

Martha Gunn was the most famous Dipper in Brighton. Visitors who came to Brighton for the sea bathing didn't just walk straight into the sea from the beach. Covered Bathing machines were pulled out into deep water by horses and with the assistance of a Dipper (for women) or a Bather (for men) the visitors would be dipped into the sea. Martha was a very large and strong woman, which is probably why she was such a success, as standing all day in the sea is not easy, even in summer.

*'To Brighton came he,
Came George III's son.
To be bathed in the sea,
By famed Martha Gunn.,
(Old English rhyme,
author unknown)*

In memory of STEPHEN GUNN who died 4th September 1813 aged 79 years. Also MARTHA wife of STEPHEN GUNN who was peculiarly distinguished as a bather in this town nearly 70 years. She died 2nd of May 1815 aged 88 years. Also FRIEND their son who died 1st of Nov^r 1784 aged 22 years Also ELIZABETH B.L. their daughter who died 2nd of October 1787 aged 13 years. Also MARTHA the daughter who died 27th of July 1789 aged 50 years. Also THOMAS B.L. THEIR SON WHO DIED 5TH May 1798 aged 37 years