

Boating Accident 1751

In St John's Churchyard, there is a large monument in the form of an obelisk, 15 ft. high, erected in memory of the 5 young persons who drowned in Drew's Pond.



The epitaph which is now very worn with age read:-

“In memory of the sudden and awful end
of Robert Merrit and Susannah, his wife, Eliz. Tilley, her sister,
Martha Charter and Josiah Derham,
who were all Drowned in the Flower of their Youth
in a pond near this town called Drews.
On Sunday evening the 30th June 1751
And are together underneath entombed”

On another side of the obelisk is engraved the warning:-

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
This monument, as an awful monitor to young people
To remember their Creator in the days of their Youth
Was erected by subscription.”

The story goes that 3 beer coolers had been rafted together for anglers to use. Six young people had boarded them to use as a boat, the coolers had upturned and five of the young people drowned. A young man survived.

Drew's Pond is in the woods, which is now a nature reserve, near the old Roundway Mental Hospital.

