**Robert Barr**

**Event with dates:** Holiday 1890

**Place:** Folkestone

**Publication(s)**Occasional articles

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/85/Robert_Barr.jpg>

In December 1889 the local journal ''[\_Folkestone\_](/19c-folkestone) *Visitors’ List and Society Journal*''reported excitedly that the humourist Robert Barr of the \_*Detroit Free Press*\_ had just arrived in London and was planning an extended stay in [Folkestone](/19c-folkestone).[[1]](#footnote-1) When Barr duly arrived in the summer of 1890 his companion was none other than the newly married and newly famous [Jerome K. Jerome], who had just published [\_*Three Men in a Boat*\_](19c-jerome-biography).As a friend of editor and journalist ‘Hal Berte’ (whose real name of John Brown somehow sounds almost more fictional than the pseudonym), Barr was quickly contributing articles to the [\_Folkestone\_](/19c-folkestone). Gently mocking the aristocratic pretensions of a town where visitors not only expected to promenade on the Leas, but to do so in the right company, Barr breezily commented, ‘It is doubtless within the memory of the nobility and gentry of Folkestone, that I spent the summer there last year. I can prove this fact, because my name appeared in the \_*Visitors’ List*\_ at the time, and if you don’t believe me you can look up the back numbers of that journal.’[[2]](#footnote-2)

Jerome would go on to co-edit Barr’s new publication \_*The Idler*\_ from 1892. While he later implied that they had had no previous relationship, he may have been remembering this very holiday in his account of [Folkestone](/19c-folkestone) in \_*Three Men on the Bummel\_* (1900). While Barr fell out with Jerome and ultimately withdrew from his editorial role at \_*The Idler*\_, he would contribute occasional articles to the Folkestone \_*List*'\_ until 1894.

**Bibliography**

[Berte, Hal]. ‘The Kaleidoscope’. \_*Folkestone Visitors’ List and Society Journal\_.* 4 December

1889. 1.

Sharpe, Luke. ‘A search for a half-crown’. '\_ *Folkestone Visitors’ List and Society Journal\_.* 27 May 1891. 9-11.

1. 4 December 1889. ‘The Kaleidoscope’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ‘A search for a half-crown’ 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)