

Festival takes crowds back to the golden Victorian age



Photos: Sam Potter
Nicholas Howell

EASTBOURNE had a distinctly 19th century vintage feel throughout last week as the town celebrated its annual Victorian Festival.

The popular event began on Monday (September 21) with the Winter Garden Light Fantastic, a tea dance.

Among the festival highlights was the visit of Queen Victoria, who came to the town via Eastbourne railway station and was greeted by the Mayor of Eastbourne, Carolyn Heaps, and an appropriately attired crowd of the town's great and good. Some superb, not to mention extremely tasteful, swimming costumes were also on show during a Victorian dip from a bathing machine at the Langham Hotel. And away from the water, some Victorian cyclists showed that two-wheeled travellers have always enjoyed their very own unique sense of style. The festival also included a walk around the town's Victorian gems, such as St Saviour's



Festival is a right royal affair for the town





Eastbourne mayor Carolyn Heaps, above, and 'Queen Victoria', below

