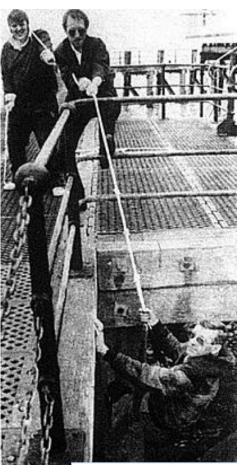
## Pier bar team life-savers, too

Story: TONY MAYES
Picture: MICK CANNING

BAR OWNER TOM SIMPSON, of Simpson's Bar at the end of Worthing Pier, and members of the bar staff have turned rescuers and life-savers this summer.



Since the bar reopened in the spring, staff have pulled five young people out of the sea. As a result of one of the rescues, Mr Simpson is to receive the Royal Humane Society testimonial on parchment.

Now Worthing Borough Council have provided a helicopter-type lifting harness for staff use in the event of any future rescue.

Mr Simpson's career as life-saver started in April, when a 13-year-old boy, fishing from the end of the Pier, toppled in.

He had been attempting to untangle fishing lines, leaned over too far and fell into the water. 16.09.1983

## By fingers

A stroller at the end of the Pier saw the boy go in and shouted an alarm. Mr Simpson climbed over the railing and down the superstructure of the pier, to grab the boy.

'He was hanging on the ironwork by his fingers but he had an anorak on which was heavy and it was dragging him under,' he

said.

'He wouldn't have lasted for long because the sea was very cold.'

Mr Simpson got hold of the boy and pulled him up.

## Currents

Since then either Mr Simpson or bar staff have rescued four other people from the sea in three separate incidents.

Mr Simpson said, 'The trouble is that people will use the Pier as a diving board. There is no by-law to stop them and they don't realise the currents that run under the Pier.'

He added, 'I think it would be fair to say that if we hadn't been running a bar at the end of the Pier and were on hand to rescue the people, at least one and probably more would have drowned.'

TOM SIMPSON is the man in the harness on this 'dry run,' helped by manager Graham Lee and barman Terry Taylor.

For more resources visit: www.worthingpier.org.uk





