

BIRCHINGTON CARNIVAL – NOVEMBER 9TH 1898

Electing a Mayor

The Birchington Carnival Society held their annual torchlight procession on Wednesday, when the usual mock ceremony of electing the "Mayor" and "Councillors" for the ensuing year took place in the Square. Although the procession as a whole was inferior to last year, it may be taken as an explanation that the Society was asked not to let their Carnival clash with that of St. Peter's held yesterday (Thursday), and consequently many persons felt debarred from entering for the prizes, which amounted altogether to something like £6.

The procession started from the Tower Bungalows about 7.30, and proceeded along Beech Avenue, Station Road, through the Square, along the Margate Road, returning through Crescent Road and Beaconsfield Road, back to the Square, where the ceremony of electing the "Mayor" and "Councillors" was to take place. It was headed by two bicycles, braced together, with a platform between, whereon sat Miss Keen, representing "Brittania," holding in her hand a trident. In the centre sat Miss A. Wing, who was prettily attired to represent a fairy, and on the other side Miss Kate Pemble as "America."

The cyclists taking part in the procession were almost without exception riders of the Seabreeze cycles. Another lady cyclist, Miss Barton, followed in a dress representing "Winter," next came Miss Owen and Miss Nola Owen, in their character of Spanish girls. Master Osthmotherly, and Master Walker were in fancy dress, and a gentleman cyclist in a costume representing "King Charles." Mr. G. Cousins rode a bicycle, holding in one hand the Union Jack, and in the other the American Standard. Five gentlemen in various costumes and mounted on horses preceded the Royal Excelsior Band, which enlivened the proceedings by selections of music on the route.

The brake, containing the representatives of the North, South, East, and West Wards, followed the Fire Brigade, which was undoubtedly one of the best features of the procession, being decorated with flowers and evergreens. A prize is given yearly for the best trade representation and this was won by a car bearing a banner inscribed "The New Drainage; No more Typhoid." Men were engaged in the operation of excavating and preparing pipes for laying as drains. This allusion to the coming drainage works was enthusiastically received along the route and also at the declaration of its having won a prize. The procession was largely augmented by men and boys, on foot, dressed in various costumes, all more or less humorous. On the return of the procession the Mayor's carriage was drawn up in the centre of the Square, and Mr. S. Pointer, in the course of a short speech, delivered from the carriage, thanked the outgoing "Mayor" and "Councillors" for their services and he remarked upon the benefits that had occurred to the village during their year of office, and expressed the hope that the new "Mayor," Mr. Warner, (applause) and the new "Councillors," Messrs. Windor, Setterfield, R. Port, and Buddles, would do as much for the place as their predecessors (applause).

After the announcement of the chosen ones to fill the offices for the ensuing year, the band struck up "For he's a jolly good fellow," in which the crowd readily joined. Later Mr. Pointer gave the results of the competitions from the window of the "Powell Arms." For the best-make up on foot the first prize was awarded Mr. Anderson (Ramsgate), and the second prize Mr. Collenden (Margate). The prize for make-up on horse was won by Mr. T. Wing. The "Drainage Works" secured the prize for the trade representation on trolley or van, and a prize of £1 was won by the Birchington Fire Brigade for the excellent manner in which they had decorated their engine.

Consolation prizes were awarded, among others, to a prettily decorated goat chaise, and a cart from Elm Grove Laundry. Many of the shops were illuminated, the display at Mr. Cousins' Sea Breeze Cycle Factory, being one of the best. The Queen's Head Hotel was also illuminated with numerous fairy lamps. The newly elected "Mayor" will attend the "Powell Arms" on Monday evening to distribute the prizes.