

WINTER GARDENS PAVILION

The Winter Gardens Pavilion was built as part of the development of Roger's Field. Designed by the architect T H Mawson and Harry Brown, Weston's Borough Engineer, the pavilion was built at a cost of £35,000. Covenants held by the Royal Hotel, the previous owner of Roger's Field, restricted the height of any neighbouring development to 40 feet to protect views. The domed roof was flattened, and the ballroom floor inside dug below ground level, in order to keep within the height restrictions. The pavilion was opened in July 1927, and became a popular venue for dancing and light orchestral concerts in the 1920s and 1930s. It was used by the BBC during World War II to broadcast entertainment shows, and luckily escaped bomb damage. The pavilion's popularity continued into the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and it hosted many of the biggest names in music.

The Starlight Room was added to the back of the pavilion in 1963, providing a smaller dancing area. During the 1970's the colonnaded wings of the ballroom – originally partly open to allow easy access from the beach to the gardens – were glazed. In 1989 the Starlight Room was replaced with the Prince Consort Hall. The Winter Gardens & Pavilion were handed over to the newly created Woodspring District Council on April 1st 1974. The pavilion continued to host concerts, dances, conferences and exhibitions, as well as boxing and wrestling matches, but running costs were huge. In 1981 the council proposed options ranging from alteration to demolition but decided, after a public outcry, that public funds would continue to cover the building's costs.

In January 2015 North Somerset Council agreed to sell the pavilion to Weston College for £1 as part of a plan to regenerate Weston's town centre. The college took over in May 2016. The 1989 extension was redesigned as a law and professional services academy, while the pavilion was restored and the interior refurbished. Work was completed in September 2017. The pavilion remains open for community use and continues to host a wide range of events.



The Winter Gardens
Pavilion in 2018



Roger's Field 1840's



The pavilion under construction in 1925



The pavilion at night 1954