



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

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## EASTER GALE BLEW THE VISITORS BACK HOME



THE story of Easter, 1950, is told in the pictures on this page and in the figures of attendances at indoor and outdoor entertainments. It is a story of a cold, windy and sometimes wet holiday; of deserted beaches, parades and pier; and an early exodus of dispirited visitors; and even of cancelled trains.

Only the indoor entertainments, the hotels and public houses could report good business.

The weather got progressively worse. Good Friday was fine, with 10.1 hours of sunshine, but a blustery wind brought the threat of things to come, and Saturday was the dullest Easter Saturday for 15 years, when the sun appeared for only 1.3 hours.

Sunday brought the sun back for 10.6 hours, but the wind had grown stronger and made conditions unpleasant for outdoor holiday-making. Monday was the biggest disappointment of all, with only six minutes of sunshine, and a maximum temperature of 51 degrees, making it the coldest Easter Monday for six years. The rain and a gale that reached a velocity of 35 m.p.h. rarely eased up. One result was that only 170 people attended the Parade Bandstand on Monday, including a broadcast performance in the morning. The afternoon concert was transferred to the Pier Pavilion and drew 507 people.

### Story in figures

Total attendance at the bandstand was only 2,977 compared with 6,027 during the fine Easter of last year.

Deckchair sitters on the parade dropped to 3,578 for the whole period (over 2,000 of them on Friday), compared with 16,654 in 1949. Similarly, the Pier turnstiles clicked less than 14,000 times against last year's admissions of nearly 49,000. By contrast, orchestra and concert shows in the Pier Pavilion attracted big houses with a capacity audience to see the *Fold-Rols* on Monday evening. Mr Frank Cooper, the entertain-

ments manager, told the *Herald*: "We have done very badly on outside entertainments and the large attendances at the Pier Pavilion have not reduced our losses as most of the seats were booked several days in advance."

Golf courses, the hockey festival, boating and paddling pools, cafes and restaurants were among attractions hit. At one time on Monday less than 10 spectators could be counted watching hockey games at the Manor Ground.

### Trains cancelled

But cinemas and theatres benefited, and on Saturday and Monday there were 1,045 visitors to the Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 440 a year ago.

From Friday to Monday, 21,615 people arrived in the town by rail, a drop on 1949 figures. On Monday night two trains going to London were cancelled through lack of users, but early trains were full.

On Friday and Saturday there were probably more arrivals by road than during any other post-war Easter, and on Saturday morning the town seemed as full as at any peak period in the summer.

Police report that Saturday traffic was exceptional, and it produced problems in the centre of the town which many people attributed to the one-way system in the Montague-street area.

### Traffic jams

There were continuous streams of traffic in Montague-street, and in the roads branching from it, and many drivers were apparently uncertain about the best way to reach their destination.

Portland-road was for a long time the scene of the biggest jam, and when children from a cinema matinee joined the hundreds of pedestrians in South-street and Montague-street, police had temporary chaos to sort out.

Here are the Corporation statistics for the holiday:

BAND ENCLOSURE		
Good Friday	1948	1949
Saturday	1360	1351
Sunday	975	1141
Monday	1439	1606
	859	1929
	4673	6027
PARADE CHAIRS		
Good Friday	2708	3515
Saturday	1788	3925
Sunday	2854	4444
Monday	505	4770
	7855	16654
PIER		
Good Friday	—	13113
Saturday	—	10434
Sunday	—	12021
Monday	—	13357
	—	48925
PIER PAVILION		
Good Friday	802	874
Saturday	1446	13312
Sunday	1207	930
Monday	2415	11436
	4930	4552

\* Includes 507 at afternoon performance held in Pier Pavilion.  
† No matinee.

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