

Worthing Pier in the News!



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

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Our pier – has no peer

WORTHING Pier has been voted Pier of the Year, beating 23 others – including two in South America.

The annual poll of the National Piers Society's 600 members resulted in a clear victory for Worthing, according to chairman Anthony Wills.

Mr Wills cited its theatre and the council's standards of maintenance among the reasons for the pier's success.

He said: "It's been in the top five a number of times. It's because it's a well-appointed pier, with a variety of facilities, and is well maintained by the local authority.

"In particular, it has a theatre, and is one of only five theatre piers left in the country after the news that Blackpool's North Pier Theatre is not staging any shows for the time being."

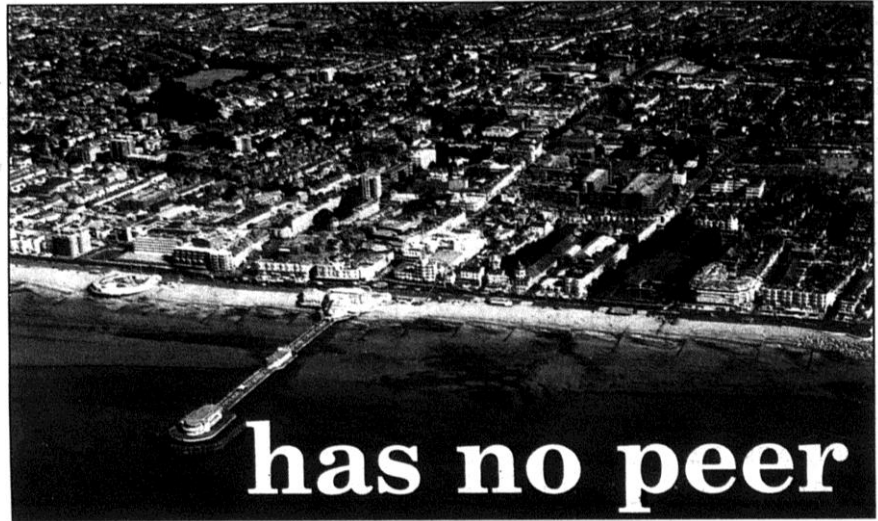
John Thorpe, Worthing's assistant director for leisure and cultural services, said: "This award acknowledges the hard work and investment the council puts into maintaining the pier. We will use it to raise the profile of this fantastic facility."

The competition included overseas piers for the first time since it began in 1997 – the Fisherman's Pier in Buenos Aires, and the pier in Lima, Peru, both attracted nominations. Yorkshire's Saltburn Pier came second, and the world's longest, Southend Pier, came third.

Current attractions include the fully equipped theatre, nightclub, amusement arcade and cafeteria, as well as the landing stage which still welcomes the Waverley paddle steamer every summer.

The National Piers Society was founded in 1979 with the support of Sir John Betjeman at a time when some of the country's piers were threatened with demolition.

The Pier of the Year award was started in 1997 after the success of the Year of the Pier in 1996, and previous winners include Eastbourne, Llandudno and Brighton's Palace Pier.



Pier we go: with a FactFile

Worthing Pier has had a chequered history:

- The pier first opened in 1862, with kiosks and a pavilion being added in the 1880s. In those days, entertainment included an orchestra, rollerskating and even blindfold boxing. Its landing stage was used by steamers such as the Worthing Belle, the pier's star attraction until 1913.
- In 1913, a storm cut it in two, leaving the southern pavilion stranded out at sea. It was repaired and re-opened within a year, the Lord Mayor of London performing the opening ceremony.
- Disaster struck again in 1933, when a fire destroyed the seaward building. At the beginning of World War Two it was, like many others, cut in half to stop enemy landings, and did not fully re-open until 1949.
- Worthing Council bought it after the First World War and still runs it today.

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

