

## Birchington Square

Local communities grew around the local church. Birchington was no exception. The old church that stands on the site of All Saints Church today, was built by 1100 if not before.

Apart from the farms around the village and the manor of Quex, **there was no other development beyond the Square.** The Square is in fact a triangle, and probably always has been.

Many of the buildings in the Square have stood for several hundred years albeit most have had alterations. The church itself has altered considerably since it was first built, but not so much since the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

When the railway came to Birchington in 1863 it brought more trade as folk made their homes here.

**As time passed shops appeared, public houses and coaching inns also.** We had three in the Square, the Queens Head now converted into three dwellings, occupies an earlier pub shown on a map of 1678. The present building dates from 1850. The Powell Arms dates from the late 1500s and the **New Inn (no longer a pub) from 1840.** Station Road was a residential area but shops and businesses have taken over turning it into a 'High Street'.

In 1801 the population in Birchington was 537

In 1891 the population was 1800

In 1914 the population was 2522

In 2017 the population was 10311

The images shown here date from 1880 through to 1949. Horse traffic was joined by the early cars from around 1900. Early buses carried folk about their business. See how this area has changed as time has changed.