

## Another Rochester Crowd



The crowd scene of the first Dickens Festival pictured in the last issue of the Newsletter prompted a show of one-upmanship from our archivist who produced this postcard from the Amy Butler scrapbook.

The picture, produced by L.A. Morris of 24 High Street, and no doubt taken by him, shows just some of the huge crowd which came to witness the opening of the present Rochester Bridge on Thursday 14 May 1914.. Only a few people have noticed the camera as an early troop of Boy Scouts makes its way through the crush, carrying the staves that were then part of the Scout uniform. And not a bare head to be seen anywhere!

How did such a large and prosperous looking crowd assemble at midday on a Thursday and what could most of them see or hear?

Derek Barnard, February 1998