

Factsheet 3

The history of Worthing Pier

- Designed by Sir Robert Rawlinson the Pier was opened to the public on the 12th April 1862. The original pier was 960 ft (291 m) long and the Promenade Deck was 15 ft (4.6 m) wide.
- Substantial improvements were made to The Pier in 1888 at a cost of £12000. The Promenade was widened from 15ft (4.6m) to 30ft (9.2m) and the end of the Pier increased by 105ft (32m) to allow for the construction of a 650-seater seaward end pavilion.
- Two new kiosks, one for tolls and one a bazaar, were added to replace the central tollgate.
- On Easter Monday 1913 gale force seas battered and destroyed the promenade leaving the Pavilion isolated in the water. Local people renamed the Pavilion "Easter Island."
- The repaired Pier was re-opened by the Lord Mayor of London on the 29th May 2014..
- The Worthing Corporation purchased the pier for £18,978, in 1920 when work started on a shoreward end pavilion. Designed by Adshead & Ramsey the new 1000-seater shoreward end pavilion opened on the 26th June 1926 and became the permanent home of The Worthing Municipal Orchestra.
- The remaining sections of the 1888 Worthing Pier were destroyed by fire in 1933.
- The Pier was re-opened to the public in 1935 at a cost of £18000.
- In 1937 a central amusement pavilion was added and windshields were erected down the sides of the Promenade.
- In 1940 the Pier was sectioned for fear of a German invasion. During World War II parties and cinemas shows were put on at the Pier for The Allied troops.
- The Pier re-opened to the general public in 1946.
- In March 1958 the shoreward end pavilion was refurbished and in 1959 the adjacent Denton Lounge was added.
- In 1963 an information kiosk at the shoreward end caused considerable local controversy as its style was not in keeping with the other buildings.
- The shoreward end buildings were closed between 1979 and 1982, as major restoration work on the substructure was required.
- Today Worthing Pier is still owned by the Worthing Corporation and several new developments are in the pipeline including a covered walkway and improvements to the seaward end pavilion.

