



Worthing Pier Past, Present and Future

Pier Objects Art and Writing competition

The notes in this handout have been produced by the Adur & Worthing Youth Council to accompany the 21 Slide PowerPoint about the history of the town pier and to inform pupils/students about how they can take part in the Pier Objects Art and Writing competition.

Slide 1 - Introduction

Worthing Pier Past, Present and Future Project (W3PF)

Pier Objects Art and Writing competition

The W3PF Project is an exciting community project for young people aged 7-18 managed by Adur & Worthing Youth Council. For more information about this project visit www.worthingpier.org.uk

Slide 2 – What is happening in 2015/16

This year the Adur & Worthing Youth Council will be holding a celebration for young people about the Pier in July 2016 at The Dome. Art and written work from this competition will be on display at the event for the general public to view. Look out in school and in local newspapers for information about how you can take part. In particular the Youth Council would like to hear from Artists, Musicians and school and local drama groups that would like to perform and exhibit at the July Celebration.

Slide 3 – About the Pier

This first part of this slide presentation covers the history of the Pier from its opening on the 12th April 1862 to the present.

Slide 4 – Who designed the Pier?

The Worthing Pier Company was formed in 1860. The Company commissioned the famous Victorian engineer and sanitation expert Sir Robert Rawlinson to design the new pier.

Slide 5 – When did the Pier open?

Worthing Pier opened to the public on the 12th April 1862. The original pier was a simple promenade deck 291 metres long and 4.6 metres wide.

Slide 6 - What did the Pier look like in 1900?

By the turn of the nineteenth century the Pier had been widened and two kiosks (a tollhouse and souvenir shop) built on the landward end facing Marine Parade. A

Pavilion at the southern end adjacent to where the paddle steamers moored was added in 1889.

Slide 7 - What happened on the Pier 100 years ago?

100 years ago walkers, sunbathers and fishermen would be seen every day on the promenade and during the summer bands would perform and carnivals would regularly take place.

Visitors to the Pier would also during the summer be able to watch Paddle steamers like the SS Worthing Belle moor at the southern end of pier to let holidaymakers from along the Sussex coast get on and off.

Slide 8 - What happened to the Pier on Easter Monday 1913?

Strong winds that day destroyed the wooden promenade forcing the Pier to close. For over a year the Pier remained closed and the Southern Pavilion cut off from the mainland. Finally after extensive restoration work the Pier reopened on the 29th May 1914.

Slide 9 - When was the Pavilion Theatre built?

In 1921 the Pier was purchased by Worthing Borough Council who replaced the 2 kiosks at the front entrance with a 1000 seater Pavilion. Today the Pavilion Theatre hosts concerts, variety shows, pantomimes and a range of conferences and local community events.

Slide 10 - What started the fire on the Pier in 1933?

A discarded cigarette butt started the fire on the September 10th 1933 which destroyed part of the promenade and the Southern Pavilion. Following extensive repair work the Pier and Southern Pavilion were reopened by the Mayor in the Summer of 1935.

Slide 11 - What happened to the Pier during World War II?

Fear of a German invasion of the south coast resulted in the British Government taking the decision in 1940 to blow up and section the pier to prevent enemy ships mooring. In total 30 metres of the Pier was destroyed. At the end of the War the section was rebuilt and the Pier once again reopened to the public in the summer of 1947.

Slide 12 - What did the Pier look like in the 1950's?

The War over the 1950's were a boom period for seaside towns as families flocked UK coastal resorts for their holidays in the early 1950's. New features added to the Pier at this time included an amusement arcade and a sun lounge on the south facing side of the Southern Pavilion.

Slide 13 - What happens on Worthing Pier today?

Today Worthing Pier continues to be popular with visitors and residents of the Borough. Events on the annual calendar include Birdman International and the Fireworks Festival organised by The Worthing Lions Club.

The Pavilion Theatre regularly hosts concerts, touring plays and conferences while the Southern Pavilion with its restaurant is a popular venue for Wedding Receptions and local musicians.

Slide 14 - Your opportunity to take part in the Worthing Pier Objects Art and Writing competitions

The Worthing Pier Objects Art and Writing competition is open to all pupils/students aged 5 to 18 who attend a school or college in the Adur and Worthing area. Listen carefully to find out how you can take part... and yes..... the winners and runners up in each category will each receive a super prize and everyone taking part will receive an certificate.

Slide 15 - Worthing Pier Objects Writing competition (Primary Pupils)

Calling all young writers! Look at the young boy and girl in the photographs. They are wearing clothes dating from the early 1900's. Now consider:

- How old are the boy and girl?
- Where in Worthing might you have seen them dressed like this?
- What are they doing?

Gather together your thoughts. Now write a short story, no more than 500 words in length, about one or both of these children. Title your story "An Edwardian day at the seaside."

Slide 16 - Worthing Pier Objects Art competition (Primary Pupils)

Here is a decorative plate. Souvenirs like this would have been sold in the souvenir shop on the Pier next to the Pavilion Theatre and in shops on the High Street about 100 years ago.

Look carefully at the design? What is written on the plate? If possible research and view other souvenir plates and cups from this period. Now be creative and design your own Worthing Pier souvenir cup or plate. If you have time and access to modelling clay why not make a 3-D model of the cup or plate that you have designed!

Slide 17 - Worthing Pier Objects Writing competition (Secondary Pupils)

Look carefully at the Victorian Bustle dress and the coloured Victorian promenade photograph.

Who do you think would have owned a smart dress like this?

Write a short story, no more than 1500 words, about the owner of this dress. Title your story "An afternoon walk along Worthing Pier." Who do you think the young lady who owned this dress might have met on the promenade that afternoon? Maybe a young man, a group of friends or a mysterious visitor?

Slide 18 - Worthing Pier Objects Art competition (Secondary Pupils)

Here are a selection of china ornaments that you might have seen in the past on display in the souvenir shop on the pier.

Name and describe what each item would have been used for? Who do you think might have bought and owned these household items? Now here is your chance to be creative.

Design a Worthing Pier souvenir that might have been on display in the souvenir shop at the start of the twentieth century? If you have time and the opportunity why not make a 3-D model of the souvenir you have created out of modelling clay!

Slide 19 - Getting Started!

Ready to start designing and writing? Why not visit the Worthing Pier, Past, Present and Future website to learn more about the objects displayed in the photographs www.worthingpier.org.uk or take the opportunity to visit Worthing Museum to view other pieces of clothing and objects dating back to this period?

Slide 20 - Competition Rules

The competition is open to all young people aged 5 to 18 who attend a school in the Adur and Worthing area.

All Art entries must be submitted on A4 or A3 sized paper.

Written works must be:

Primary – Under 500 words

Secondary – Under 1500

The closing date for the competitions is Wednesday 31st January 2016.

Entries should be forwarded to The Adur and Worthing Youth Council by e-mail or posted to the address displayed on the screen. These and other details about the competitions can be viewed on the Worthing Pier Past, Present and Future website.

Slide 21 - Best of luck everybody!

Thank you for listening to our presentation. We hope you will support this and the other Pier activities that are planned for 2015/16.

If you have any questions or want to know more about the WP3F project then please talk to your school Youth Councillor, teachers or e-mail or post these on our Facebook page (details are posted on the website.) The Youth Council exists to represent the young people of the Adur and Worthing area. So if you have any ideas about how we can improve opportunities and amenities for the young please talk or get in touch with us. We exist to serve you.

The W3PF Project is an exciting community project managed by Adur & Worthing Youth Council. For more information about this project visit www.worthingpier.org.uk or e-mail info@worthingpier.org.uk

