



A Mid-19th Century View of Dover Seafront

—IVANGREEN

THERE WAS no built-up front promenade, the beach reaching up to a rough gravel road in front of the newly built houses.

Note the top hatted coachman driving the horse drawn carriage, which would have been owned by a member of a privileged Dover social stratum which Dovorians called “carriage folk”, many of whom lived in Victoria Park after the houses there were built.

The two bath chairs shown were the forerunners of our modern taxis and, like them, had to be inspected and approved in the same way. The bath chair owners had to produce a reference of good behaviour, and were required to be properly dressed at all times. Failure to comply with the conditions resulted in removal of permission to ply for hire.

The low building on the left was the “Bathing Station” and a “Bathing Engine” stands outside it. Bathing was most carefully controlled, and any suggestion of undressing on the beach in the modern manner would have certainly resulted in arrest and prosecution. And of course mixed bathing was completely out of order. They certainly were stuffy days, when an outward show of propriety was by no means matched in private.