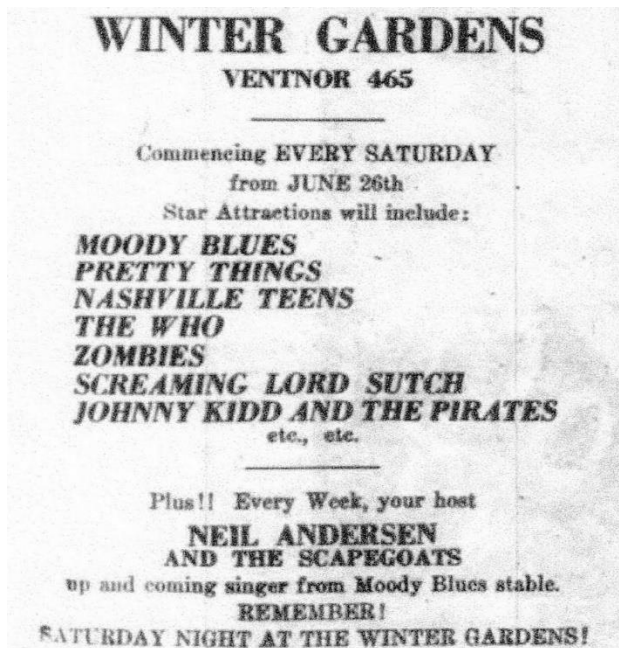


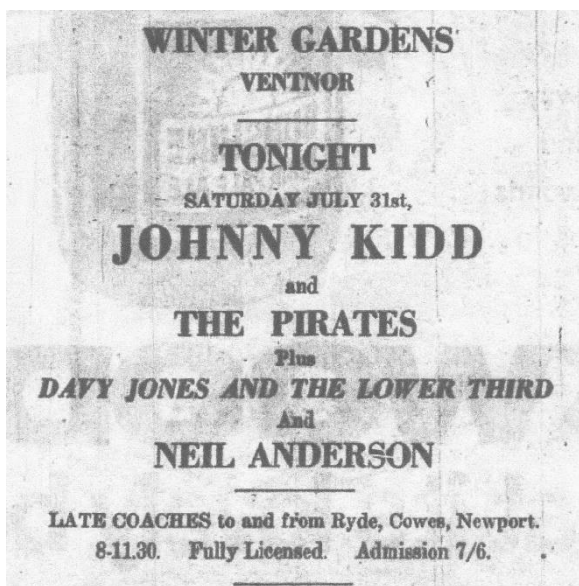


Before they were famous: the Winter Gardens summer 1965



If you were an up and coming teenager or 'twenty-something' on the Island in the summer of 1965, Ventnor's Winter Gardens offered an extraordinary selection of live bands in performance on Saturday nights.

Some of them feature in the adjacent advance billing, including names that went on to become classic acts of modern rock and pop, and others that are now a lost memory. The Who, for instance, became one of the most influential rock bands of the 20th Century, selling over a million records worldwide.



The billing to the above left is for the bands booked for Saturday July 31st. The second band listed there: Davy Jones and the Lower Third, will probably not wake many minds. However, the members were caught by a photographer at Fountain Pier, Cowes, with Davy, as lead singer, far right in the picture. Later that year, he changed his name from Jones to Bowie, and the rest, of course, is history.

Most of the Saturday concerts in that 1965 season were sell-outs, with long queues up Pier Street, and late coaches plying from across the Island.

Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre, the photograph from a Google search. 'Before they were famous' is among the new exhibitions at Ventnor Heritage Centre for 2020

