

MICHAEL TAPLIN

Notes originally made in 1999 (after an interview with Liz) by Jennie Burgess

Michael was born in Wembley, London in 1936 and educated at King's School Canterbury, after the family moved here in 1945. Like his father and elder brother John, he became fascinated by model making of planes and boats, particularly those that were radio controlled. He took part in the early experiments that were carried out in their garden at 'Shrublands', 23 St Mildred's Avenue, Birchington and at Minnis Bay for aircraft flying. They also frequented the pond in the Memorial Park at Herne Bay for racing their model boats.

Michael married (Marion) Elizabeth Smith (born 1936) at All Saints Church, Birchington in 1959. They had two children: David, born in 1962 (and now in Life Insurance) and Caroline, born in 1967 (now employed in an Estate Agency). He took over the management of the firm shortly before 1963, when his father died. By then, Michael was 33, while his father had been 55 when he started the business back in 1946. He was an excellent businessman and the firm went from strength to strength under his able management.

Sadly he developed leukaemia and despite a gallant battle, he died in 1976, aged just 39. The Margate Round Table (in which he was a very active member) honoured him by erecting the flagstaff in Birchington Square, with an adjoining plaque, which reads:-

"This flagstaff was erected by Margate Round Table
in appreciation and memory of Michael Taplin
Nov. 1969"

His widow Liz later married again to Brian Goodwin.