

Worthing Pier in the News!

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Newspaper reports featured in the Worthing Herald between 1960 and the late 1980's.

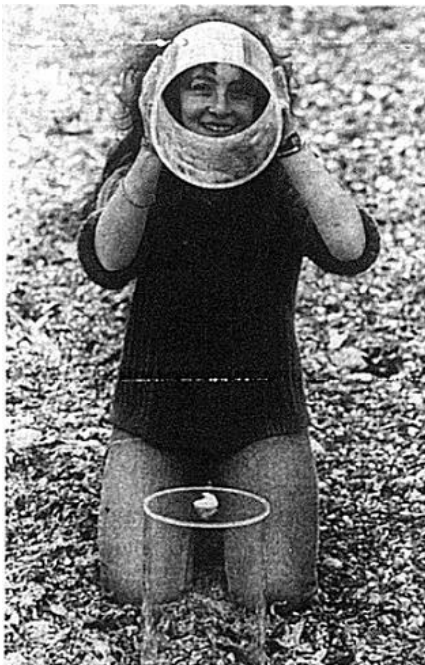
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Aims to rid beach of the weed menace

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MEN DRESSED in protective suits set to work spraying the flies.



ENVIRONMENTAL chemist Ruth Gluckstein puts sampling chambers in the shingle to catch the flies.

Spraying to end fly blight

AN EERIE sight greeted seafront strollers on Friday as experts got to work with Worthing's seaweed problem.

Part of the beach off Thorn Road was closed in and warning signs saying 'Keep Clear, Beach Treatment in Progress' went up.

Then two men dressed in white protective suits began spraying pebbles with a chemical insecticide. The aim was to kill off flies which live on seaweed.

Mr Howard Richings from Binnie and Partners, the consultants called in by the borough council to find a solution to the smelly weed problem, watched the spray trials.

He explained, 'The flies are here all year round but if there's a cast of weed it sets off the swarms.'

'We're hoping to control the fly population before the weed comes.'

He stressed the spraying was only a trial and is just one suggestion for getting rid of the menace.

'Other trials include spraying the weed with an enzyme so it rots without giving off an unpleasant smell.'

'The council has also bought two tractors with special attachments to push the weed back



Report:
Cheryl Willie
Pictures:
Mick Canning

towards the sea so the tides will carry it away.'

He added it was not possible to simply scoop up the weed and transport it away.

'Up to 100,000 tons at a time can be cast on to the beach. If every household took 10 wheelbarrow loads there would still be a lot left. Even 5,000 journeys by the biggest trucks would only clear a moderate cast.'

A British Museum expert was on hand to check other marine life.

Mr Richings said, 'We want to make sure we're not doing too much harm to anything else.'

One bystander, Mr Stanley Goode, of Sea Place, has lived in the town 13 years.

He is unconvinced that the council can win the seaweed war. 'I used to swim regularly when I first came here, but I gave up because it's not pleasant.'

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