

# Activity 11

## Did the opening of the Pier in 1861 change the appearance of Worthing Sea Front?

Read the article “What no Worthing Pier” and view the sketch made by Edward Martin in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



**Worthing seafront early Victorian Times**

ALTHOUGH the sketch below was made in earliest Victorian times, it contains an aspect that will be familiar to many people living in Worthing today – even though it no longer exists.

They will remember the distinctive Marine Hotel, on the far right, which was a hub of Worthing seafront social life before, during and after both World War One and World War Two.

Located at the southern end of South Street directly opposite the Pier Pavilion, The Marine was a most attractive Regency building, which was to suffer one of Worthing Borough Council’s abysmally short-sighted planning decisions of the early 1960s. As a result, the building was demolished in 1965 to make way for part of the hotchpotch of seafront redevelopment we live with today.

In the days when the sketch was made by an Edward Martin Esq., of West Tarring, Worthing had no pier, the first of these not being constructed until 1867. The Marine had originally been built as the New Inn in 1780, but had been renamed and rebuilt in the style shown by 1826.

The Sea Horse Hotel, on the left, was opened as Worthing’s most prestigious hotel just three years later, which means the picture must have been drawn by Edward Martin between 1830 and 1866.

There were evidently more boats off Worthing beach in the 19th century than there are today. South Street runs north in the centre of this picture drawn in the mid-1800s. Today, The Royal Arcade stands in place of the impressive Sea Horse Hotel, on the left, which was destroyed by fire in May, 1901. Worthing was already being considered a seaside resort by wealthy visitors who preferred it to London.

**What no Worthing Pier!**

### 1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Worthing Institution, Marine Parade, Broadwater, Worthing, Sussex, England								
First name (s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Gender	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Lucy	Overton	Head	Widow	Female	61	1790	Needlework	Woolwich, Kent, England
Caroline	Overton	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	28	1823	Charwoman & C	Worthing, Sussex, England
Elizabeth	Longhurst	Grand Daughter	-	Female	5	1846	Scholar	Brighton, Sussex, England

**Using Census data**

**Activity 1:** Above is a listing from the 1851 census. Find out which buildings constructed before 1861 are still remain today?

**Activity 2:** Examine the 1871 census. Does the list of buildings match those found in the 1851 census?

List the occupations of people who lived in Marine Parade in 1851 and 1871. Did the construction of the Pier in 1861 result in many new shops and businesses opening close to the Pier?

**Activity 3:** Based on your research and reading do you believe “the opening of the Pier in 1861 changed Worthing Sea Front?” Give reasons to support your opinion.

