



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

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BEACH LITTERED WITH LOBSTERS AND OCTOPUSES

Parade undermined in violent storms

February is already on the way to rainfall records. Up to yesterday morning's reading 2.11 inches of rain had fallen this month, compared with the average for the whole of February of 1.97 inches. During the last 10 years February, far from living up to its "fill dyke" reputation, has been the third driest month to April and June.

One estimate was that between 400 and 500 lobsters were washed up alive. Some fishermen quickly collected them in sacks and local shops displayed "Worthing caught" lobsters on their slabs. Scores were washed up round the bandstand.

It is believed that the octopuses have been breeding in large numbers in the Channel because of last year's warm summer. The lobsters were apparently washed inshore from their usual haunts by strong under-water currents.

The lobsters were of varying sizes, some of them from 2lbs. upwards. It is not unusual for lobsters to come on to the beach at

Worthing, but it is rarely that an octopus is seen.

From Thursday to Sunday inclusive, an inch and a quarter of rain fell, most of it on Thursday. Wind velocities were high. Gusts reached over 60 m.p.h. and the average speed at times was about 50 m.p.h.

Damage to sea defences was described to a *Herald* reporter by Mr G. H. Kempton (Borough Engineer) as "Pretty bad, but not disastrous." A good deal of shingle was washed away and groynes were damaged. Worst damage was near Splash Point where a groyne was pushed over.

Other areas badly hit were opposite Queen's-road and Sea-view-road. At some points foundations of the promenade were washed away and small areas collapsed. Damage near Queen's-road would have been worse if defence blocks had not been placed there some years ago.

Corporation workmen were put on emergency repair work and many were busy piling shingle from the road and promenade on to the beach. A bulldozer was used to push some shingle back.

Two boats at Splash Point were blown on the grass verge. Pile-driving apparatus east of Wallace-avenue was blown over. Dozens of planks were washed up on the beach.

A four-ton fishing boat, *Dainty*, was blown on to her side near the paddling pool. Mr R. Saunders, of 10, New - parade, one of her owners, said: "It was lucky she was not smashed up."



Corporation workmen repair sea defences after the gales. A breastwork is now being erected near Splash Point.

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

