

This article is part of a series; to access the other parts, please see [State of The Borough - 1958](#)

The Municipal Baths and Hall

by J. PARK SMITH, M.N.A.B.S., A.I.M.E.M.
Baths Superintendent and Manager



The Municipal Baths and Hall

THE Municipal Baths Department was officially opened on the 15th March, 1939, and since that time it has provided facilities for recreation and pleasure which are used not only by the Burgesses of the Borough but also by many inhabitants of surrounding districts.

The Swimming Pool each summer provides healthy recreation in hygienic conditions to over 100,000 swimmers and spectators (last year a record number of 121,204 people attended). This number includes organised parties of school-children, and members of local swimming clubs whose headquarters are at the Municipal Baths. There is a large demand for individual swimming instruction which is catered for by the Department. During each summer a number of Swimming Galas are held in the pool. The water, which is constantly circulating, is purified, chemically treated, aerated, and warmed to a comfortable temperature.

During the winter months, the swimming bath is converted to a hall which is available for hire for boxing, dances, meetings, orchestral concerts, etc. When it is not required for such functions, the hall is used for indoor bowls and indoor cricket practice. Each year the council themselves promote a number of events in the hall in conjunction with local organisations.

There are two suites of twelve Private Baths where a hot bath can be enjoyed at moderate cost. Many people find it cheaper and more convenient to take a bath at the corporation Baths

than in their own homes. Each week about 500 people use these baths, which are available every day, including Sundays.

Another service greatly appreciated by a large number of men and women is the Turkish Bath Suite. Although no extravagant claims are made for weight reducing or as a cure for rheumatic complaints, many of the patrons visit the Turkish Baths for these purposes and state that they derive benefit therefrom. However, it is an undisputed fact that a large number of people find that a Turkish Bath provides a very pleasant experience and gives a feeling of well-being. In addition to the normal Turkish Baths, certain forms of remedial baths known as Luma Baths and Zotofoam Baths are available. The total attendances for Turkish and Remedial Baths is around 11,000 per annum.

All linen used in the Private Warm Baths, the Turkish Suite and the Cafe, and also towels, etc., from other Corporation departments, are laundered in the Baths' own laundry.

A further service available to persons using the Baths is the Cafe- Restaurant which provides snacks, lunches, etc. It is frequently used for Wedding Receptions, Parties and Luncheons.

The Superintendent and Manager will always be pleased to arrange for parties of people to visit the various sections of the Department.



The Swimming Pool