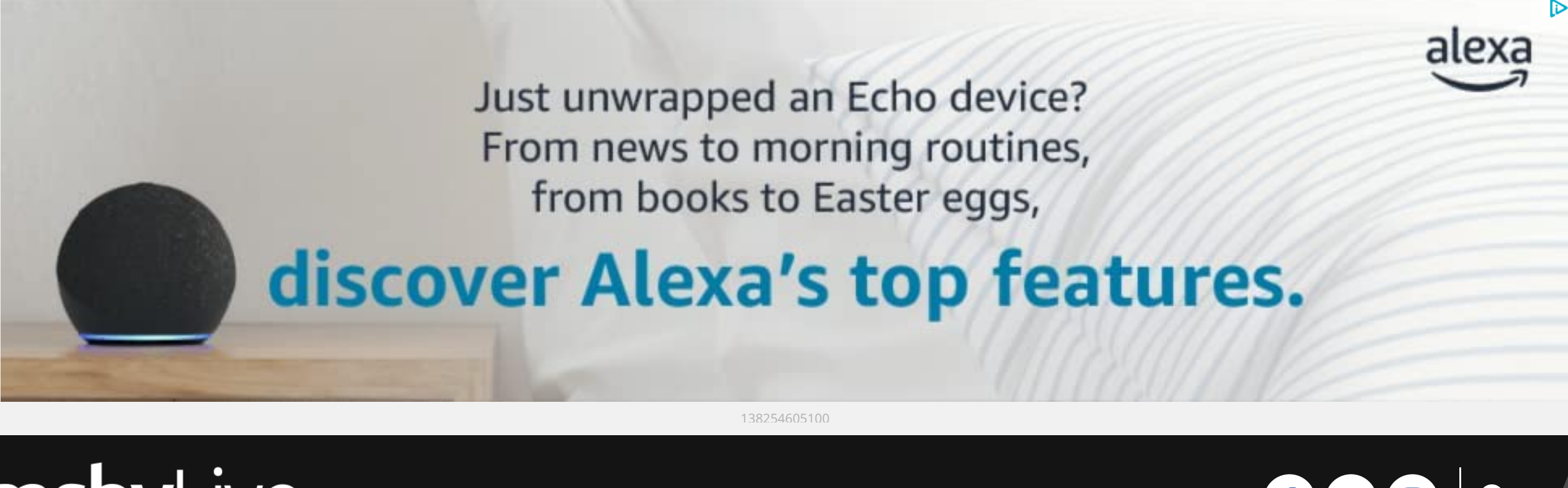




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# Cleethorpes' Winter Gardens nightclub where Sex Pistols, AC/DC and The Clash once played

The Cleethorpes venue was a magnet during the 70s and 80s for rock legends like The Sex Pistols, AC/DC and Queen

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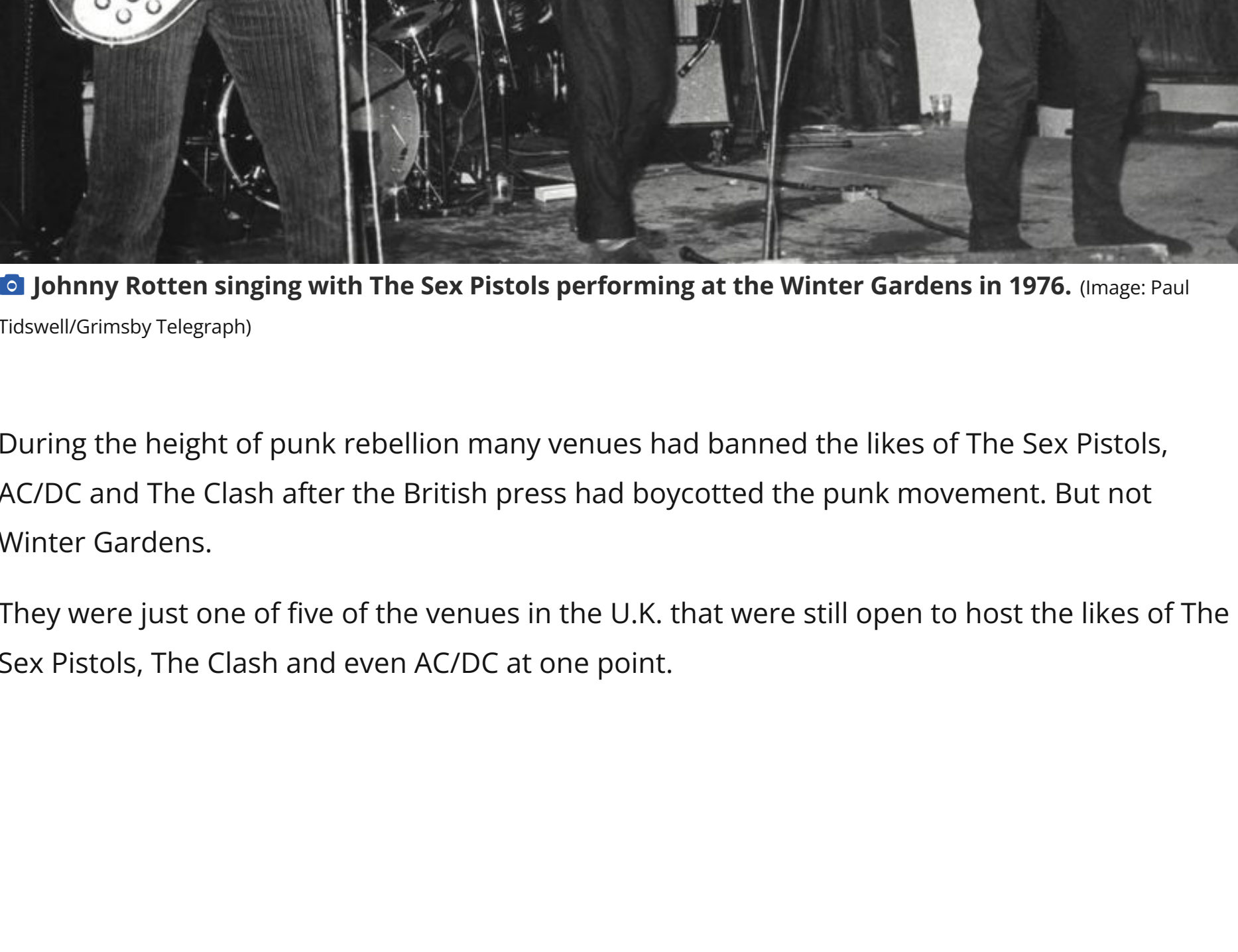
By **Ruby Benson** Nostalgia Reporter  
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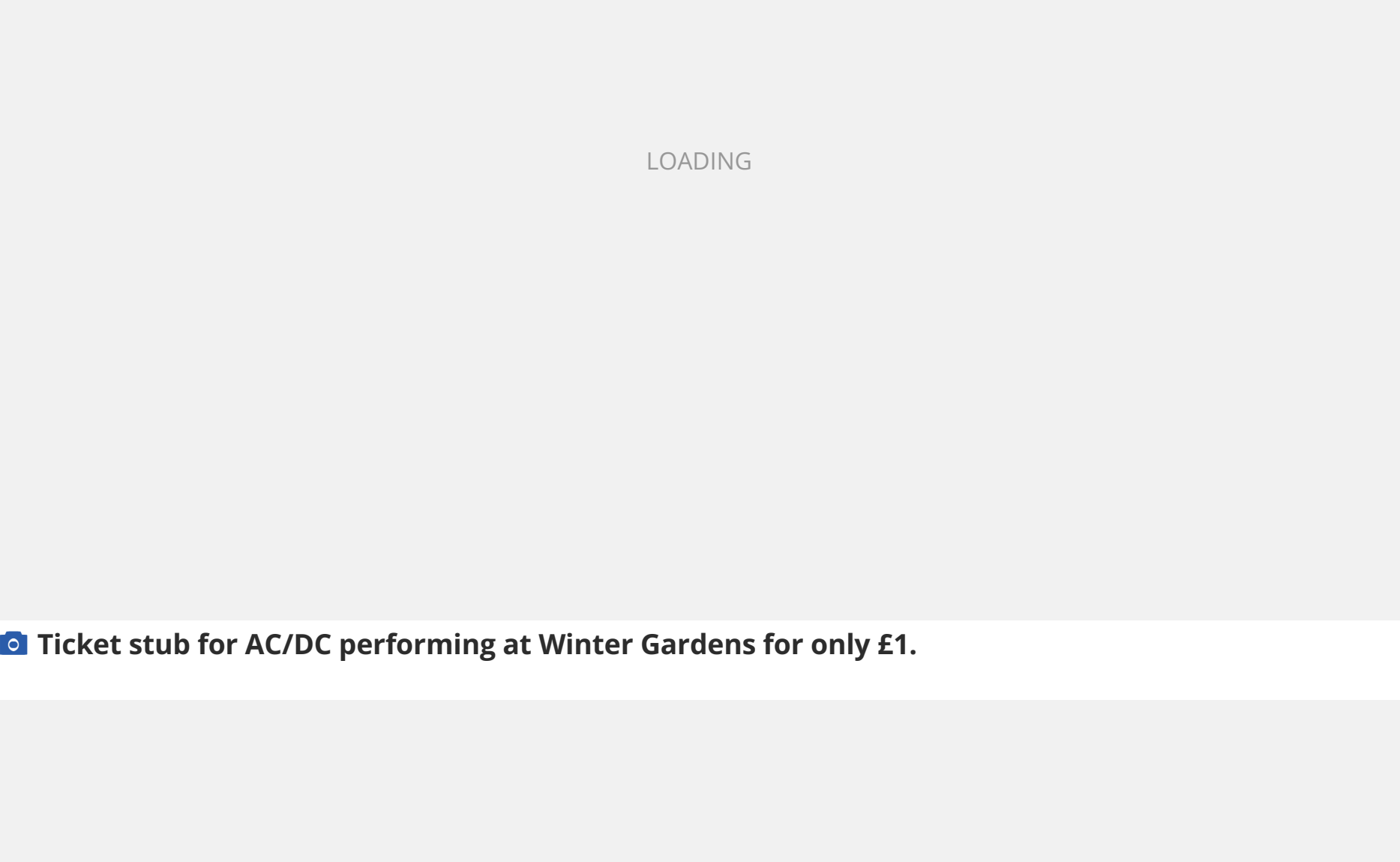


Johnny Rotten singing with The Sex Pistols performing at the Winter Gardens in 1976. (Image: Paul Tidswell/Grimsby Telegraph)

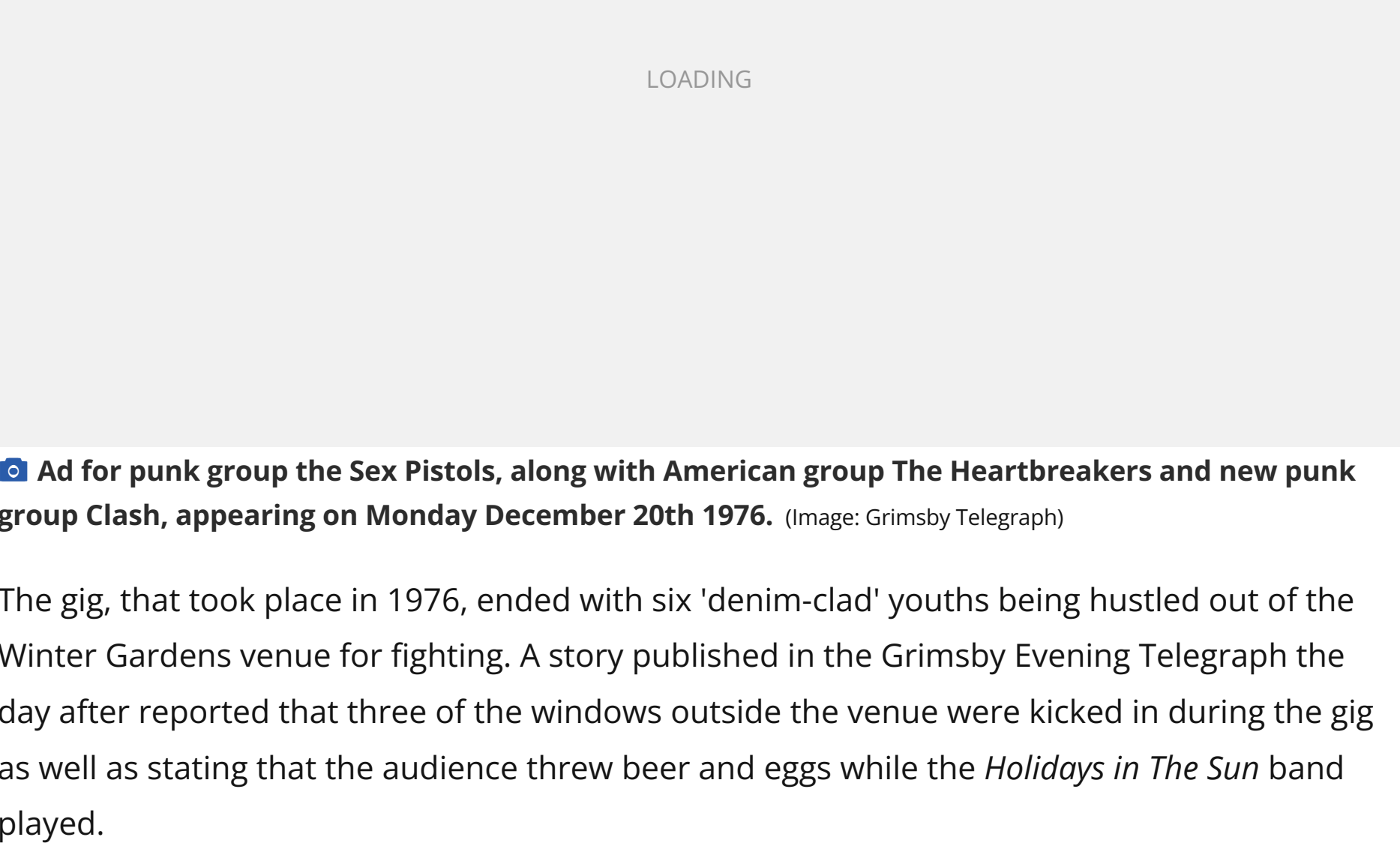
During the height of punk rebellion many venues had banned the likes of The Sex Pistols, AC/DC and The Clash after the British press had boycotted the punk movement. But not Winter Gardens.

They were just one of five of the venues in the U.K. that were still open to host the likes of The Sex Pistols, The Clash and even AC/DC at one point.

The Sex Pistols gig formed part of their Anarchy tour, which also brought along Johnny Thunders' Heartbreakers - one called the New York Dolls. The venue held around 350 people and with just £1.50 admission it went down in history for more reasons than one.

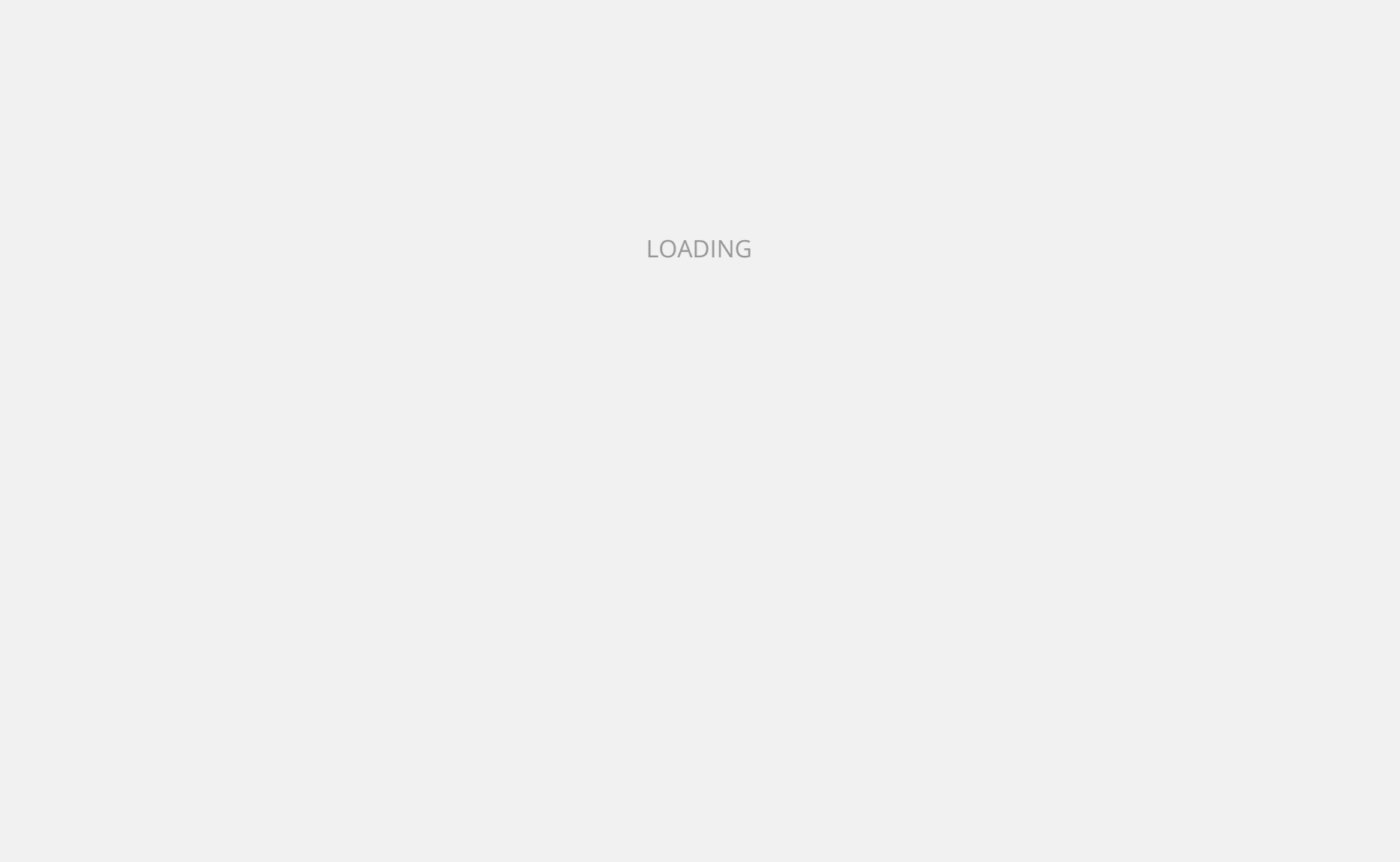


Ticket stub for AC/DC performing at Winter Gardens for only £1.



Ad for punk group the Sex Pistols, along with American group The Heartbreakers and new punk group Clash, appearing on Monday December 20th 1976. (Image: Grimsby Telegraph)

The gig, that took place in 1976, ended with six 'denim-clad' youths being hustled out of the Winter Gardens venue for fighting. A story published in the Grimsby Evening Telegraph the day after reported that three of the windows outside the venue were kicked in during the gig as well as stating that the audience threw beer and eggs while the *Holidays in The Sun* band played.



Suzi Quatro, who appeared at the Winter Gardens on August 2nd of 1973.

The setlist was crammed full of punk record hits like *Anarchy in the UK*, *I Wanna Be Me*, *God Save The Queen* and *Pretty Vacant*.

It was rumoured at the time that there was a 'new' group called The Clash touring them. Of course, we now know just how big and influential they went on to be. But back in 1976 they were just starting up.

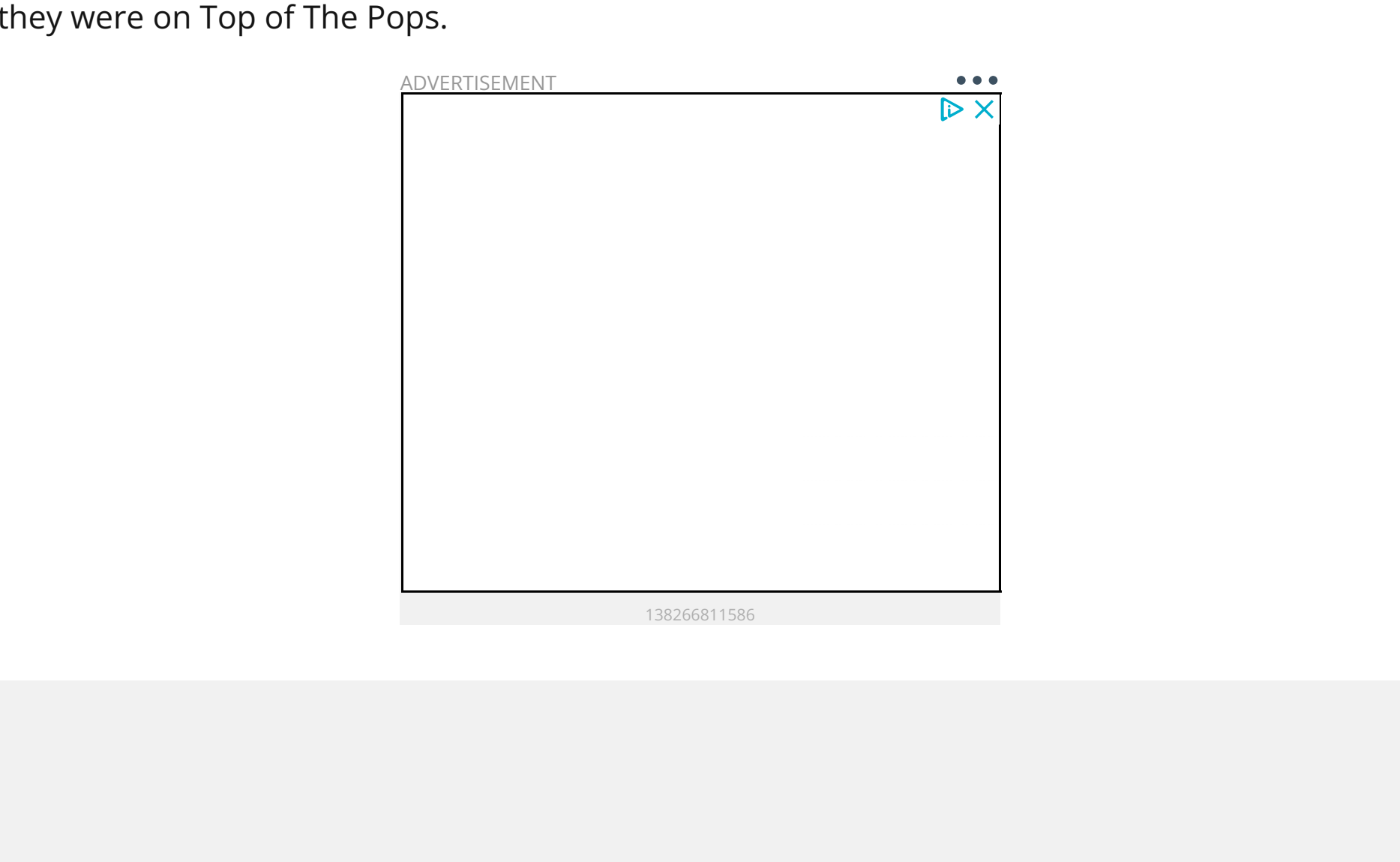
The list of groups and solo artists who played the Winter Garden and then went on to stardom during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Big names like *Suzi Quatro*, *Doctor Feelgood*, *Queen* and *The Damned*.

When Queen performed there in 1974 they not only performed their own songs like *Father to Son and Doing All Right* and *Liar* but covers from other icons including *Jailhouse Rock* by Elvis Presley and *Stupid Cupid* by Connie Francis.

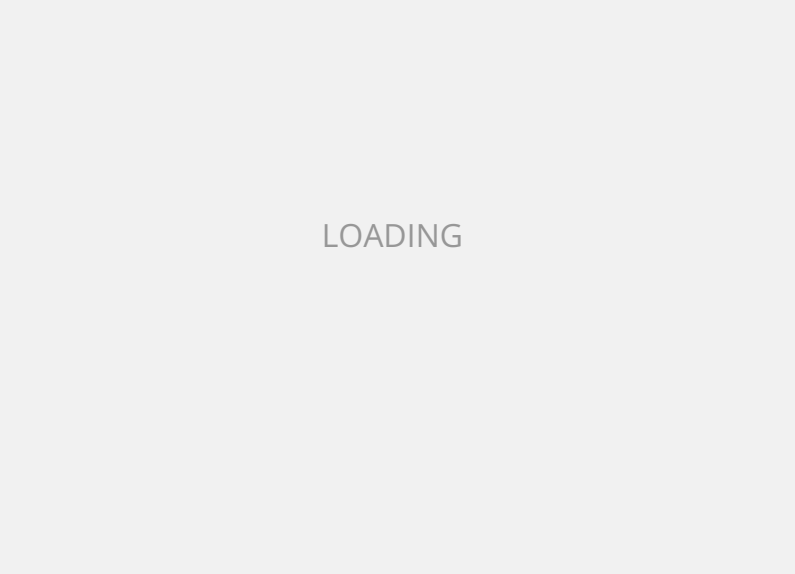
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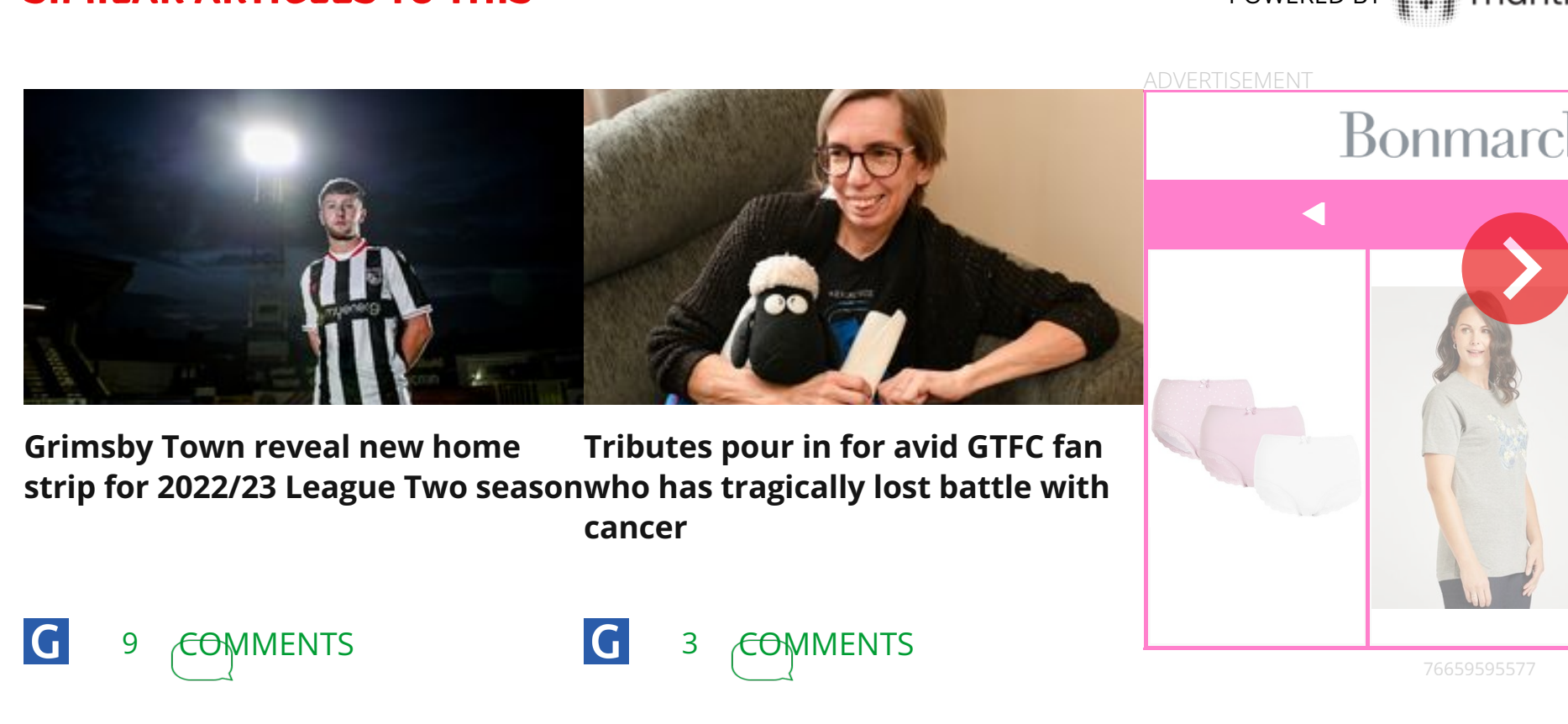


One night that does hold a special place was The Grimsby Live Aid Concert in 1985. Local legends like The Rumble Band and Brothers Band got together for the event. Other honourable mentions include Dexy's Midnight Runners performing the very same evening they were on Top of The Pops.



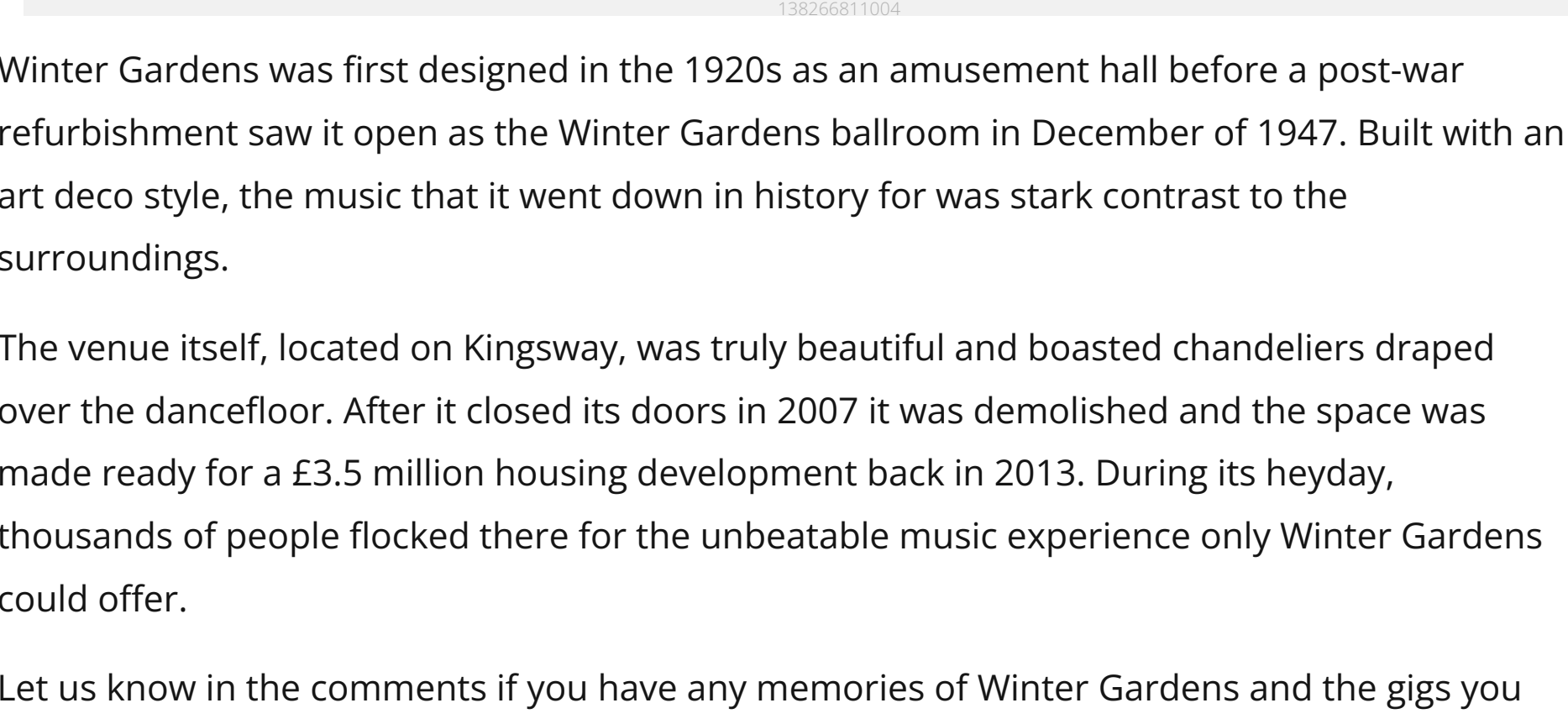
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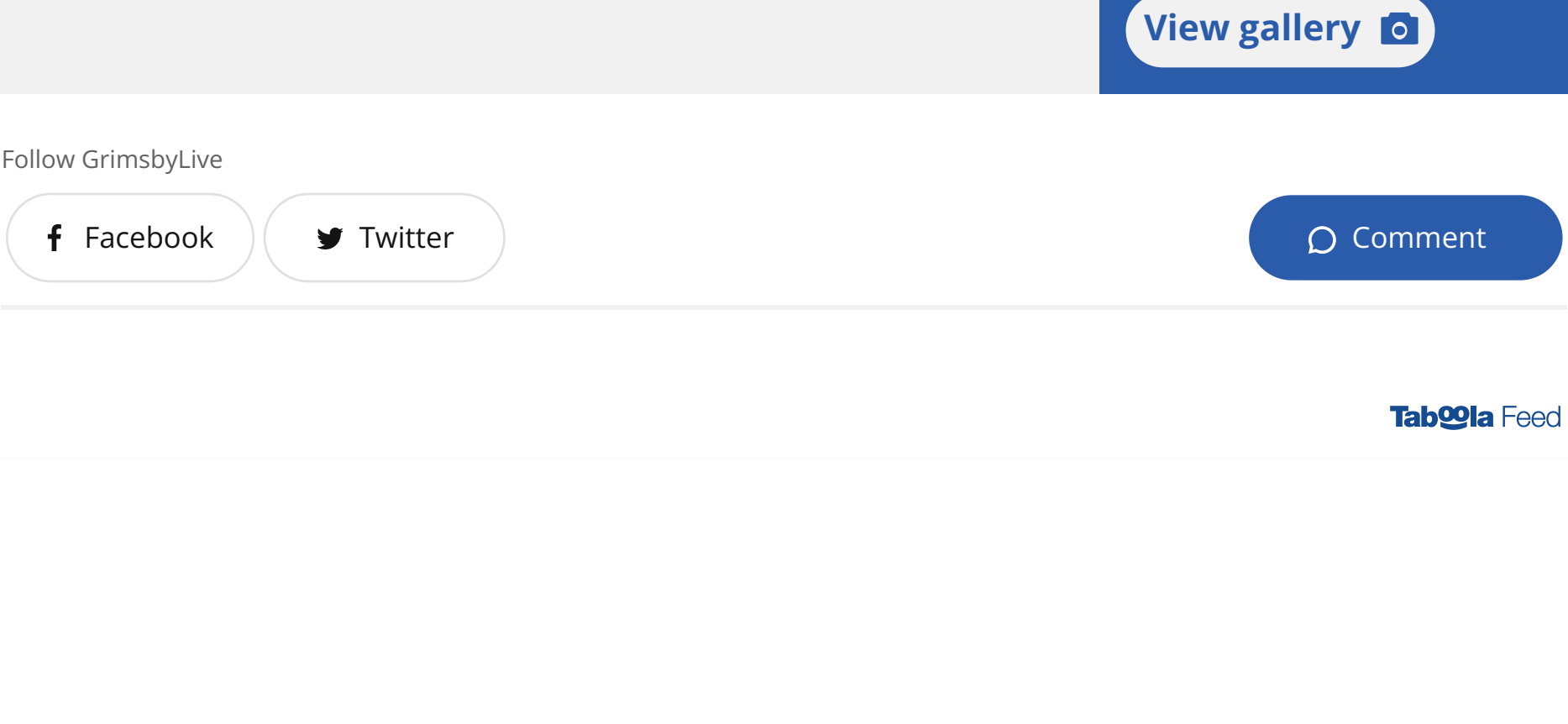
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The venue itself, located on Kingsway, was truly beautiful and boasted chandeliers draped over the dancefloor. After it closed its doors in 2007 it was demolished and the space was made ready for a £3.5 million housing development back in 2013. During its heyday, thousands of people flocked there for the unbeatable music experience only Winter Gardens could offer.

Let us know in the comments if you have any memories of Winter Gardens and the gigs you attended there.



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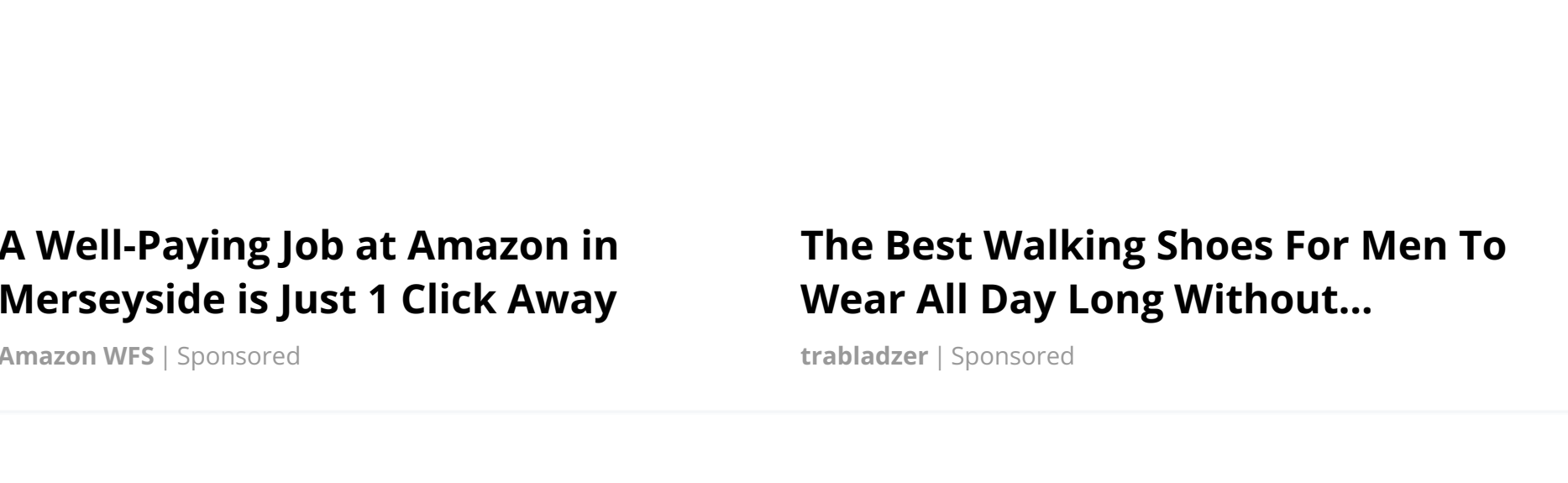
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