

West Pier Brighton

By Frank Botterill

As part of my professional life on Sunday 9th October 1994, a colleague and I were asked to visit the West Pier Brighton to undertake a survey in the company of an Engineer from the consulting engineers Hemsley Orrell who were charged with the brief to restore the pier.

Access to the pier had been closed to the public since 1975 and it was in a dilapidated state. The West Pier Trust (www.westpier.co.uk), established in 1978, hold much history of the pier since its original opening in 1866 to a design by Eugenius Birch. A book published in 1998 entitled "Walking on Water – The West Pier Story" is another treasure trove of information.

The following photographs are just a few of the ones I obtained. The concert hall contained tickets of the last performance. Everywhere was

covered to a great depth by the droppings from the resident starlings.









In January 2003 the dilapidation had progressed in varying degrees as can be seen below





Later, on 28th March 2004 saw a devastating fire which was caught on a video. ([West Pier Burning - YouTube](#))

The west pier has featured in cinema and is well-documented with a fascinating history.