

ONE DAY IN SUMMER:

It's seven years since Jersey revived its Battle of Flowers - and Battle No.8 is the floweriest, gayest, and most spectacular yet. This year, there's a float from San Remo - the first foreign entry ever, which Jersey hopes will start a fashion. An Atomium is among the local efforts.

The parade isn't all floats - there are performers on foot in case you find a million flowers monotonous. But that's unlikely, with efforts like this "Carousel" - which wins the 2nd Prix d'Excellence.

The Prix d'Honneur goes to "Rocket Ride" - fifty feet long and built by 20 young farmers, on top of a bus chassis which has to travel backwards - obviously, when you think about it. And when the parade is over, the crowd has the traditional right of taking the lot to pieces.

This is one up on the Chelsea Arts Ball - at least the wreckers allow us to look at the floats first!

Back to England for a bright idea in fashion shows - a competition for the best-dressed woman on Southend front. And none of them knew they'd be competing till the last moment - for they were picked out of the crowd by the panel of judges, which includes singer Gary Miller and Film star Carole Lesley.

This how the judges worked; Derek Bond, Carole Lesley and Gary Miller cruise along the front in an open car, and when they spot someone particularly smartly dressed, one of them asks her if she'd like to take part.

Age has nothing to do with it - in fact, the winner is Mrs. Faighton who comes from Eltham, and she's beaten girls young enough to be her daughters. Just by being smartly turned out - Good for her!