

The Gardens Pavilion.

When the Gardens Pavilion was built in 1891 it was very much part of the Botanical Gardens, not, as now, part of the Lake foreshore.

The leasing conditions at that time included provisions that the Assembly rooms be open to the public from 9 a.m. to evening, there was to be no selling of malt or spirituous liquor or wine and the parking of carts and the hitching of horses was limited to 15 minutes.

There was a degree of protection for the Lessees, however, in that no hawking of refreshments was allowed in the Gardens or around the Gardens and Reserve by carts or hand barrows.

The list of refreshments provided in the Pavilion and the cost thereof was also laid down:-

Cup of tea with coffee or milk - 3 pence

Lemonade, soda water, ginger ale or any other aerated water - 6 pence

Cup of tea with bun or sandwich - 6 pence

Dinner (two courses) Cold meat ,hot vegetables and pastry with a cup of tea or coffee, salt
pepper and mustard - One shilling and sixpence

Tea – cup of tea with shrimps, salad or cold meat, bread and butter, salt, pepper and mustard
Included - One shilling and six pence

Fortunately the Pavilion, now "Pipers", is able to offer a far more extensive menu including spirituous liquour and wines. (If only that the prices could have remained unaltered....!)

John Garner June 2009