



For the summer season of 1970, Ventnor Urban District Council arranged as one of its central entertainments at the Winter Gardens a programme of 'Old Tyme Music Hall', performed by 'a glittering cast of London artistes'. The picture

above shows some of the members of the cast engaging in an impromptu performance (or maybe a piece of inventive advertising) on the canoe lake that was then found on the Eastern Esplanade, beyond the paddling pool. However, despite the period costumes, they do not seem to have attracted much of an audience, for there are just empty deck-chairs and a few spectators hidden in the shelter. The lake was opened in 1935 and was a major beachside attraction for more than fifty years. In later times, it was known as a boating lake and, in high season, became a regular focus for races.

Alongside the Music Hall performers, the Winter Gardens in 1970 played host to the Island's top bands, had a resident DJ, and organised regular dances, 'ballroom as well as pop'. In the

Cascade Bar, there was 'live morning music', while Bingo sessions were laid on most afternoons. The Winter Gardens today is nothing like so busy, but, fortunately, the iconic 'art deco' building remains in its prime cliff-top position.

Ventnor Urban District Council

**WINTER GARDENS
VENTNOR**

*present for your Entertainment
in Summer Season 1970*

**OLD TYME
MUSIC HALL**

WITH GLITTERING CAST OF LONDON ARTISTES

Table Service for Food and Drink
Reduced prices for Children and Parties

Three complete programme changes weekly Fully Licensed

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor heritage Centre.



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre.

The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

www.ventnorheritage.org.uk / telephone 855407

[Ventnor & District Heritage Facebook Group](#)

