.**

Behind the chapels is a particularly dense growth of mainly young Ash trees which has developed into a proper woodland habitat. The heavy shading from the closely packed trees has suppressed the undergrowth and allowed woodland plants like **Ivy** and **Wood Avens.** There is also a large moss, the **Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss,** which although nationally common, is very rare in Thanet. Open woodland habitats

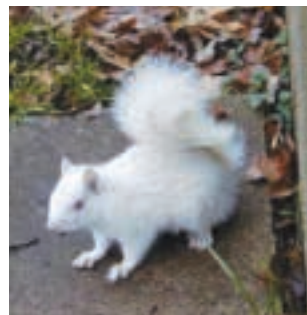


are formed where trees and grasslands mix to varying extents. A very attractive glade-like area is found by the wall to the right of the Jewish Cemetery. Although there are no water features in this part of Thanet, the late summer is a time to see dragonflies which feed on the abundant insects.



Darter dragonflies have bodies about 5cm long, coloured brown, black or red, depending on the species and age of the specimens. The **Migrant Hawker dragonfly** is a larger type, having a dark brown body spotted with green or blue. It has settled and become increasingly common in southern England in recent years.

There are a small number of albino squirrels in the cemetery that continue to breed and perpetuate this rather unusual characteristic. The photo of one of these is shown and jokes persist that this is really a ghost or a Darwinian evolutionary jump for disguising itself amongst the white marble stones!



(The Friends of Margate Cemetery are grateful to Malcolm Watling for this contribution)

From the Volunteers of The Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust

The Friends of Margate Cemetery came into being after Mrs Margaret Mortlock responded to requests from the community for a voluntary group to be formed. The formation of such a group would enable work to commence on clearing the cemetery's many overgrown areas, thus aiding people's access to the graves of family and loved ones. It was stated that visitors to the cemetery felt uneasy at going into these overgrown areas, fearing for their own safety.

An inaugural meeting was held in the Mayor's Parlour on 27th July 2000, where there was a very good attendance and the idea was put forward. A great deal of discussion on the subject followed, with argument for and against the merits of clearing parts of the overgrown cemetery. Volunteers made a commitment to give of their time and skills; thus the group was formed. Work commenced at the cemetery in November 2000 after ensuring migrating birds had flown. A considerable amount of progress has been made and the aims of the group have been faithfully adhered to. From that first meeting we still retain four of the original volunteers, making a total of sixteen hands-on volunteers.

Over the last six years we have had highs and lows - highs when we discover areas of flowers coming back to life after being covered for many decades. Watson's Walk is a good example of this. Another is when a headstone that has been hidden for years is found, especially when we are called upon to assist with a search from someone who is doing his or her family history. The lows are times when we need more volunteers to carry out the basic tasks, and times when we need money for basic tools to tackle the tasks; this is when the grant making system has to be looked into.

The most rewarding time is when we look back at a job with satisfaction, which makes it all worthwhile, especially when we are cold and wet, all sitting in the Chapel with our cold hands around a hot cup of tea or coffee, with our Historian giving us the history he has researched by chapter and verse, on headstones we have searched for and uncovered.

We have all come to an understanding that we will not need to fear being made redundant as long as we obey the rules. It has been our honour and privilege to put together this publication in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Margate Cemetery, since the first burial of Harriet Ross on 1st November 1856.

We hope you have found the content of this booklet of interest.





