

Opening of Stimpson's Piece Pavilion

This photograph shows the celebration in 1976 of the formal opening of the pavilion at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham's large recreation ground, off Bartle Court.



The original six acres of land was donated to the people of Reepham by Ben Stimpson. His father Edward Stimpson had a coal, corn, coke and manure dealing business based at Reepham Station, and was also a local landowner and farmer living at Salle Moor Hall.

Comedian and entertainer Dickie Henderson is pictured with the microphone, with Ken Ewing, a town councillor for many years and chairman of the tennis club, seated in the cordoned-off area. It is thought Ben Stimpson is seated in the middle right of the picture.

Dickie Henderson began as a variety and revue performer, reaching the height of his popularity in the late 1950s and 60s.

He made several appearances at the Royal Variety Performance and hosted Sunday Night at the London Palladium. He also had his own television show in the 1960s and early 1970s.

This is such a good publicity shot that we think some of you may recognise members of the audience in this photograph. If you do, please get in touch with the Reepham Archive. We are always happy to receive more information about the items we publish.