

Source 16

The 1880 *Guide to Worthing* includes a passage on beach activities for children; this is an abridged newspaper account from the 1873 *Daily Telegraph*.

‘Worthing is almost wholly given up to children and domestic joys ... Worthing is all for the children ... I never saw so many children or visited a seaside place, where they were more tenderly cared for. They swarm through the shingle, they dig in the sand, where mud-pies are more popular than sand castles, they paddle and puddle in the little pools about the weed-covered rocks, their feet are wet and soaking a dozen times a day, they fish for eels and dabs off the pier, where every one makes way for them, they play cricket ... they are carried pick-a-back by Peggotty ... The Parade by the side of the fine white houses clatters all day with the hoofs of the ponies of the children. The most popular vehicles are small pony basket-carriages. Goat-chaises are more patronised than flies, and the best use made of the breeze is to fly kites all the morning for the sake of the brown-legged little ones ... Children, mother and fathers, uncles on the shelf, and devoted maiden aunts have it all their own way in this domestic Paradise ... The day is scarcely warm before the boys are being bathed by their father. The breakfast things are cleared away by eight o’clock. The sands and the shingle are one long mile of nursery until one o’clock. The place is asleep all afternoon, and by ten every light is out but that of the moon, which makes a path of pleasant light, across a silent sea and illuminates a deserted shore.’

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