

Activity 15

Summer 2015 Worthing Pier Festival

Read the article “Pier is town’s treasure.” Why is the Pier so important to the town of Worthing?

Activity 1: In July 2015 the Worthing Youth Council will be hosting a celebration on the Pier that will involve local artists/musicians and pupils from many of the towns schools.

Your challenge is to plan a timetable of events that will take place on the Pier that the general public can attend. View the images below and interview members of the public before attempting to complete this task.



Activity 2: Design a poster to advertise the Worthing Youth Council Celebration on the Pier in July 2015.

Look at a selection of photographs past and present.

Attempt to create a poster that both commemorates the piers past history but that also seeks to celebrate its future role.

PIER IS TOWN'S TREASURE!

2012 marked the 150th Anniversary of Worthing Pier. To commemorate the event The Argus interviewed Worthing people about pier's proud past and what plans they have for the future.

TODAY people will gather on Worthing Pier to mark its 150th birthday. Since the early days of the Worthing Pier Company, which was formed 102 years ago, the structure has been an iconic part of the town. When it was built it cost less than £7,000 but is set to receive an £80,000 facelift shortly, funded by Worthing Borough Council. Over the years it has fallen victim to fires and gales. More recently people have raised questions about the future of its south pavilion. Reporter ANNA ROBERTS talks to Worthing people about the pier's proud past and what plans they have for the future.

WORTHING Pier is iconic, beautiful and should be treasured – but people do not want it to become a replica of Brighton's busier Palace Pier.

As it celebrates 150 years today people living in the town said that they liked it as it was but admitted there could be improvements.

In particular people said the south pavilion, which currently remains unoccupied, must be improved.

However opinion is divided over exactly what to do with it.

Borough councillor Tom Wye said: "Worthing Pier is quintessentially Worthing.

"It costs Worthing a lot of money in upkeep it but it is a wonderful thing to have and we should be grateful for it.

"It has had a serious of calamities but it still remains.

"I wouldn't like to see it like the Palace Pier.

"Brighton is Brighton and Worthing is Worthing.

"And we do utilise it.

"It has a play area and is enjoyed. We have had an exhibition on it and this has brought people in and has been enjoyed.

"But I would like to see a more permanent use for the south pavilion."

Could be better used

His view was supported by others including fellow councillor Paul Howard.

Coun Howard said: "While I don't think that the pier is underfunded I do think that the south pavilion could be better used.

"But overall the pier is a fab tribute to the town.

"It is not like Brighton and it would be great to get the joy of promenading back."

Dan Thompson, who is arranging the pier's birthday celebrations, would like to see the former nightclub spot as a mixed use arts centre featuring music, comedy gigs and artists.

In contrast, Lib Dem councillor Bob Smytherman is advocating leasing the pier to private developers to create a casino and high-class restaurant.

He said: "The private sector will be far better placed than the council to find suitable operators for the various parts of the pier to make it a far better attraction than it currently is.

"One hundred and fifty years is a great achievement but the next 150 look pretty iffy in the current economic climate without an injection of private sector finance.

"A casino would be a great addition to the town because we have night-time entertainment for 18 to 25-year-olds but there really isn't anywhere to go for ordinary, hard-working people."

Councillor David Chapman agreed that while the pier was "wonderful" it could be a far greater asset to Worthing and the community.

He said: "There is little doubt it is very pleasurable to walk along. "But I think we do need to breathe more life into the pier.

"That's the term I would use and it is up to the council to move it on.

"The south pavilion could be done out as a nice cafeteria or restaurant."

Natalie Fond, the manager of Cornerhouse restaurant in Marine Parade, Worthing, said she believed local people were happy to have money spent on the pier as it was such an important part of the town.

She said: "It is Worthing's heritage.

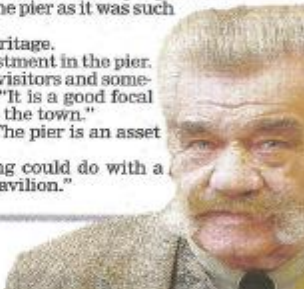
"I want to see continued investment in the pier.

"It is somewhere nice for our visitors and somewhere we should be proud of. "It is a good focal point. I think it draws people to the town."

Councillor Alan Rice said: "The pier is an asset to the community.

"But overall I think Worthing could do with a face lift – especially the south pavilion."

WONDERFUL: Tom Wye says the pier is quintessentially Worthing



WHY WE LOVE THE PIER



MAYOR of Worthing Ann Barlow, pictured left, said: "We love Worthing and we love Worthing Pier.

"It is a pier that Worthing is rightly proud of."

She was not alone. The Argus asked other people why they loved their pier.

Councillor Bryan Turner said he loved it "just as it is".

"The views from the pier are really good and it always attracts people to it."

Tony Malone, the vice-chairman of the Worthing Society, said: "People are very fond of it and I am among them.

"At the moment they are replacing the lead on the roof so this will improve it."

Meanwhile Jasmine Carter, from The Lighthouse Retreat Centre in Marine Parade, added: "I love that feeling of walking out into the sea.

"It is so pleasant. The sea is beautiful and I love the softness of the wood.

"I love the fact it is not like the Palace Pier. It is a different dimension. At low tide it could be seen as quite ugly, but it is really very attractive."

The Argus your VOICE

PAST TIMES:
David Sumner



Pier worth every penny

AT 78 David Sumner, who now lives in Angmering, near Littlehampton, says he has spent a lifetime on Worthing Pier.

As a toddler he went there with his father.

When he grew up he spent hours waltzing around it chatting to friends and girls.

He said the dances on the pier including the Press Ball and the Policeman's Ball were legendary.

Mr Sumner, the chairman of Worthing Civic Society, said: "You had to pay a penny to enter Worthing Pier when I was very young.

"But I remember as a small boy my father ran a dance band and I didn't have to pay. This seemed pretty good.

"I remember going to the pier as a small toddler. I got onto the dance floor and slipped onto my backside. I wasn't happy.

"In the late 1940s dances were a big thing on the pier. They were black tie. "Worthing's social life revolved around these dances.

"For the press ball it was pretty hard to get tickets unless you knew someone who was a journalist and I did.

"Otherwise people had to queue up for ages.

"The pier was always thronged.

"But as music changed the social aspect of the pier died down.

"But I still love it. One of the loveliest things to do on a summer morning is to walk along the pier.

"In the early morning glow it is absolutely beautiful."

