

HASTINGS PIER CHARITY

HASTINGS
PIER

An Early Pier Timeline with Local Newspaper Headlines



An early picture of Hastings Pier Pavilion, (HPC014.014)



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



www.hastingspier.org.uk

An Early Pier Timeline with Local Newspaper Headlines

1861	General Pier & Harbour Act
1866 - Jan	Harbour and Pier? - <i>The Hastings News of 26/01/1866</i> A council meeting on 19 January decided against the harbour and pier projects. But special council meetings on 12 and 16 February discussed a letter received from the promoters of the projects, and then approved the plans.
1867	Hastings Pier Act
1869 - Dec	Hastings Pier: Work Starts 18/12/1869 The first pile of Hastings Pier was driven at 3.00 am.
1870 - Mar	Pier Piles - <i>The Hastings News of 25/03/1870</i> The first cargo of iron works for the pier had arrived at Whitstable harbour. For more than a week the heavy screw piles had been hauled to the Parade at White Rock and stacked ready for use.
1870 - Jul	Pier Progress - <i>The Hastings News of 15/07/1870</i> About a hundred of the new screw piles of the pier now being built had now been driven in.
1871 - Jul	Submarine Forest - <i>The Hastings News of 21/07/1871</i> A large iron pile for the new pier-head hit a hard object and broke the large screw. It was a large oak trunk, three feet widest, 24 feet long, weight about 2 tons. "The pier-head is evidently in the very heart of the forest, as several smaller trees have already been taken up, and many others are scattered about." The new saloon is almost completed and will be the biggest room in the borough.
1873	First steamer trips 5 th July <i>The Rapid</i> - daily service between Eastbourne & Hastings
1877 - Jan	1877 Jan 1st The highest tide on record and a gale caused the worst damage on record, partly washing away the parade and some of the pier.
1883 - Aug	Pier's Busiest Day - <i>From the Hastings News of 10/08/1883</i> Hastings Pier had its busiest day so far in its 11-year history on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 August, when over 9,400 people passed through the turnstiles.

1885 - Aug	Pier Landing Stage - <i>From the Hastings News of 28/08/1885</i> A new landing stage at the pier, costing £1,140, had commenced.
1887 - Aug	Pier Steamer - <i>From the Hastings News of 12/08/1887</i> The pleasure steamer the Nelson was plying from Hastings Pier every weekday.
1890 - May	Pier Landing Stage - <i>From the Hastings News of 02/05/1890</i> A big new landing stage on Hastings Pier was opened for steamboat traffic on Thursday 1 May. The original landing stage was along the east side of the promenade beside the Pavilion. The work of the last ten months had extended this to the end of the pier and then taken in the whole of the pier-head. The staging now ran around both the east and south side of the Pavilion, but not the west, because that was too exposed. The staging was in three levels. About 400-500 tons of greenheart woods had been used, plus 130-140 tons of iron. As many as four steamers could use the pier together.
1899 - Feb	Pier Improvement - <i>From the Hastings News of 03/02/1899</i> The Hastings Pier pavilion closed at the end of January for re-roofing and enlargement. It was expected to re-open in mid-May. The pavilion had been open continuously since the pier opened in 1872.
1899 - Sept	Pier Fire - <i>From the Hastings News of 22/09/1899</i> There was a fire on Hastings Pier on Monday 18 September, with the decking close to the side seats alight. The probable cause was a careless smoker.
1900	Pier Problems - <i>The Hastings News of 16/05/1901</i> The annual meeting of the Hastings Pier Company took place on 13 May was a heated affair. The company was not doing well and many shareholders were unhappy, voting against the chairman's report. They felt the increased spending on band and entertainments was unwarranted, and it could be better if the pier went back to the old form of less expensive entertainment.
1900	Pier Fire - <i>The Hastings News of 20/07/1900</i> There was an outbreak of fire on Hastings Pier during a concert on Sunday 15 July. The fire was put out promptly, though flames were seen from White Rock Parade

1904	Pier AGM: Good and Bad - <i>The Hastings Mail</i> of 28/05/1904 The AGM of the Hastings Pier Company was held in the Pier Pavilion. The directors were John Reeves, ST Weston JP, Dr GG Gray JP and WE Brown, with secretary LT Weston. There was much criticism from shareholders. Reeves said 1889-92 were the four most prosperous years they ever had.
1909	Pier Company's Poor Results - <i>The Hastings Mail</i> of 24/04/1909 The AGM of the Hastings Pier Company on 21 April heard there was decreased profit and no dividend. A future plan was for a pavilion at the shore end. The directors were criticised.

Story of the pier at <http://www.hastingschronicle.net/hastingsPier.html>

Please note that this information is provided free of charge and whilst Hastings Pier Charity makes every effort to keep the information on the website accurate, the majority of the information comes from the general public and volunteers. We therefore disclaim any warranty or representation, express or implied about its accuracy, completeness or appropriateness for a particular purpose. If there are any errors, please contact Hastings Pier by email info@hpcharity.co.uk

www.hastingspier.org.uk