

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI

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Calling all fans of that great artist Rossetti

In Birchington, we have the burial place of Dante Gabriel Rossetti – “honoured as a painter among painters and a poet among poets.”

Rossetti came to Birchington from Cheyne Walk in London on 4 February 1882, and died here on 9th April the same year, in a bungalow next to the present Rossetti Road.

It was put at his disposal by a Mr. Cobb, through the kind offices of Mr. J. P. Seddon, the architect and friend of the Rossettis.

The famous man – the founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brethren – is commemorated by a headstone designed by Ford Maddox Brown: a window in the church made from a design by Burne Jones and a recently unveiled plaque on a house in Shakespeare Road.

The grave has, however, over the course of years fallen into a state of neglect. With the approval of the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Collins, I should like to appeal to anyone interested in forming a local Rossetti Society – whose aim, as well as interest in the Pre-Raphaelite movement, would be to ensure that the grave of Dante Gabriel Rossetti is kept in order.

I would be very grateful to hear from anyone expressing interest in this matter.

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Henry Campbell beside the Rossetti grave - 1981